**Contact:**

Ruth Floyd, Executive Director of Business Services
Stanwood-Camano School District
26920 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood, WA 98292
360-629-1200
rfloyd@stanwood.wednet.edu

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Ruth Floyd, Executive Director of Business Services

SUBJECT: Field Trip Opportunity Offered to Students (non-district sponsored)

DATE: October 15, 2024

TYPE: Action Required

Angela Jones, ASSIST teacher at Stanwood High School, is requesting Board approval to offer an opportunity to Stanwood High School students to participate in an educational trip to Switzerland, Italy, France, and Spain, through EF Educational Tours in summer 2026.

This is a non-district sponsored educational trip. Ms. Jones, students, and employees that participate will not be representatives of the school district.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve Angela Jones' request to offer students the opportunity to participate in the EF Educational Tours field trip to Switzerland, Italy, France, and Spain in summer 2026.

Angela Jones
7400 272nd Street
Stanwood, WA, 98292
ajones@stanwood.wednet.edu
September 19th, 2024

Stanwood Camano School District Board
26920 Pioneer Hwy
Stanwood, WA, 98292

Dear Members of the School Board,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to propose an exciting opportunity for our students at Stanwood High School—an international trip with EF Tours, specifically to Spain and the Mediterranean Coast. As someone who has dedicated the past 20 years to helping young people travel and learn through experiences, I believe this trip could be transformative for our students.

Throughout my years with Girl Scouts of Western Washington, I have successfully led numerous trips both locally and internationally for girls aged 5 to 18. My recent experiences include a memorable trip to Italy and Greece in 2022 with Explorica, as well as a previous journey to Savannah, Georgia, with EF Tours. These experiences have not only enriched my leadership skills but have also deepened my commitment to providing students with opportunities to explore the world.

Additionally, my daughter, a proud graduate of SHS in 2022, was unable to travel with her Spanish Club to Spain due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, this invaluable opportunity for students has not returned, and I am eager to reinstate it. My goal is to revive the tradition of international travel at our school, allowing students to immerse themselves in the cultures of Spain and the Mediterranean Coast.

Traveling abroad allows students to utilize their language skills in real-world settings, fostering connections and a deeper understanding of global citizenship. I am passionate about helping others learn through exploration, and I believe this trip will provide our students with unique experiences that will broaden their horizons and deepen their appreciation for different cultures.

I would love the chance to discuss this proposal further and explore the possibilities of making this trip a reality for our students. Thank you for considering this opportunity to enrich our students' educational journeys.

Sincerely,

Angela Jones (She/Her)

NHS Advisor

ASSIST Teacher

Stanwood High School

ajones@stanwood.wednet.edu



EDUCATIONAL
TOURS

Watch videos, read
reviews, and enroll on your
teacher's Tour Website

eftours.com/

This is also your tour number

THE ALPS & THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST

11 or 13 days | Switzerland | Italy | France | Spain

Each stop on your journey will leave you awe-inspired—from the tranquility of lakes Lucerne and Como, to the Mediterranean shores of Cinque Terre and Nice, to the culture and architecture of Provence and Barcelona. Museums will always have their place, but sometimes it's what's outside that really takes your breath away.

YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES:

-  **Full-time Tour Director**
-  **Sightseeing:** 2 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides (3 *with extension*); 3 sightseeing tours led by your Tour Director; 2 walking tours (3 *with extension*)
-  **Entrances:** Swiss Alps experience; Cinque Terre; Pont du Gard; Nîmes Amphitheater; Palais de Papes; Park Güell; *with extension:* Prado; Palacio Real
-  **Personalized learning guide:** Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.
-   **All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; 9 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (11 *with extension*); European breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on Day 8 instead of dinner
-  



Park Güell

Anyone can see the world.

YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your Tour Director in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning experience, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. Expert local guides will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views on history, art, architecture, or anything you may have a question about.

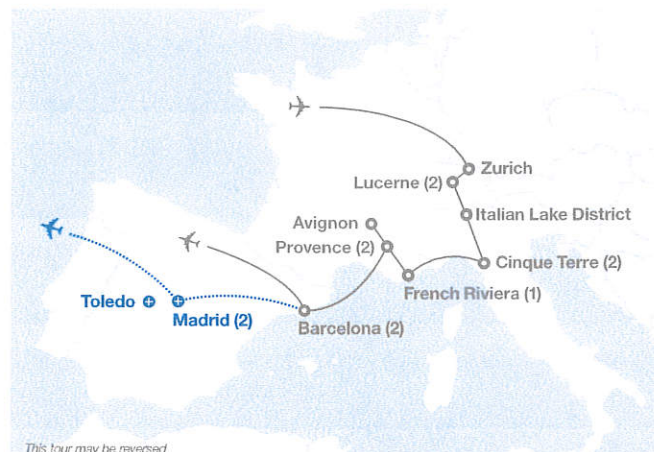
When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday

— MELISSA, TRAVELER



Via Twitter



Learn from your Tour Director
and expert local guides



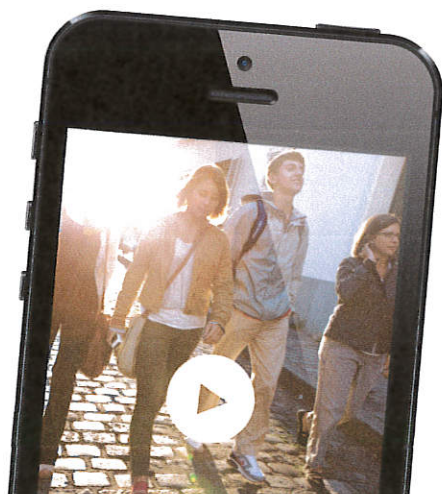
Lion Monument



**CHECK OUT WHAT A
TOUR IS ALL ABOUT**

Watch the videos at
eftours.com/

Your teacher's Tour Website



What you'll experience on your tour

Day 1: Fly overnight to Switzerland

Day 2: Zurich | Lucerne

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport.
- Travel to Lucerne, where the majestic Swiss Alps rise behind the shores of Lake Lucerne and provide the stunning backdrop to one of Switzerland's most picturesque cities.

Day 3: Lucerne

- During your tour of Lucerne, you'll see the poignant Lion Monument, or Löwendenkmal, a sandstone statue commemorating the Swiss Guards slain in the 1792 Paris storming of the Tuileries. Follow Lucerne's winding cobbled streets past fairy-tale houses to the Chapel Bridge, or Kapellbrücke. Stroll along this covered bridge, which dates back to medieval days, and admire the colorful murals overhead.
- Enjoy a thoroughly Swiss experience as you travel to the top of the Alps, take a boat across Lake Lucerne (seasonal), and ride a cog railway to either Mount Pilatus or Mount Rigi.
- Enjoy a free evening or
 - ➦ attend a Swiss fondue evening.

Day 4: Lucerne | Lake Como | Cinque Terre

- Travel to Cinque Terre via the Italian Lake District, which stretches across Northern Italy.

Day 5: Cinque Terre

- Visit Cinque Terre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. See the stunning, colorful houses built along the rugged landscape, and admire the captivating view of the surrounding hillsides.

Day 6: Cinque Terre | French Riviera

- Travel to the French Riviera. On the way, stop in Monaco to take in the sights and sounds. The kingdom of Monaco, ruled by the House of Grimaldi since 1297, is the second smallest country in the world. A tourist destination and a recreation center for the wealthy, picturesque Monaco is often romanticized in popular culture.
- Take a walking tour of Nice, known as *Nice la Belle* or "Nice the Beautiful." Such is the breathtaking allure of this port city that it has inspired countless geniuses—painters like Marc Chagall and Henri Matisse, composers such as Hector Berlioz, and philosophers like Friedrich Nietzsche.
- Enjoy dinner in Nice.

Day 7: French Riviera | Provence

- Continue on to Provence. Painter Paul Cézanne once said of Provence, "Everywhere are the fragrances of honey, thyme, lavender, all the herbs of the nearby hills." Discover for yourself what also inspired Picasso and van Gogh.
- Take a tour of Avignon, and see Pont d'Avignon.
- Visit the Palais des Papes, home to French native Pope Clement V, who moved the papacy here from Rome in 1309. View the stunning Italian frescoes in the chapel and see the hidden vaults where the church's riches were stored.

Day 8: Provence

- Visit Pont du Gard.
- Take a tour of Nîmes with an expert local guide.
- Visit the Nîmes Amphitheater.

Day 9: Provence | Barcelona

- Travel to Barcelona, an art lover's dream city and the place where masters like Miró, Picasso, and Dalí flourished.
- Take a walking tour of Barcelona and stroll down Las Ramblas.

Day 10: Barcelona

- Take an expert-led tour of Barcelona.
- Enjoy free time in the city or
 - ➦ explore Barcelona by bike or
 - ➦ attend a Barcelona flamenco evening.

Day 11: Depart for home

➦ 3-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Day 11: Madrid

- Travel by AVE train to Madrid.
- Take a walking tour of Madrid.
- Visit the Prado.

Day 12: Madrid

- Take an expert-led tour of Madrid and see Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor.
- Visit the Palacio Real.
- Enjoy time to see more of Madrid or
 - ➦ visit Toledo.

Day 13: Depart for home

My daughter just got home from France & Spain and I cannot say enough good things about her trip! We're already looking forward to picking a trip for next year! THANK YOU EF!

– NICKIE, PARENT



Via Facebook

TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

— The easiest ways to —
ENROLL TODAY



Enroll on our website
eftours.com/enroll



Enroll by phone
800-665-5364



Enroll by mail
EF Educational Tours
Two Education Circle
Cambridge, MA 02141

My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



Tour review

THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices**
so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school**,
so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety**.
We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.

