



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
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BHS Costa Rica Trip

International Field Trip Application

Costa Rica

February 12 – February 22, 2020

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

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

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

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

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. Name of Field Trip: **Brookline High School Costa Rica Trip**
2. Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval: **Elizabeth Gorman, Kristina Tobey, BHS Teachers**
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. Have you reviewed the document "Field Trip Planning Guide"? **YES**

These documents can be found in the Staff Portal of the district website (www.brookline.k12.ma.us)
in the Office of Teaching and Learning link.

7. What is your destination? **Costa Rica, more specifically Centro Panamericano de Idiomas (CPI): Spanish language and culture school and La Paz Community School**
8. What is the date and time you are leaving school? **Wednesday, February 12, 2020**
9. What is the date and time you are returning to school? **Saturday, February 22, 2020**
10. Do the dates of the trip conflict with any religious holidays or observances? **NO**
11. How many days will students miss from school? **2-3, depending on outward flight**
12. How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)?
Boston – Liberia (Costa Rica), airline to be determined
Transportation from Liberia to Playa Flamingo: Charter Bus/ Minibus (Contracted by CPI)
Excursions and local transport- mini-bus chartered by CPI
Transportation to the airport in Liberia: Charter Bus (Contracted by CPI)

Liberia (Costa Rica) - Boston (plane)

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

13. How many students will be participating in the field trip? **20 students**
14. What members of the student body are eligible for the trip? **Juniors and Seniors in Spanish 2 or above who are currently enrolled in Spanish at BHS.**
15. How are students selected to participate in this field trip? **Students will be selected for the trip based on the application and interview process. Selection criteria are:**
 - Successful completion of one year or more of Spanish
 - Good character and citizenship, as defined by the deans and their designees
 - Good Academic Record, as reflected through study habits, participation, desire and initiative to learn.
 - Interest in learning Spanish and Costan Rican culture
 - Ability to serve as an ambassador from Brookline and the United States
 - Sensitivity to other people and cultures
 - Successful completion of the application, including an essay that outlines understanding of program, expectations, and a desire to participate in cultural activities.

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- Students will need to maintain good attendance and homework completion throughout the school year.
- Students need to demonstrate ability to handle stress and adapt to changing situations.

If there are more highly qualified students than spaces available, students will be selected by lottery.

16. Where will students be staying?

Students will be staying with Costa Rican host families in one of the following communities, Potrero, Brasilito, Huacas, or Lajas, arranged by CPI. The school has carefully selected the families and has worked with them for years. Two students will stay per family. All of the homes are near one another, within a 12 minute walking distance from a common meeting point. The chaperones will also be in a host family, within the same distance.

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

Liz Gorman, BHS Spanish Teacher (617-922-6073)

Kristina Tobey, BHS Spanish Teacher (857-719-4134)

While in Costa Rica, the teacher-chaperones will obtain international cell phone plans.

18. Other than those listed in #17 above, what are the names and roles (teacher, parent, etc) of other adult chaperones who will be on the trip? **In addition to the chaperones from BHS, the host school will provide us with additional chaperones on excursions.**

EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCE

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

Purpose of trip:

1. To develop greater Spanish fluency
2. To promote intercultural communication and develop adaptation skills in an immersion setting
3. To facilitate understanding of and exposure to another culture
4. To explore living in a rural Costa Rican community
5. To experience Costa Rican family life
6. To build relationships with students at the La Paz school who are also working to become global and local leaders

The Brookline High School Costa Rica Trip 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. In accordance with strategy 3.1, we will "develop opportunities to enhance the global awareness of every student." This trip will extend and enrich our BHS Spanish curriculum directly.

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

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Students and chaperones will meet regularly during X blocks to prepare for the trip. There will be several parents meetings, and fundraising/ community events as well. These meetings will include the following topics.

- Students will select individual topics of interest to investigate while in Costa Rica, based on the themes and curriculum of the La Paz school. Before leaving, students will begin their research, and formulate questions for investigation.
- Spanish Language study
- Fundraising events and meetings to build group cohesion
- Student and parent meetings to review logistics and expectations, and to prepare students to be ambassadors of Brookline.

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

- Formal Presentations for classes, parents, and the World Language Classes (slide/ PPT presentations, photo collages, personal narratives)
- Continued correspondence (in Spanish) with the La Paz students and host families
- Written evaluations

ACCESSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

22. 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? Please confirm in your answer that students are selected for the trip on a need-blind basis and that the trip will be advertised to students as need-blind, so that it is accessible to all students.

The teachers-chaperons will make every effort to attract a diverse group of students to participate in this study-abroad trip. This trip will be open to all 11th and 12th grade students of Spanish at BHS. The exchange will be widely advertised in class by teachers of Spanish, as well as through programs such as Steps to Success, METCO and African-American/Latino Scholars. In announcing the trip, the teachers will be sure that students know about available scholarships (see #28) so that they understand that the cost of the trip should not stop them from applying to participate. Once the School Committee has approved the trip, the teachers 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. They will make every effort to accommodate any special needs that students may have.

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

Two BHS teachers from the World Language Department will be chaperoning the trip. Both have experience with international travel and know the students well. Liz has led BHS international trips before (Mexico 4x, China exchange for a semester (2001), Spain (2017), and Costa Rica (2018.) Kristina lived in the community, and worked at the school we will attend, supporting international students. These chaperones will be available to the students 24-hours a day.

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The teachers/chaperones will meet with parents and students during the planning portion of the trip to outline their expectations for appropriate behavior, and all students who participate will sign contracts pledging to behave appropriately.

CPI takes student safety very seriously, and has a very high standard for host family oversight as well as partners for the excursions. They will provide BHS students and the host families with a thorough safety orientation, and require that students sign an additional safety contract (attached.)

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

Beachside Clinic Huacas (nearest clinic, 20 mins car distance), 200 Meters Oeste de Cruz Brasilito, Camino Matapalo, Huacas, Costa Rica Phone: 2653-9911

Hospital San Rafael Arcangel (1 hour away, car distance), 100 East 25 South of Escuela Ascención Esquivel, Street 3, Liberia, Costa Rica Phone: 2666-1717

25. Will students be swimming? (please note: if swimming is planned, parents must give explicit written permission for their child to swim; students who do not have this express written permission will not be allowed to swim)

Students with explicit written permission from their parents will have the opportunity to swim in the small pool at the school as well as in the ocean. Students will only be allowed to swim at designated times in clearly designated areas, after reviewing clear and cautious water safety guidelines. We would like to offer a surf lesson as part of an afternoon excursion.

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

There are currently no travel warnings for Costa Rica from U.S. Dept. of State Bureau of Consular Affairs, nor have there been recently. The State Department website will be regularly checked as we plan for the trip. Here is the link to the full report:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/costa-rica.html>

FUNDING

27. What is the total cost of the trip **per student**? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. (add/edit headings as necessary)

CPI	\$1500
o Lodging and 3 meals/ day with host family for 10 days	
o Intensive Spanish classes and workshops	
o Excursions (In country travel, admissions, guides)	

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o Administrative costs/ registration	
Travel (airfare, bus)	\$1250
Chaperone Expenses and other Administrative costs (phone calls, taxis, arrangements, emergency funds, guidebooks, faxes, postage, etc.)	\$200
TOTAL per student:	\$2950

28. How will the field trip be funded?

BHS students and their families will be responsible for the cost of the trip. Scholarships will be available.

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


Yes, financial aid will be available for students in need. In addition, funds will be raised by the entire group through a variety of activities and CPI is offering scholarships that cover the tuition for two students, totalling \$3,000.

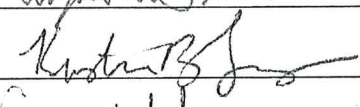
30. If fundraisers are planned to help lower the cost of the trip for all students, please describe those plans here:

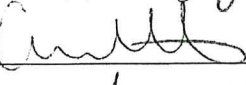
A committee of parents, students, and chaperones will be formed to assist in fundraising efforts. Fundraising activities may include: An international dinner night, a movie screening, a Latin-themed dance, raffles, yard and bake sales.

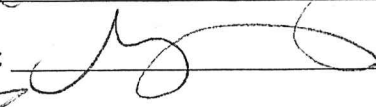
If you need any assistance as you complete this application,
please contact the Office of Teaching and Learning at 617-730-2432.


Signatures:

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:  Date: 5/29/19

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:  Date: 5/29/19

Global Trips Coordinator at High School:  Date: 5/29/19

Curriculum Coordinator (World Lang. 9-12):  Date: 5/29/19

Principal:  Date: 6/5/19