



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

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Brookline High School – Latin Trip to Italy
Out-of-State, Overnight Field Trip Application

Italy

April, 13th, 2023 – April 22nd, 2023.

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

Approval Route:	Approved	Denied	*Returned
Copies to:			
TEACHING & LEARNING	<i>LM</i>	_____	_____
SUPERINTENDENT	_____	_____	_____
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	_____	_____	_____
MEETING DATE	_____	_____	_____
*REASON RETURNED:	_____		

*Subcommittee on 10/18
Full SC on 10/27*

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**School Committee Proposal
April 2023**

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Statement of Purpose

**Latin Trip to Italy
April 13-22, 2023
Brookline High School**

The goal of this trip is closely aligned with goal 3 of the Brookline Schools' strategic plan- *To prepare students with the intellectual, interpersonal and reflective skills needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse global society.*

Specifically, this trip will give students an opportunity to examine the classical world of ancient Rome amidst the cities of modern Italy. While interacting with the past and reflecting on the culture, demographics, values, and lifestyle of ancient Romans of all classes, students will also be interacting with Italians of the modern world. Latin is a language that is used only in reading ancient texts and inscriptions. This trip will offer students a greater context for the language and give them an opportunity to engage the language in its natural setting: reading texts in the cities where Vergil, Cicero, and Caesar wrote them; reading Latin inscriptions and graffiti throughout the city; and examining the places, i.e. Colosseum, Roman Forum, Pantheon, etc., that were such prominent aspects of Roman life. Similarly, students will have the opportunity to see the relatively intact cities of Pompeii and Ostia and get a real sense of what life would have been like in the Roman Empire.

In addition to recreating the past, students will be exposed to aspects of Renaissance and Modern Italy - eating Italian cuisine, seeing the Vatican museums and the Sistine Chapel, and experiencing the modern Italian cities of Rome, Florence and Pisa.

Trip highlights include:

- Walking tours of Florence, Pisa & Siena (including the home of Dante Alighieri)
- Hands on leather workshop in Florence
- Tour of the *Accademmia* (home of Michaelangelo's *David*)
- Guided tour of the Vatican, Vatican Museum & St. Peter's Basilica
- Guided tour of the Colosseum, Roman Forum & Piazza Venezia
- Interactive Gladiator Experience
- Walking tour of Rome including (Piazza del Popolo, Piazza di Spagna, Fontana di Trevi, Pantheon, Piazza Navona)
- Optional visit to Catacombs of Rome
- Cameo (art) workshop in Sorrento
- Guided tour of Pompeii
- Walking tour of Sorrento
- Optional hike of Mt. Vesuvius

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- Walking tour of Ancient Ostia
- Plentiful opportunities to sample authentic Italian cuisine

APPLICATION FOR ALL OUT-OF-STATE, OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS

Before the trip is announced to students, please submit this form to the Superintendent of Schools:

- (a) three (3) months in advance if the trip is within the United States, or
- (b) six (6) months in advance if the trip is out-of-the country.

For clarity, all forms are to be word-processed, NOT handwritten. To maintain the formatting, delete the lines.

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. Name of Field Trip: BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL ITALY TRIP
2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
Pedro Méndez, Sarah Cowett (née Leonard), Marta Fuertes, Kevin Whitehead
3. School: BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL Grade Level: 9-12
4. Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*? YES
5. Have you reviewed the document "*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*"? YES
6. What is your destination?
Destinations in Italy Include:
 - Milan
 - Florence
 - Pisa
 - San Gimignano
 - Siena
 - Rome
 - Pompeii
 - Sorrento
 - Ostia
7. What is the date and time you are leaving school? 4/13/23
8. What is the date and time you are returning to school? 4/22/23
9. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances?
 - April 13th = Last day of Passover
 - April 21st = First day of Eid (the whole trip will be during Ramadan)

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- Meals adjustments can be made to accommodate the needs of the students who observe these holidays.
- We are committed to working with the students and families and with the tour company to find time and space for prayers as needed, allow time for rest if students experience difficulty from fasting, and ensure that food will be consistently available at times when observant students can eat.

10. How many days will students miss from school? **One day, Friday, April 14th. Depending on departure time we might need to consider taking a half day on 4/13/23**

11. How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)?

- Each family will be responsible for transporting their student to the airport (flight details will be provided in advance)
- Plane: Logan Airport, Boston to Malpensa Airport, Milan Chartered Bus: Milan to Florence
- Chartered Bus: Florence to Siena
- Chartered Bus: Siena to Rome
- Chartered Bus: Rome to Pompei
- Chartered Bus: Pompei to Rome
- Chartered Bus: Rome to Ostia
- Plane: Fiumicino Airport, Rome to Logan Airport, Boston

*If students are traveling via bus, please complete the
Requirements for Field Trip Transportation via Bus form.*

12. How many students will be participating in the field trip? ~24

13. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? **All language students in grades 11 and 12, with priority given to current or former Latin students. Recommended 10th graders currently enrolled in Latin may also apply. If more than 24 students apply and are selected, a lottery will be held.**

14. How are students selected to participate in this field trip?

- Successful completion of at least 1 year of Latin or another Language
- Good character and citizenship, as defined by the deans and their designees
- Good academic record
- Ability to serve as an ambassador of Brookline and the United States of America
- Interest in Classical History and Ancient Roman Culture
- A demonstrated sensitivity to other peoples and cultures
- Successful completion of the application, including an essay that outlines understanding of program, expectations, and a desire to investigate the ancient Roman world.

15. Where will students be staying?

Students will be staying in 3-4 star hotels centrally located in the following cities. Explorica provided *Hotel Le Due Fontane* in Florence as a sample hotel:

- Florence (2 nights)

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- Siena (1 night)
- Rome (3 nights)
- Sorrento (1 night)

16. What are the names and cell phone numbers of the primary staff chaperones on the trip?

- Pedro Mendez - BHS Spanish teacher
- Sarah Cowett (née Leonard) - BHS Latin Teacher
- Marta Fuertes - BHS Spanish teacher
- Kevin Whitehead - BHS Spanish teacher

17. Other than those listed in #16 above, what are the names and roles (teacher, parent, etc) of other adult chaperones who will be on the trip?

In addition to BHS chaperones, we will be working with a Tour Guide provided by Explorica (our travel agency), who will accompany us from Milan airport on the first day of the trip, until we leave on the last day of the trip from Rome.

Per Explorica information packet, "All tour directors come highly recommended with at least five years of experience in the industry. In addition to their safety expertise, we provide 24/7 emergency support, and have a global presence with over 45 offices around the world."

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

18. What is the purpose of the trip and how does it relate to Brookline's Learning Expectations (K-8) or BHS Course Syllabi?

The purpose of the trip is to develop student understanding of the ancient Roman World and its influence on later cultures.

1. This trip will expose students to the buildings, monuments, and art of Ancient Rome which they have been studying since Latin 1.
2. Students will travel to the areas where Roman authors, such as Caesar, Vergil, Cicero, and Martial lived and have the opportunity to read these authors' works in the setting they were written.
3. Similarly, students will have an opportunity to see what the Roman cities of Pompeii and Ostia looked like 2000 years ago. Pompeii figures prominently in the Latin I curriculum.
4. Visit to the home of Dante Alighieri, whose *Divine Comedy* was heavily influenced by the *Aeneid*, which students read in Latin V.

19. Describe activities planned before the trip to prepare students:

- Directed Study of Roman culture, geography, history, and art as it relates to the sights we will visit
- Fundraising events
- Meetings to build group cohesion
- Participating students will present on the major sights that we will visit
- Meeting to review logistics and expectations with students and caregivers, and to prepare students to be ambassadors of Brookline

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20. Describe activities planned after the trip for students to wrap-up/reflect:

Formal presentation for Latin classes, parents, and other World Language classes (Google presentations and personal narratives)

ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

21. To what extent does the field trip group reflect the diversity of the school population? What efforts will be undertaken to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, the participants in this field trip reflect the diversity of the school population?

We will make every effort to make sure that the participants in this trip represent the diversity of students in Brookline High School. The trip will prioritize Junior and Senior Latin students at BHS, who are currently taking Latin or have taken Latin, roughly 80 students. Of these 80 students, roughly 25 students identify as students of color. Since Latin is a smaller program (~200 students), Ms. Cowett has taught every student from 10th–12th grades in the program and has a relationship with each potential participant. Because she teaches 4 of the 8 Latin classes, she will be advertising for the trip frequently in class. Similarly, Ms. Cowett will be able to inform students who might be hesitant to apply for financial reasons of financial scholarships that students might receive. Junior and Senior Latin students will have preference in this selection process, and considering the number of applicants the trip might be opened to other upper class language students. Acceptance on the trip will be need-blind and financial help will be decided by the department of financial assistance of PSB. Once participants are chosen, Ms. Cowett, Mr. Méndez, Mr. Whitehead and Ms. Fuertes will work closely with each family to assist in the procurement of necessary travel documents. Similarly, we will advertise the travel opportunity through Steps to Success, METCO, and the African American and Latino Scholars program.

22. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc?

Mr. Méndez has led three trips to Mexico in 2009, 2014 & 2016 and chaperoned the Spain trip in 2015, has traveled extensively throughout Italy, and speaks Italian. Ms. Cowett has taught Latin at BHS for five years (including all the rising juniors and seniors) and has a strong relationship with the prospective trip participants. She took students from her previous school to the National Latin Convention in Alabama for a week in 2018. Mr. Whitehead has taught Spanish at BHS for four years, has extensive experience traveling in Italy, speaks Italian, and chaperoned a student trip to London at his former school. Ms. Fuertes has led four trips to Spain and Mexico since 2015, and has traveled throughout Italy.

We are requiring Explorica basic trip insurance by building it into the price of the trip. If a student needs to cancel for COVID prior to departure they will receive a full refund minus a deposit of \$399. Additionally, any student who purchases the Travel Protection Plus plan can cancel for any reason up to 30 days in advance and receive a 75% refund of all non-refundable cancellation fees.

If a student contracts COVID during the trip, Explorica will pay for any costs associated with quarantine, medical expenditures, doctor consultations, food, etc...while the student carries out

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a quarantine before returning home at no additional charge. Explorica will also rebook them on another flight home once their quarantine is over for free. Finally, if a student needs to stay behind, Explorica will also pay any associated costs for a chaperone to remain in Italy with the student until they can both return home. With four teacher chaperones, one can stay in quarantine if necessary and we would still have a 8:1 ratio for the return trip.

****More information regarding insurance can be found in the attached School Board Packet provided by Explorica****

[Note: This version is from June, and we are waiting for a new one with some slight updates.]

23. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination?

San Giovanni Addolorata Hospital
Via dell'Amba Aradam, 8, 00184 Roma RM, Italy

24. Will students be swimming? No

25. If traveling outside of the United States, please attach the appropriate Department of State Advisory Review and Notification and a copy of the Consular statement.

We have reviewed the State Department summaries for Italy. We are aware of the location of the nearest embassy, in the event of an emergency. We will enroll in the State Department's STEP program to keep updated on any changes concerning travel to Italy. The full country report prepared by the State Department is attached.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/italy-travel-advisory.html>

FUNDING

26. What is the total cost of the trip? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total.

Program Cost	3,778
Administrative fees (phone plans, first aid kit, emergency spending)	150
Lunches	250
Mandatory Trip Insurance (\$12/day)	108
TOTAL:	4,286

27. How will the field trip be funded?

The trip will be funded by families of participating students. Traveling scholarships will be available. We will raise additional funds through tee-shirt sales, fundraising, bake sales, etc. Last trip, we raised \$3000 via sales/ fundraising. Based on these needs, we will continue to raise money until we are able to provide for all interested students' financial needs.

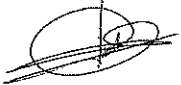
28. What accommodations are made for students who cannot afford the expenses of this trip? Are partial and/or full scholarships available? **Partial and full scholarships will be available.**

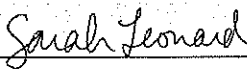
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29. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here: **We will raise funds at school through various fundraising activities, with particular emphasis on tee shirt sales and outside of school by enlisting local Italian restaurants and interested groups.**

SIGNATURES:

Educators Requesting Field Trip Approval

Pedro Méndez _____  _____

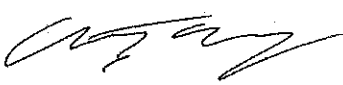
Sarah Leonard _____  _____

Marta Fuertes _____  _____

Kevin Whitehead _____  _____

World Language Department Head:

Rachel Eio _____  _____

Head of School:
Anthony Meyer _____  _____