

Request for Space: Quebec January 2019

Dear Dr. Whipple,

As you know, this past February I took a group of 27 students up to Quebec City for 4 days to immerse ourselves in the language, culture, and cold of *Québécois* life. We had an amazing time and it was such a lovely experience to be able to share with my students. We had a mix of students who had formerly traveled to Montreal with French teacher Pat Boucher as an 8th grader, and some who had never been before, but every student was equally as excited to take this new adventure. I was very impressed with how they behaved during all of our activities, showed respect to our guides and other staff, and made an effort to make sure that all students were included in during activities.

As a result of this years success, I would like to keep the trip going. I love that my students will have an opportunity to practice their French in an authentic setting and experience *Québécois* culture first hand. Quebec City has more of a European flair than other cities in Canada, with its narrow cobblestone streets, beautiful cathedrals, and the Château Frontenac. 95% of Quebec City residents speak French as their first language, so it can be seen and heard with much more frequency here than in any other major Canadian city. Additionally, I think this will be an excellent incentive for students to continue taking French, and to make sure they are practicing as much as possible in class knowing that they'll have the opportunity to use it in a real life setting.

I am planning the tour through a company called Jumpstreet Educational Tours. It will be a 4-day/3-night from Friday, January 18-Monday, January 21 (MLK weekend). I really enjoyed working with them last year not just because of their responsiveness during the planning & pre-departure stage, but also because of the dedication of their tour guides to engage with students and make sure they have the best experience possible.

I understand that Weymouth Public Schools has a policy of not sponsoring international tours. I have been made aware, however, that meetings for non-school sponsored trips may be held at Weymouth High School (i.e., classrooms, cafeterias, etc.) if the teacher obtains permission from the superintendent and/or school committee. I would like to ask for this privilege, as I will be more able to share information with students (and later parents) at a location that will be mutually convenient for all parties. Additionally, it will allow me access to the projector, where I can more easily share information, resources, and promotional clips provided by Jumpstreet that show how amazing their winter tour to Quebec City will be.

In closing, I hope that you will grant this request to allow the use of the Weymouth High School campus and facilities to host a non-school sponsored international tour planned for February 2018. I understand that all of the necessary documents must include the statement *"This tour is sponsored by Jumpstreet International Tours in conjunction with Shae Richards. This tour is not sponsored but the Weymouth Public Schools."* If necessary, I can produce a document that parents will sign stating that they recognize our tour will not be a school sponsored trip.

If any additional information is required in order to make this decision, please let me know. I have attached our proposed itinerary for your review as well.

Best regards,  
Shae Richards  
WHS French Teacher  
Quebec City Group Leader