

**APPROVE THE PARTICIPATION OF NORTHSIDE COLLEGE PREPARATORY HIGH SCHOOL IN GREECE: A CULTURAL ODYSSEY TRAVEL/STUDY TOUR AND AUTHORIZE TRAVEL OR OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Approve the participation of eighteen (18) Northside College Preparatory students in an educational tour to Greece from March 31, 2007-April 8, 2007.

**USER:** Northside College Preparatory High School  
5501 N Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625  
773.534.3954  
Catherine Irving/ Anna Lisa Searcy

**PROGRAM:** This year-long colloquium will study Greece from the development of the ancient city-states to modern times. Students will study the philosophers, Greek life, government structures and origins, entertainment, food, art, and architecture. During Spring Break 2007, students will travel throughout Greece and the Greek Islands, experiencing the culture and history studied in this colloquium. This colloquium will require reading, research, presentations and outside preparation.

**Itinerary:**

Day 1- Departure from the USA bound for Greece.

Day 2 - Arrival in Athens. We are met by our European Institute Tour Director, who transfers us to our centrally located hotel for arrival briefing.

Day 3 – Athens: Half day city sightseeing with our local guide introduces us to the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Theater of Dionysus and the Greek Parliament.

Day 4 –Mykonos: Board ferry ship at Piraeus, Athens' lively port. Sail off into the blue Aegean Sea, dropping anchor in the early evening at Mykonos. The rugged shoreline provides the perfect backdrop with picturesque white-washed cottages and windmills of the island.

Day 5-Mykonos : A short boat trip brings us to the peace and tranquility of Delos, birthplace of the "divine twins", Artemis and Apollo, where we discover a vision of life over three thousand years ago. Then arrive at the Sacred Harbour, then visit the Sanctuary of Apollo. Then take time to climb and enjoy a magnificent view over the Aegean and surrounding islands of the Cyclades.

Day 6-Santorini : Transfer to Santorini, the beautiful island that is all that remains of the legendary continent of Atlantis. The narrow streets and white-washed houses, clinging to the steep cliffs, make this perhaps the most beautiful of the Greek Isles. This afternoon we visit with our local guide the archaeological site of Akrotiri, witnessing the remains of the sophisticated Minoan Society.

Day 7-Santorini: This morning, we visit the origins of the lost civilization of Atlantis. The Nea Kameni Volcano is said to have caused the sinking of most of the island some 5000 years ago thus creating the legendary underwater city. We then see the thermal, volcanic springs. We then return to Santorini for a free afternoon.

Day 8- Athens We travel back to Athens for a free afternoon to explore.

Day 9- Return to the USA.

**EDUCATIONAL VALUE/OUTCOMES:** The *Greece: Cultural Odyssey* colloquium will culminate in a spring break field trip to Greece. The tour, which is being organized by NCPHS teachers Catherine Irving and Anna Lisa Searcy, will be orchestrated by The European Institute, which is a leader in the educational student travel industry. As the colloquium commences student-driven research into the art and architecture, politics, religions, culture, and economies of the Greek region from ancient times through the modern era, students will be preparing their background knowledge for their expedition to the very places that they are studying. The students' study of ancient Greek politics will be considerably expanded with a visit to the Acropolis in Athens. Their research into the lives of the ancient Greeks will be more of a comprehensive investigation into their daily routines with a visit to the ancient ruins of Mykonos. The discussion of Greek art and architecture will be enhanced with a tour through world-renowned museums in Athens and local experts' guided tours throughout the many ruins and ancient examples of architecture throughout Greece. These experiences will make the students' chosen study of Greece from ancient times through the modern era come alive with the very critical experience of engaging in a hands-on

learning opportunity. Ancient ruins are certainly impressive in pictures and descriptions, but the student who actually witnesses these ruins will be able to draw upon that experience in later academic studies. The Acropolis and the Oracle at Delphi are certainly notable in photographs, but the student who can actually see them have a lifetime of educational interest in artistic and cultural movements. The spring break trip to Greece is a natural and essential component of the *Greece: A Cultural Odyssey* colloquium, and it will provide the students of this course an authentic examination of the subjects they have chosen to study.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS/TRIP INFORMATION:** Arrangements for this program are being made by The European Institute at 401005, Cambridge, MA 02140. Contact Person: Paul Clarke. Phone number: 1-866-800-EURO (3876). Email: [pclarke@theeuropeaninstitute.com](mailto:pclarke@theeuropeaninstitute.com)

**COST:** The per pupil cost is \$3244 which includes transportation, meals, hotel costs, and health and accident insurance. Trip cancellation insurance is an extra \$90. The costs will be paid by the students.

**CHAPERONES:** Supervision of students will be provided for this program pursuant to Board Report 03-0527-PO01 ("Policy on Student Travel"), including proper ratio of students to adults. The chaperones will be Catherine Irving (CPS teacher), Anna Lisa Searcy (CPS teacher), and Greg DiFrancesco (CPS teacher).

**PARENTAL CONSENT:** Written parental consent and release forms for each student are on file at Northside College Preparatory High School.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Authorize the President and Secretary to execute any travel agreements necessary for this program.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** Not applicable.

**LSC REVIEW:** This action was approved by the LSC for Northside College Preparatory.

**FINANCIAL:** No cost to the Board at this time.

**GENERAL CONDITIONS:**

Inspector General – Each party to any agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – Any agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one-year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of off

Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of any agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted June 23, 2004 (04-0623-PO4), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of any agreement.

Contingent Liability – Any agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

Approved for Consideration:



**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



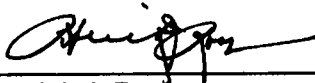
**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



**John Maiorca**  
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to legal form: 



**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel