



February 24, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Please be advised that the field trip to Italy and Spain in March is presently being revised. This decision has been made by the Division Administration on behalf of all our schools with Italy as a destination. Due to recent events regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), our decision is made with our continued commitment for student safety.

This was a very difficult decision and we have considered several factors including the ever-evolving status and spread of the disease. Recent media reports advise that there have been 152 cases including three deaths in Italy. This new statistic illustrates our concern for the safety and well-being of students and staff when travelling. Additionally, it is reported that the Italian authorities are imposing restrictions which may negatively impact the planned trip.

We recognize that there has been a lot of work in planning, fundraising, and scheduling these trips. Nonetheless, the Division remains responsible for the safety of all our students. In light of these issues, we believe it is safer to modify the planned itinerary to include destinations which do not pose the level of risk found in Italy.

We will be working with the travel companies, and the schools involved in these trips to assist the school in revising the travel itinerary so that the trip may proceed. Should this be impossible, or if the safety situation changes requiring the Division to cancel altogether, we will work with all parties, including the insurance provider, to assist you in recovering funds that have been committed at this point. Your school will keep you informed as to the status of this process.

Tom Wasylenko, Division Principal for School Operations Services, is available at 780-441-6090 to answer questions you may have. Alternatively, I may be contacted at 780-441-6119.

Rest assured that this decision was not made lightly, and our priority remains student safety.

Sincerely,

Robert Martin
Acting Superintendent