

LA BELLE FRANCE

Madame Olvera June 7, 2010

OBJECTIVE: To offer **Alisal High School French students** the opportunity to travel to France and experience first hand French language, culture, art, architecture and history and to set them on the path to being life-long learners by applying what they have been learning in the classroom.

Student Academic Goals: *The Standards for Foreign Language Learning*

- **Communication:** Students will be able to **communicate** verbally in French in a variety of unscripted, spontaneous situations. They will be able to understand and interpret written and spoken language in authentic situations.
- **Cultures:** Students will gain first hand knowledge and understanding of French culture. They will also demonstrate the knowledge they acquired in the classroom about cultural variations by their sensitivity to **cultural differences** and by their appropriate behavior, response and reactions in various situations.
- **Connections:** Through their travels and the use of the French language the students will broaden their knowledge of history, art and architecture. This trip will help them acquire new information and recognize the **connections** with other academic disciplines.
- **Comparisons:** Through this travel opportunity, students will deepen their understanding and insights into the nature of language and culture. They will make **comparisons** of the culture visited with their own and reflect on the similarities and differences.
- **Communities:** For the first time students will bravely step out of their home to experience something completely new. They will feel the thrill of using their French in a real French **community** and experience using the French language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

Personal Student Outcomes:

- **This trip is an investment in their future:** Stepping outside of their comfort zone and experiencing foreign travel will help the students mature and gain self-confidence. Colleges know this and will be impressed to see foreign travel on the student's college application. They know the student is already on their way to being independent and self-sufficient. And with a broadened, curious mind, they will be more ready to tackle higher education.
- **The students are learning to travel AND traveling to learn.** Travel will make a lasting impact on the students as no textbook ever can. This is hands-on education at its best.
- **"Necessity is the father of invention"**. This will be the student's first "field test" and the best motivator to use the language they have been studying.
- **"Travel puts faces on statistics"**. Stereotypes will be questioned and continually shattered as students see and experience for themselves this culture and its people that they have only heard and read about. International current events will take on a new, more personal significance for them as their awareness of other cultures and communities is awakened. They will feel more invested in the global community.
- **Tolerance, compassion, understanding.** Travel requires a lot from everyone. Success will depend on everyone's flexibility, patience and good humor. The students will be learning a lot about themselves as they deal with the challenges and the unfamiliar in France as well as with the dynamics of our own

traveling student community. They will not be the same children when they return home.

Requirements for Participation on this trip:

1. **You must be taking French.** (If you have had at least two years of French, but are not currently in a French class, you may ask to be interviewed by Madame Olvera and if accepted, could be put on a waiting list.)
2. You may not have a grade lower than a “C” or a behavior grade lower than “S”.
3. You and your parents must agree to and sign a Code Of Conduct for the trip. Passports **and** Alisal High rules will be enforced.
4. You must commit to attending all pre-trip meetings.
5. To receive any funds towards your trip, you **MUST** actively participate in any fundraisers the French Club organizes.
6. **The application and deposit fee will only be accepted if they are accompanied by an official school print out of your current academic and behavior grades.** *If you are not a student of Madame Olvera you must also provide **two** letters of recommendation from other teachers.*
7. **YOU MUST HAVE A PASSPORT.**
8. Madame Olvera reserves the right to refuse anyone. Her decision is final.
9. Lastly, for you to get the most out of this trip you must be FLEXIBLE, have a SENSE OF HUMOR and an INSATIABLE CURIOSITY.

Work requirements for students:

Prior to leaving on the trip students will be required to:

- Attend all informational meetings, which will include everything from cultural expectations to how to pack, what clothing to wear, etc. Detailed information on the different sights to be visited on the trip will be presented as well.
- Complete teacher-generated worksheets on each location to be visited. This will help to maximize the educational value of the trip.

During the trip students will be required to:

- Keep a daily journal/scrap book of what they did that day, their feelings, impressions etc.