

Valtena G. Brown, Chief Operating Officer  
 School Operations

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR STUDENTS TO TRAVEL OUT-OF-COUNTRY**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION**

A request has been received for students to travel out-of-country. All arrangements are in accordance with Board Policy 2340 - Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips and with School Board Policy 8640 – Transportation for Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips.

School	Destination	Date	Approximate # of Students/ Chaperones	Cost	Airline	Educational Purpose
Ponce de Leon Middle School	Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome, Italy	3/24/14 to 3/31/14 One School Day	12 / 2	\$2,755.00	American Airlines or another major carrier	Students will learn how the historic sites they will be visiting reflect the importance of Italy in the establishment of the culture and customs of the United States.
Miami Palmetto Senior High School	Beijing, Badaling, Xi'an, Shanghai, China	3/24/14 to 4/1/14 Two School Days	18 / 3	\$3,180.00	American Airlines or another major carrier	This trip will promote understanding and respect for other cultures and expand students' knowledge about an important US trade partner.
Southwest Miami High School	Milan, Venice, Florence, Assisi and Rome, Italy	3/20/14 to 3/28/14 One School Day	40/4	\$3,030.00	American Airlines or another major carrier	Students will learn how the historic sites they will be visiting reflect the importance of Italy in the establishment of the culture and customs of the United States.

School	Destination	Date	Approximate # of Students/ Chaperones	Cost	Airline	Educational Purpose
International Studies Preparatory Academy	Rome, Florence, and Assisi, Italy	3/20/14 to 3/27/14  One School Day	30 / 5	\$2,895.00	American Airlines or another major carrier	Students will learn how the historic sites they will be visiting reflect the importance of the Italian civilization and culture.
Miami Sunset Senior High School	Rome, Florence, and Assisi, Italy	3/21/14 to 3/28/14  No School Days	30 / 5	\$2,965.00	American Airlines or another major carrier	This trip will provide students the opportunity to apply the knowledge they have learned in the Hospitality and Tourism classes as they visit hotels and restaurants and take tours using different methods of transportation.

Tour operators offer chaperones to travel at no cost for a designated number of participants.

The students and teachers participating in the trips will be registered with the U.S. Department of State by utilizing their on-line Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) which is a free service provided by the United States Government. By registering trip participants with STEP, the Department of State can better assist them in an emergency.

The students will provide a written report to their respective principals summarizing the highlights, experiences and educational value of the trip. The reports will also be posted on the schools' website for other students to review.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, approve the out-of-country field trips to:

1. Italy for the students at Ponce de Leon Middle School.
2. China for the students at Miami Palmetto Senior High School.
3. Italy for the students at Southwest Miami High School.
4. Italy for the students at International Studies Preparatory Academy.
5. Italy for the students at Miami Sunset Senior High School.

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