

Dear Dr. Whipple,

>> As the lead teacher of the world language department at the Weymouth High School, I have striven to bring language learning to a higher level by offering international tour opportunities to Weymouth students. I have now lead twenty-two student tours in conjunction with EF Educational Tours. By all accounts, I have had very positive feedback from students, parents, teachers and the community about the tours I have lead. Here is a link to a video-montage I compiled of the photos from our very recent (April 2019) tour 2019 Wildkat Tour to Paris, the Chateaux and London

>> In April 2021, I am planning an 11-day tour to Spain (Barcelona), France (Carcassonne, Provence and Nice), and Italy (Pisa, Rome). The planning process begins almost two years out for a Wildkat World Travelers' tour due to consideration of feedback that travelers find it easier to finance their tours over a longer period of time. I completely understand the Weymouth Public Schools' policy of not sponsoring international tours and in no way do I wish to change it. I am aware, however, that meetings for non-school sponsored trips may be held on school property if the teacher/sponsor obtains permission from the superintendent and/or school committee. I am asking once again for this privilege from you and the Weymouth School Committee.

>> EF Education Tours earned accreditation through the Commission on Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA) and the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools (MSCES). This means that all of EF's international tours have been recognized for their quality and educational value, meeting the same rigorous standards as the best schools across the U.S. EF also offers high school students the chance to earn one credit through their academically challenging program that involves approximately 100 hours of pre-, post- and on- tour course assignments. In aligning my goals as an educator with the national standards, I wish to provide the students who join my tours with the highest academic experience possible. To this end, if I were to be able to hold after school meetings at the Weymouth High School campus in my classroom/foreign language laboratory/cafeteria, I would be able to take advantage of the multi-media equipment, texts, and computers that have not previously been accessible to the tour participants for discovering the countries they are to visit and to practice their language skills prior to the tour. In addition, I feel parents would also be more well informed by holding information meetings on campus because I am better able to present up-to-date multi-media materials ( i.e. promotional DVD clips, power point presentations, and photos from past tours) than at an outside resource, such as the Tufts Library, where I have previously held parent meetings.

>> In closing, Dr. Whipple, I do hope you'll consider this request for allowing me the use of the High School campus to conduct a non-school sponsored international tour scheduled for April of 2021. I understand that all of any necessary paperwork must include the statement "This tour is sponsored by EF Educational Tours in conjunction with Kristen Kames. This tour is not sponsored by the Weymouth Public Schools." Each year, I have parents sign a document that specifically recognizes their understanding of this important distinction and I intend to have parents sign the same document in all future tours. Please let me know of any other information you may need to make a decision on my behalf.

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