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Dear parents, guardians and families,

I wanted to share an important update regarding international travel. As you may be aware, the Division has paused all international school trips and school-based exchanges for the 2026–27 school year. Some schools have already shared this information with families.

This is a decision that I do not take lightly. I understand that some students and families may be deeply disappointed. These trips are often a highlight of a student's school year and something they plan and look forward to for quite some time.

Amid a complex global landscape of evolving political, economic and public health challenges, the pause in international travel prioritizes student and staff safety and well-being. I examined a variety of factors when making this decision, including operational and security factors. Couple this with reported global fuel shortages, recently reported public health concerns and ongoing military conflict, which introduces further unpredictability and risk to international travel. Recently, one of our field trips witnessed civil unrest in the streets outside of their hotel while traveling overseas. The goal is to avoid unnecessary risk and ensure the safety of everyone across our school communities.

Our responsibility is to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to the safety of students and staff. By making a decision now, we are providing certainty and clarity for families and students. The Division will continue to monitor global trends and will reassess ahead of the 2027-28 school year.

Thank you in advance for your partnership and understanding. If you have specific questions about what this means for your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to their school.

Sincerely,



Ron Thompson
Superintendent of Schools