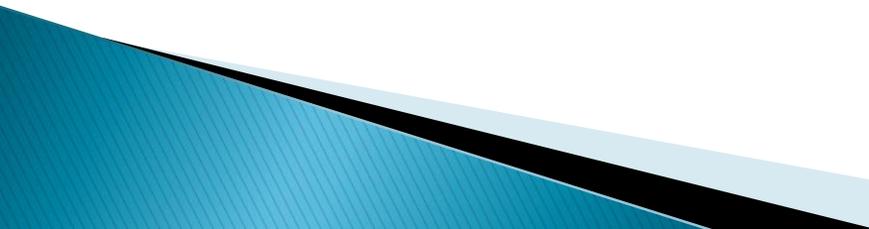




# International Travel Orientation

Tallwood High School  
Global Studies and World Languages Academy

# Now that you're a delegate...

- ▶ Congratulations and keep up the great job!
  - ▶ You are going to embark on a journey that could be life changing!
  - ▶ Continue to maintain a minimum **GPA of 3.0** with **no Ds or Es** on your report card. The Academy coordinator, counselor, and chaperone will monitor grades.
  - ▶ Continue to maintain excellent attendance and discipline records.
  - ▶ Keep up with community service and cultural activities.
  - ▶ Make sure that you are physically fit, emotionally stable, and mature and responsible enough to participate in a rigorous, daily schedule.
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**Educational Tours**

## ***Educational objectives***

**To promote international understanding**  
and a respect for a variety of cultures

**To clarify and deepen our understanding**  
of the American identity and its values and  
beliefs through intercultural experience

**To expand our knowledge** about culture and  
history and the basis for different values and  
beliefs

**To gain independence and continue to  
develop interpersonal skills** necessary to  
navigate a new environment with confidence,  
maturity and flexibility

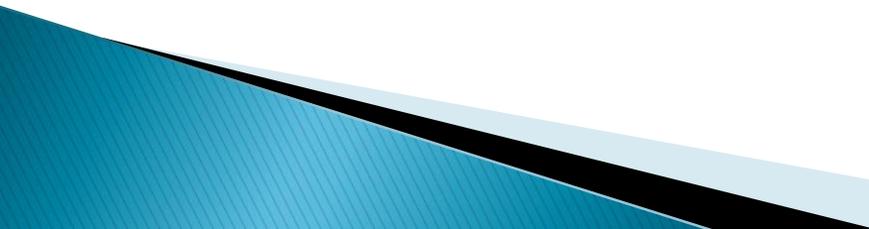
# Passports

- ▶ All travelers are responsible for securing necessary documentation.
- ▶ Passports may take up to 14 weeks to process.
- ▶ The passport must be **valid for at least 6 months** after the travel return date.
- ▶ **A copy must be provided before final ticketing.**
- ▶ **The name on your passport must match the name on your airline tickets!**
- ▶ You should also carry a copy of your passport with you when you travel.
- ▶ Non-U.S. citizens may require special visas or other travel documents.
- ▶ Options: US Post Office or Mrs. Fraser, **VB City Clerk**  
**(757) 385-4303** Applications are accepted Monday – Friday,  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

# Visas

- ▶ VISA – For countries requiring VISA, the actual passport must be provided along with 2x2 photo and VISA application.  
(China)
  - ▶ Jordan requires a VISA, but the application process takes place at the airport.
  - ▶ All costs associated with passports and visas are the responsibility of the traveler.
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# Student Eligibility Form

- ▶ Fill out completely and turn in with all required documents.
  - ▶ Items with X collected by school.
  - ▶ Credit card information can be recorded on separate cards.
  - ▶ Use brown envelope provided.
  - ▶ Make copies before meeting.
  - ▶ Important Note: Travel dates are subject to change.
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# Insurance

- ▶ Most medical insurance requires you to pay your medical bills upfront when you are out-of-country and file for reimbursement when you return home, so plan ahead for emergencies.
- ▶ Travel Insurance is a good idea, but not required. It is up to you to research plans and choose the best one for your needs.
- ▶ Although VBCPS does not endorse any particular company, the following two companies are options:
  - ▶ <http://www.travelguard.com/index.asp>
  - ▶ <http://www.medexassist.com/>
- ▶ VBCPS carries liability insurance for our exchange programs.

# Health Considerations

- ▶ In general, are you healthy enough for the type of trip you are taking?
- ▶ Have you visited <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx> yet? Always follow specific recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control.
- ▶ Passport Health 757-395-1350
- ▶ Do you need extra prescription drugs? Eye glasses? If you have health issues, provide a list of your prescriptions in case you need medical attention while abroad. Be sure that you pack your medicines, contacts, and contact solution in your carry-on luggage!

# Finances

- ▶ Every effort is made to hold the cost of travel to airfare and spending money.
- ▶ Adhere to payment deadlines. Due dates are determined by the airlines.
- ▶ A \$300 deposit is required. The deposit is refundable until the flights are booked.
- ▶ Check with your chaperone for specific information on what the trip cost includes. You will need to pay for meals while traveling in airports.
- ▶ Ask your chaperone about contributing money for tips for your on-site guides, bus drivers, etc.
- ▶ GSWLA Boosters will make a contribution to offset costs if families of travelers are members. Email [gswla.boosters@gmail.com](mailto:gswla.boosters@gmail.com)

# Spending Money

- ▶ Consider exchanging some money in advance of travel.
- ▶ Do some research on the availability of ATM and credit card payment. Carry some cash, but try to use plastic if you can.
- ▶ Options: Travel Money Card through AAA, The Virginia Beach Credit Union, Credit Card through your bank.
- ▶ If you must leave cash in your hotel, ask if the front desk has a safe and get a receipt for your money or other belongings. (DO NOT LEAVE CASH IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM.)
- ▶ Keep your passport and cash/credit cards on your person at all times. Consider a money belt on other secure way of carrying items.

# Safe Travel

- ▶ Visit U.S. Department of State International Travel Web site for information travel information
  - ▶ [http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/travel\\_1744.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html)
  - ▶ Check the Country Specific Information for the country you are visiting, and review safety information on this site.
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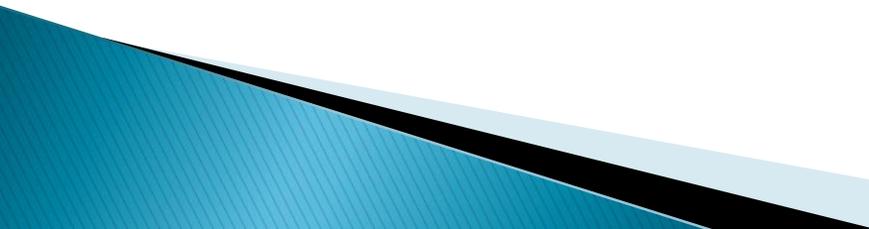
# Safety

- ▶ Be alert. Avoid crowds, demonstrations, or other situations that could put you in danger.
- ▶ Keep a low profile. Try not to attract special attention to yourself.
- ▶ Use the “buddy” system and never go out alone OR without notifying your group leader.
- ▶ Avoid places where Americans are known to congregate and avoid American logos on your clothing and belongings.

# Safety Continued

- ▶ Do not leave your bags unattended.
  - ▶ Be cautious when you meet new people.
  - ▶ Never give out your local address or phone number and never compromise the privacy of another student.
  - ▶ Be cautious when crossing streets or roads.
  - ▶ Stay with your group. Never leave your group alone or with a local person.
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# Packing

- ▶ Refer to the Packing Guide Sheet for packing suggestions.
  - ▶ Pack your Passport, medications, small toiletries, and one change of clothing in your carry on bag. Toiletries in carry-on are limited to 4 oz. and should be in plastic bag.
  - ▶ Restrict your luggage to one checked suitcase and a small carry-on bag. Transporting luggage can be a problem in host countries. Don't pack what you personally cannot carry!
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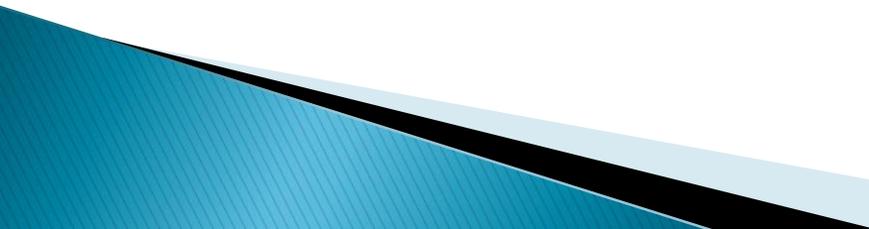
# Code of Conduct

- ▶ Remember: At all times while you are abroad, you represent the United States, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Tallwood High School, and the Global Studies and World Languages Academy and are held responsible for the VBCPS Code of Conduct.
- ▶ Review the Code of Student Conduct online at <http://www.vbschools.com/students/conduct/code.asp>
- ▶ Any violation of the Tallwood High School and VBCPS Student Code of Conduct may result in the student's suspension from school.
- ▶ The use of alcohol and drugs is strictly prohibited. Never leave food or drinks unattended while abroad.
- ▶ You may be sent home for alcohol use.
- ▶ **YOU WILL BE SENT HOME FOR ANY DRUG VIOLATION.**
- ▶ If a student is sent home, parents are responsible for the cost of the return flight and there is no refund of trip.

# Mandatory Expulsion

1. Arson or attempted arson
2. Assault and battery on an employee or student
3. Possession, use or sale of a firearm or dangerous weapon
4. Use, possession, being under the influence of, selling, bringing, giving, distributing or passing to another individual or possessing with intent to sell, give, or distribute alcohol, marijuana, controlled substances or imitation controlled substances, and inhalants
5. Extortion, attempted extortion, robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and/or larceny
6. Sex Offenses: sexual battery, inappropriate sexual behavior, obscene phone calls, and sexual assault
7. Hazing: initiation of another student into a club, group, or any other organization through abuse and humiliation so as to cause bodily injury
8. Kidnapping or other serious criminal violations
9. Possession, use, distribution, sale, lighting or discharge of explosive devices
10. Homicide
11. Malicious wounding of an employee or student
12. And other good and just causes as determined by the superintendent

# Emergency Contacts

- ▶ Chaperones will compile a notebook with emergency contact information, Passport copies, insurance information, and any information about medical conditions.
  - ▶ Students will have emergency contact information to include name, address and telephone number of the hotels; cell phone numbers for group leaders, local school personnel; and address and telephone number of the U.S. Embassy.
  - ▶ Tallwood High School will also have all emergency contact information.
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# Living with a Host Family

- ▶ Your travel application will be provided to the host family. The destination site determines the matching host family.
  - ▶ Abide by the rules of the family.
  - ▶ Communicate with your host family before the exchange.
  - ▶ Communicate any concerns with your chaperone.
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# Hosting

- ▶ Consider applying to host the visiting delegation.
  - ▶ Applications are on the GSWLA Website and GSWLA Travel Weebly.  
<http://gswla.weebly.com/index.html>
  - ▶ See application for additional information about criteria.
  - ▶ Students earn 4 cultural events for hosting.
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# Communication

- ▶ Before travel, chaperones will communicate information about tour itineraries, host families, pre-study sessions and requirements.
  - ▶ While traveling, chaperones communicate on a daily basis (as long as technology is available).
  - ▶ While traveling, chaperones will post pictures to GSWLA Facebook and/or GSWLA Travel Website (as long as technology is available).
  - ▶ Students may carry electronic devices, but they must be on silent on the tours and when visiting schools. Students need to be very vigilant about keeping up with their belongings.
  - ▶ The Academy Coordinator will communicate information regarding finances and airfare via email.
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# Before Travel

- ▶ **Attend all pre-study sessions** with your chaperone and be prepared to present at the host school. Your chaperone will assign your topic.
  - ▶ Select student bloggers and photographers to **document trip** and share with Academy Coordinator daily.
  - ▶ The students are responsible for making **arrangements in advance of travel with their teachers for missed assignments**. Use Student Homework Plan provided on the GSWLA Travel Website. Your chaperone will provide copies.
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# During Travel

- ▶ Student delegates are expected to represent the Global Studies and World Languages Academy, Tallwood High School, and Virginia Beach City Public Schools in the **highest degree of integrity** and follow all rules of the GSWLA and VBCPS Code of Conduct.
- ▶ Student delegates are expected to **collaborate as a team** and **respect the leadership of the chaperone**, as well as follow any house rules of the host family.
- ▶ Student delegates are expected to follow dress codes as discussed by the chaperones. Err on the side of **dressing to a higher standard and more conservatively** than you might need to dress at THS.
- ▶ School missed during the exchange is noted in the school record as **ACTIVITY** and does not count as an absence.

# After Travel

- ▶ **#1 Priority** – Make-up missed work, some after school work will most likely be needed.
  - ▶ Student delegates are expected to be ambassadors and **share information** about their travel experiences.
  - ▶ **Thank your host family** and stay connected to your new friends.
  - ▶ **Thank donors** who supported exchange programs.
  - ▶ Attend post-travel meeting with chaperones and review **travel evaluation**.
  - ▶ Students earn **8 cultural events** for participating in exchanges.
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