



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

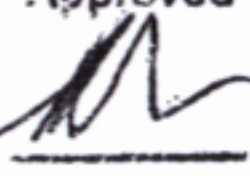
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Brookline High School French Exchange
International Field Trip Application
Angers, Paris and Normandy
February 8th, 2024 – February 23rd, 2024

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

Approval Route:	Approved	Denied	*Returned
Copies to:			
TEACHING & LEARNING SUPERINTENDENT			
SCHOOL COMMITTEE			
MEETING DATE			
*REASON RETURNED:			

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School Committee Proposal

Prepared on Mar 8, 2023

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Statement of Purpose

French Exchange Trip Hosting October 2023, Traveling February 2024 Brookline High School

Brookline High School (BHS) students and teachers are continuing an exchange program with a French *lycée* in Angers, France. This bi-annual exchange was new to Brookline in 2010 when we completed an incredibly successful exchange, and it has been run six times total (again in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020).

The French-Angers Exchange directly responds to the third goal of the Strategic Plan of the Public Schools of Brookline, which commits us to equipping students with the intellectual and social skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and diverse global society.

The exchange will include 27 BHS students. For the first part of the exchange, Brookline High School families will host the French students and their English teachers in October of 2023. For the second part of the exchange, Brookline High School students will be hosted by the Angers high school students' families. They will also spend two days discovering Normandy, ending with three full days in Paris. The eligible students study French, and are interested in French culture, art, architecture, or history. BHS French teachers Andrew Kimball, Alex Craven, Laura Gurry, as well as BHS History (SWS) teacher Jen Martin will be the trip chaperones.

The goals of this trip are to experience life as a member of a French family, to speak and interact in French, to visit Paris and Angers, to eat food typical of these regions, and to expand students' knowledge of French culture. In accordance with Strategy 3.1, we will "develop opportunities to enhance the global awareness of every student."

Highlights of the itinerary will include:

Angers and its surroundings:

- Life in the host family
- Classes taken at the French *lycée*
- Visits of the Loire valley and the Atlantic coast

Paris and its surroundings (Following list not exhaustive)

- Notre Dame Cathedral
- The Arc de Triomphe
- The Eiffel Tower
- The Louvre, Orsay, and Quai Branly (non-Western art) Museums
- The Seine River, by boat

Normandy

- The abbey at Mt. St. Michel
- The Bayeux Tapestry
- A visit of the D-Day beaches and the Battle of Normandy museum in Caen

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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 FRENCH EXCHANGE**
2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: Brookline High School Teachers
Andrew Kimball, Laura Gurry, Jen Martin, Alex Craven
3. School: **BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL** Grade Level: **11-12**
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? **France, specifically Angers and the Loire Valley; Cherbourg and Normandy; Paris**
7. What is the date and time you are leaving school? **Thursday February 8, 2024**
8. What is the date and time you are returning to school? **Friday, February 23, 2024**
9. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances?
Lunar New Year
Ash Wednesday
10. How many days will students miss from school? **Students will miss six days of school.**
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 to Paris Charles-de-Gaulle**
 - **Coach bus: Hired through travel agency ACIS to transport us from Loire Valley to Normandy and into the heart of Paris**
 - **Paris’s Métro (about six trips)**

*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? **27**

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13. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? All students enrolled in a French class—Level 3 or higher—during the academic year, 2023-24 in grades 11 and 12.

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

- If more than 27 applicants fit the below criteria, a lottery will be held:
 - Strong academic record (good study habits, participation, attendance)
 - Interest in learning the French language, history and culture
 - Ability to serve as an ambassador from Brookline and the United States
 - Sensitivity to other people and cultures
 - Maturity level
 - Successful completion of the application
 - Perceived potential for personal growth

15. Where will students be staying?

Angers: While in Angers, students will be staying with host families in the small city of Angers, France.

Normandy: In Normandy, we will be in a hostel run by the national hostelling association.

Paris: Finally, while in Paris, students and chaperones will be staying at the MIJE, International Student Residence in 4-6 bed dormitories which are centrally located within the Marais. Excellent security services are provided, as well as half-board pension that includes breakfast plus lunch or dinner.

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

All of our chaperones have native or native-like fluency in French, have experience with international travel, and have led student groups and/or exchange trips in the past. They will be supervising the students and available to them on a 24-hour basis.

- Andrew Kimball, BHS French Teacher,
- Jen Martin, BHS Soc. St. Teacher,
- Laura Gurry, BHS French Teacher,
- Alex Craven, BHS French 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?

None.

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 this trip is to create an opportunity for BHS students to further build their language skills developed in the classroom, in addition to learning the skill of adapting to a new culture, essentially executing their role as a new global citizen. A secondary goal is to build a reciprocal relationship between Brookline and Angers, and well as among the community of French students at BHS. The French students will spend two weeks in October in host families. Our students will join them as guests for ten days in February. Goals include increasing the linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding of our students of French. The exchange will also foster deep and lasting connections between our Brookline students and students of Angers High School in France. Students will live with host French families, interact with French people, attend a French High School, and explore Angers and the surrounding Anjou region. In addition, five days will be spent in Paris visiting cultural sites. Throughout the trip, the students will have a rich and unique immersive experience. They will be asked to keep a journal, make presentations to French classes about their own culture, and share their experience upon return. During the exchange in Angers, the students will shadow their peer host through their morning classes at the high school. Most afternoons will be dedicated to exploring the city, and participating in local excursions to better understand this particular region of

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France (see complete description attached). While in Paris, students will discover the major sites, including guided tours of museums. Students will also get a more personal feel of the city through spontaneous interactions and walking tours. This exchange directly complements our French program at Brookline High School. Our goals for students of French at BHS are that they develop as fully as possible their communicative competence and familiarize themselves with another culture.

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

Students will meet regularly during the first semester (typically during X-Block) to prepare the students for the hosting and travel experience. Here they will become familiar with the ground rules and expectations, the trip itinerary, and their responsibilities as hosts and guests. Correspondence with their French counterparts students will be ongoing. This will encourage real ownership of this trip.

We also plan to have a few team-building activities in September in advance of the French students' arrival. In the past, this has taken place at the Brookline Teen Center or at Griggs Park on the weekend..

Students participating in the exchange will be responsible for completing academic assignments while participating in the exchange and will be responsible for presenting those assignments to their teachers within two weeks after their return. While in Angers, we have a wing of their library reserved for us, which the teachers will run as a sort of Tutorial in which we monitor and help kids stay focused on keeping current with their other courses, perhaps even facilitating communication between student and BHS teachers.

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

Students will present to their own French classes about their experience abroad in a format that is appropriate to each student's level and class.

Additionally, students will be encouraged to pursue connections with their French peers in the following months. In fact, we often hear about successful friendships that have lasted over years!

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?

This trip is open to all 11th and 12th grade students of French at BHS, taking French 3 or higher. The exchange will be widely advertised in class by teachers of French, as well as through programs such as Steps to Success, METCO, and African-American and Latino Scholars (AALSP). In announcing the trip, we will be sure that students know about available financial aid (see #28) so that they understand that the cost of the trip should not deter them from applying to participate. Historically, each trip has had at least three students accepted who received financial aid and we currently have a healthy balance in our account to support these students. Please see questions #28-30 for details on fundraising ideas.

Once the School Committee has approved the trip, we will make a concerted effort to encourage participation from a broad spectrum of BHS students so that the group reflects the makeup of the larger student body. We will make every effort to accommodate any physical and emotional disabilities that students may have. Most of the museums and tourist sites that we plan to visit are wheelchair accessible and offer audio tours, and the transportation we plan to utilize (plane, tour bus and public transportation) are generally handicap accessible.

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

At all times four faculty members will be on duty as chaperones. Three of the four chaperones have participated for more than a decade. Because they are our own students, the adults know the students well based on classroom contact and/or previous group-building exercises. The chaperone ratio currently exceeds the minimum necessary by one adult, in the event of a student getting sick (i.e. COVID). From ACIS's webpage: "All ACIS participants are enrolled in an international medical insurance plan that will provide needed care should someone fall ill." Further, "We will work with our hotel, transportation and

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activity providers to adjust itineraries if needed."

Chaperones will be with our student group 24-hours a day in Paris and Normandy, and available by text/phone while in their Angers homestays.

We will meet with parents during the planning portion of the exchange to outline our behavior expectations. All students who participate will sign behavior contracts. France is the most visited country in the world and generally exceedingly safe for visitors. We will follow any State Department advisories in the unlikely event any are issued.

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

Angers: Hôpital Local SAINT-NICOLAS

14, rue de l'Abbaye 49016 ANGERS

Paris: Hôpital St. Vincent de Paul

82, avenue Denfert-Rochereau 75014 01.40.48.81.11

Bayeux: Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Caen

53 Boulevard de la Charité 14000 Caen, France 02 31 06 31 06

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.

There are currently no State Department travel alerts or travel warnings for France. We will continually monitor the State Department website in the unlikely event of changing conditions. The United States Embassy is located at: 2 Avenue Gabriel, Paris 8 (tel. [33] (1) 4312-2222).

FUNDING

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

The projected cost is \$3,150 per student, as determined by our tour provider ACIS. This cost includes: round trip airfare on scheduled airlines, tour buses/airport transfers, and miscellaneous administrative expenses as well as the following. ACIS offers three tiers of insurance policy, and we will mandate the purchase of at least the minimum coverage.

In Angers:

- accommodations in French homes
- breakfast, lunch (provided at school) and dinner daily
- excursions in the surrounding areas

In Normandy

- entry fees
- transportation
- accommodation
- breakfast, lunch and dinner at the youth hostel

In Paris:

- accommodations at MIJE in the Marais
- breakfast **and** lunch or dinner at MIJE hostel
- museum entries
- transportation (metro tickets)

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27. How will the field trip be funded?

The trip will be funded by the families of participants. As described in #28 and #29 below, we will actively engage in fundraising efforts to raise money for financial assistance, and students will be encouraged to assist their family by contributing to the cost through their own work.

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

In the past, we have not had to deny anyone admission based on financial need. In all of our outreach efforts we will include language that makes it clear that all students are encouraged to apply regardless of financial ability. Furthermore, we will let students know that financial aid is available and that all financial aid requests will remain confidential. Students complete a separate financial aid application that will in no way restrict their selection to participate. Acceptance to the exchange will be determined separately from financial aid awards so as not to influence the selection process.

29. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here:

A number of fundraising opportunities will take place, including bake sales, France-themed t-shirt sales and other events (movie nights, etc). Families will have the option of contributing financially to a travel financial aid fund. We will also solicit corporate/private donations from local French businesses and US companies. A committee of students and parents will be formed to assist in fundraising efforts. All students involved are expected to participate actively in all fundraising activities.

SIGNATURES:

Educators Requesting Field Trip Approval

Andrew Kimball _____

Alex Craven _____

Laura Gurry _____

Jen Martin _____

World Language Department Head:

Rachel Eio _____

Head of School:

Anthony Meyer _____