

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

PHONE: 617-730-2432

FAX: 617-264-6451

BEN LUMMIS
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

NICOLE GITTENS, ED.D.
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR
TEACHING AND LEARNING

BHS Panama Floating Doctors: Medical/Cultural Experience

Overnight, Out-of-State Field Trip Application


Panama City, Republic of Panama; Bocas del Taro Archipelago,

Specifically Isla Bocas del Taro and Isla San Cristobal

New Date: June 27th, 2020 – July 4th, 2020

For review and consideration by the
Brookline School Committee

new
dates
on same
trip.

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

Brookline High School Field Trip Application

Brookline – Panama Floating Doctors:

Medical/ Cultural Experience Bocas Del Toro, June-July 2020

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

TRIP LOGISTICS:

1. **Name of Field Trip:** Panama Floating Doctors: Medical/ Cultural Experience
Bocas Del Toro, June-July 2020
2. **Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:** Andrew Kimball, Melanee Alexander
3. **School: Brookline High School Grade Level:** 10-12
4. Have you reviewed the *School Committee Policy I 3 a. for School Sponsored Field Trips*? Y
5. Have you reviewed the document “*Administrative Procedures for School Sponsored Field Trips*”? Y
6. Have you reviewed the document “*Field Trip Planning Guide*”? Y

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?** Panama City, Republic of Panama; Bocas del Toro archipelago, specifically Isla Bocas del Toro and Isla San Cristobal
8. **What is the date and time you are leaving school?** Morning of June 27, 2020. We will meet at Logan Airport
9. **What is the date and time you are returning to school?** Evening of July 4th, 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?** None. This trip will take place once school has ended.
12. **How are students being transported (school bus, chartered bus, plane, rail, etc)?** We will travel by plane from Logan Airport to Panama City, then via connecting flight to David, Panama. Students and chaperones will travel overland to reach Bocas del Toro, followed by a 10 minute boat ride to get to Isla San Cristobal. Additionally, occasional trips will be taken in to Bocas del Toro, by boat.
13. **How many students will be participating in the field trip?** 12-18 students.
14. **What members of the student body are eligible for the trip?** Any students entering 10-12 grade students. (At time of application, they will be 9-11 graders).
15. **How are students selected to participate in this field trip?** Students will be selected based on the following criteria:
 - Solid academic record (good study habits, participation, attendance)
 - Interest global health, medicine, and global leadership ; Latin American culture ; anthropology
 - Ability to speak Spanish is a significant plus but not required

- Willingness to be flexible in unpredictable and new situations
- Ability to serve as an ambassador from Brookline and the United States ; Sensitivity to other people and cultures
- Successful completion of the application
- Perceived potential for personal growth

16. Where will students be staying? Students will stay in a hotel when in Panama City and in a nine room dormitory on the island of San Cristobal.

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

Melanee Alexander 617-999-5805

Mayra Hernandez 857.234.1036

18. 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? N/A

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?

In the Global Leadership program, students study the challenges of cross cultural understanding, economic development, and healthcare delivery. Students examine cross cultural work and become sensitive to different cultural practices and norms. Students observe economic development through multinational companies, government efforts (such as USAID), and smaller microloan organizations such as Grameen Bank. During the Global Health unit, students research a health challenge in a low-income country and propose an intervention. They are encouraged to make connections and talk to international health experts at international NGO's. In the remote villages surrounding Bocas del Toro, they will be able to see first hand some of the challenges and successes in providing healthcare to developing regions, as well as participate in the solution themselves.

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

Students admitted to the trip will meet twice a month, starting in January 2020. At these meetings, they will learn about the Panamanian culture and the Floating Doctor mission, as well as simple steps required for preparation (going over itinerary, packing, vaccinations, documents). Students will also participate in discussions and lessons on cultural leadership and global health. At a few of our meetings, students will have the opportunity to Skype / conference call with Doctor Ben LaBrot, the leader of the trip and founder of Floating Doctors. On these calls, Labrot and other members of the Floating Doctors team will share their experiences working in the field, and talk to students about preparation for the trip.

During these orientation meetings, students will hear from Ms. Alexander, who lived in the Bocas region for five years and met Dr. LaBrot in person this summer. She might cover topics such as cultural sensitivity, history of the people of Bocas, basic vocabulary, and safety.

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

Floating Doctors recommends volunteers write a 1-2 page essay detailing the key experiences each person may have, and encourages self-insight. They suggest that participants focus on their expectations or preconceived ideas prior to coming, their experience on-site, and any details about how the experience impacted them. They will also assemble a blog for the school that will include photos and possibly videos.

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?

The group of students attending the trip will reflect the applicant pool. A special effort will be made to recruit from programs such as AALSP, Metco, Steps to Success, etc.

23. What measures are planned to ensure student safety on the trip, including chaperone coverage, student behavior contracts, etc? There will be two chaperones with students: Melanee Alexander and Mayra Hernandez, who are faculty members at Brookline High School. Each chaperone on the trip will have a cell phone that operates in Panama and can be used to call the United States. Students will be with chaperones at all times.

24. What is the name and location of the medical facility closest to your destination? We will be traveling with trained medical professionals from Floating Doctors for the majority of the trip. The closest hospitals to Panama City are Bay Medical Center, located in the heart of the city, as well as Bay Medical Sacred Heart. Hospitals within Bocas del Toro include Isla Colon Regional Hospital, Hospital del Almirante, and Hospital Regional de Chiriquí Grande. Private clinics in Changuinola are also accessible on a non-emergency basis.

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)

Yes, we will include a permission slip specific to swimming in the packet of forms students must submit. We will be snorkeling in Cayo Coral reef, and will have the opportunity to swim in the waters surrounding Isla San Cristobal.

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. U.S. Embassy information concerning travel in Panama -

U.S. State Department Information about travel in Panama

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Panama.html>

U.S. State Department webpage with information about Panama

<https://www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/pm/>

FUNDING - Projected Costs

27. What is the total cost of the trip? Please detail the major components of the trip below and provide a total. These costs are based on 2 chaperones and 18 students.

	n = 20 students	18 students	16 students	14	12 students
Room and Board: Floating Doctors (one week) Chaperones free					1,150
R/t airfare Boston to David via Panama City					850
Bus from David to Bocas City					60
Hotel for one night in Panama City					60
Hotel for two nights in David					120
Hotel for two nights in Bocas del Toro					120
Activities (museums, snorkel, bike, etc.)					50
Meals in Panama City, David, Bocas					150
Subtotal					2560
Cost to cover 2 chaperones, items #2-7 (2560 x (n+2)) / n	255	290	320	365	426
	\$2,815	\$2,850	\$2,880	\$2925	2990

28. How will the field trip be funded? Students will fund the cost of the trip themselves.

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

Students will apply for this trip on a needs-blind admission process. We will work hard to secure funding for those students demonstrating need. Any students in 10th grade AALSP will be able to access the Bob Kraft money, and similarly, money will not be an impediment for any student in the METCO program.

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

Ideas for fundraising have in the past included t-shirt sales, a yard sale, bake sales and a dance-a-thon. Further ideas will be discussed once the group is determined.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1 (Wednesday 6/24): Fly in and explore Panama City

- Fly from Logan Airport to Tocumen International airport
- Night in Panama City Hotel : Panama City

Day 2 (Thursday 6/25): Tour of Panama City; Fly to David

- Visit the Biomuseo (biodiversity museum)
- Explore Casco Viejo (historic Panama City), UNESCO World Heritage site, shopping and lunch
- See the Panama Canal
- Connecting flight to David, night in hotel Hotel: David, Panama

Day 3 (Friday 6/26): Travel overland to Bocas Island

- 5-hr van ride
- Explore Bocas del Toro Hotel: Cosmic Crab, Bocas

Day 4 (Saturday 6/27)

- Volunteer with environmental non-profit Hotel: Cosmic Crab, Bocas

Day 5 (Sunday 6/28) Arrive at Floating Doctors

- Arrive at Floating Doctors
- Welcome meeting and dinner
- 7:30-8:30: "Cultural Competency" training lecture by Dr. Benjamin La Brot

Day 3 (Monday 6/29): Training

- 7:30-8:30: breakfast
- 9:00-12:00: volunteer orientation and training
- 12:00-1:00: lunch
- 1:00-3:00: volunteer orientation and training
- 3:00-6:30: trip to town to get snacks; free time at Floating Doctors base
- 6:30: dinner

Day 4 (Tuesday 6/30) and day 5 (Wednesday 7/1): Clinic and cacao tour

- 6:30-7:30: breakfast
- 8:00: depart by boat for clinic deployment
- 9:00: arrive at destination and unload boat
- 10:00-5:00: clinic is underway
 - Visit Oreba Chocolate Farm
- 5:00-6:00: travel back to base
- 6:30: dinner

Day 6 (Thursday 7/2): Nursing home services and free time

- 7:30-8:30: breakfast
- 9:00-12:00: visit Casa Asilo nursing home
- 12:00-1:30: lunch in Bocas del Toro
- 1:30-5:30: free time to enjoy the town 6:30: dinner
- 7:30: participate in weekly Floating Doctors discussion


Day 7 (Friday 7/3): Guided jungle walk and coral snorkeling:

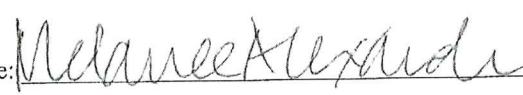
- 7:30-8:30: breakfast
- 9:00-1:00: Dolphin Bay Preserve guided jungle ecology tour
- Travel back to David Hotel: David

Day 8 (Saturday 7/4): Departure day

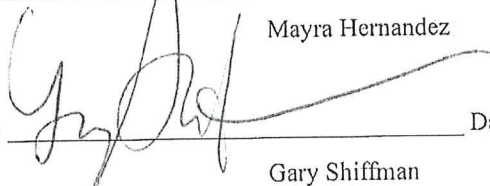
- Travel back home, from David to Boston via Panama City and other connecting hub airport


Signatures:

Educator Requesting Field Trip Approval:  Date: _____
Andrew Kimball

Educator Chaperone:  Date: 11/27/19
Melanee Alexander

Educator Chaperone:  Date: 11/27/19
Mayra Hernandez

Social Studies Coordinator:  Date: 11/26/19
Gary Shiffman

Principal:  Date: 11/29/19
Anthony Meyer

PROPOSED TIMELINE APPLICATION & RECRUITMENT TIMELINE 2018-2019

Fall	Planning meeting among Coordinator and chaperones Approval by Department Chair and Head of School
November	School Committee approval
December	Publicize trip and visit special programs at BHS to recruit Distribute application
January	Applications due Group selected Deposit/First payment of \$800 due, purchase airfare
February	First group meeting Discuss fundraising ideas
March	Parent meeting discussing agenda more formally, slide show of Bocas del Toro, answer Qs from parents about the specific activities of the trip. Provide information for immunization list needed for the trip. This meeting will also include packing list for the trip.
April 1	Final payment for the trip is due \$1100 - this will cover room, board, and activities for the trip.
April, May	X-block meetings for Spanish activities with students, talking to medical professional and Skype with Ben LaBrot
June	Final morning meeting to go over itinerary, packing list, questions about activities, and any remaining questions about individual costs.
June-July	Travel to Panama

Student Guidelines and Contracts

Students participating in the 2019 Floating Doctors trip to Bocas del Toro, and Panama City, Panama, will abide by Brookline High School rules and regulations as stated in the Handbook, as well as those enumerated in this document.

1. Students and parents/guardians will agree to and sign the rules explained in the STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT (see attached).
2. Students and parents/guardians will agree to and sign the information and rules explained in the HEALTH INFORMATION SHEET FOR FIELD TRIPS (see attached). Students on medication must be able to self-medicate or give early notification if a parent/guardian must accompany the trip.
3. Parents/guardians must agree to and sign the information explained in the PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM FOR PANAMA TRIP (see attached).
4. Students must be in good academic standing to participate in the program.
5. Students must be aware of and follow airport and terminal procedures.
6. Students are responsible for their own spending money. The chaperones will be responsible for the group expenses.
7. Students are responsible for acquiring or renewing their own passports. They must make five copies of their passport and give them to Ms. Alexander and ____.
8. Students must honor all deadlines and attend all student and parent/student meetings. If this is not possible, they must see Ms. Alexander and ____ in advance to receive the information.

In addition, the student and his/her parent are advised that School Committee and the Superintendent may cancel a trip at any time, including up to the day of departure, if that it deemed necessary for student safety.

I, (print student name) _____, have read the packet and agree to the information listed above.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I, (print parent name) _____, have read the packet agree to the information above.

Parent's/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

STUDENT BEHAVIOR CONTRACT

CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. I agree that while I am traveling with the Brookline High School Exchange Trip to Panama City, Bocas del Toro, the Floating Doctors campus, and any other excursions we may take, I will not use or possess non-prescription drugs, tobacco or alcohol, nor will I be present while someone else is using or possessing non-prescription drugs, tobacco, or alcohol.
2. I agree to and will abide by the curfew. At the appointed time, when staying in hotels with the group I will go to my room and observe quiet. Bed checks will occur after curfew to ensure that the students are where they are supposed to be.
3. I agree to uphold all laws and regulations as dictated by local, State and Federal governments (i.e. under age drinking, assault, shoplifting). I agree to respect the property of others and to pay for any losses and/or damages for which I am found responsible.
4. I agree never to leave the hotel without permission from my chaperone. Should I be granted permission to leave, I will be accompanied by other members of my group.
5. I understand the responsibilities of traveling in a group and will respect meeting times and places.
6. I understand that I am under the direct responsibility and authority of the assigned chaperones, and I will follow and abide by any rules and/or decisions made by these persons.
7. As an ambassador for the Town of Brookline and for Brookline High School, I understand that my interactions with the communities in Panama, particularly on the Floating Doctors campus, reflect not only on myself, but my school and my own community. During the trip, I will do my best to ensure that my actions and interactions will reflect positively on all those I represent.

I am signing this Contract, and hereby giving my word of honor that I will follow the above Code of Conduct while traveling in Panama with Brookline High School from April 13th – 20st, 2019. As a representative of Brookline High School, I understand that my behavior is critical to the success of the trip and as a precedent for future exchanges. Any violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action (i.e. being sent back to the United States at my parent's expense, or being suspended from a performance or activity).

Student's Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have read the above contract signed by my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____