



Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are cordially invited to attend an informational meeting regarding our upcoming Spring Break trip to Boston. By submitting a letter of interest with your signature at the bottom, your son/daughter has expressed a desire to travel with us during this 5-day excursion. Thus, at this meeting, I will formally introduce necessary trip details and elaborate upon our planned itinerary. I am also excited to tell you a little about myself as the group leader.

The trip to Boston will take place entirely over Quaker Valley's Spring Break vacation. The likely dates of travel will be from Saturday, March 14, to Wednesday, March 18, 2020 (not yet finalized until flight is booked). No school will be missed. Though the trip will specialize in providing experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), plenty of other adventures are planned. All selected activities were designed to stimulate the body and mind – which is way better than spending Spring Break on the couch!

Due to the nature of the trip, I sincerely believe that this will be an invaluable experience for the students. Programs of this kind are extraordinary opportunities for personal growth and enrichment, and they simply cannot be duplicated in the traditional classroom setting. Most of the STEM activities are 'hands-on' and were designed specifically with school-aged students in mind. Such experiences also help prepare students for college. They are rich material for college essays and are looked upon favorably by college admissions and corporate hiring personnel who appreciate students' willingness to expand their personal and intellectual horizons. The sponsoring organization for this trip will be Educational Travel Consultants (ETC).

Having previously traveled abroad as a chaperone for numerous Spanish cultural immersion trips to Central and South America, I decided back in 2018 to plan future adventures here in the United States so that they are more affordable and accessible to our students. Thus, during Spring Break 2018, I led my first group of QV students down to New Orleans to build homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in the district most ravaged by hurricane Katrina. It was a huge success! My excursions with students have always proven to be life changing on a variety of levels – for me and for the students. I am thrilled to share this upcoming experience with your child. I hope to see you at the meeting!

**Spring Break 2020 "BOSTON and STEM" informational meeting details:**

**Date: Thursday, October 17, 2017**

**Time: 6:30 (I expect the meeting to last no more than one hour)**

**Location: High School Library (enter building through front door of school on Beaver Street)**

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Sebastian

Quaker Valley High School Mathematics Teacher & Domestic Travel Coordinator

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