



Special Non-programmatic Excursion to Costa Rica

Brief overview and executive summary of the proposed sponsored trip to Costa Rica, focusing on educational value, experiential learning, and community service.

June 17/18 - 27, 2024

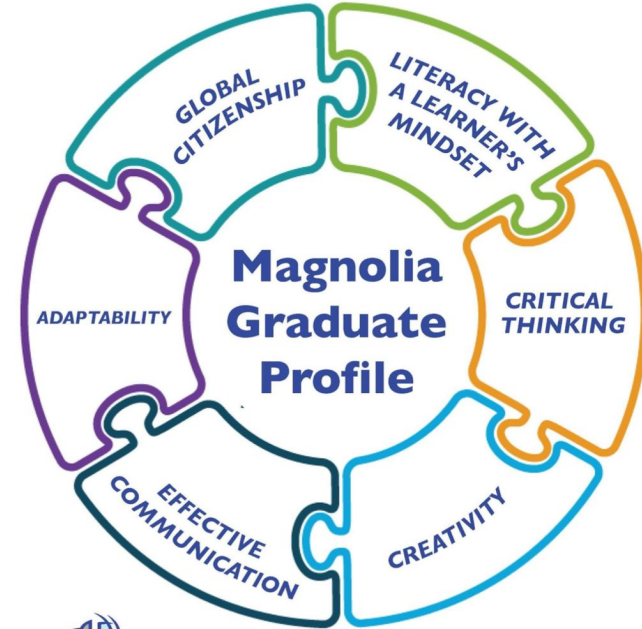
Introduction & Purpose

Excursion to Costa Rica: Alignment with MPS Vision and Mission

Core Values

- **Excellence:** Achieving high educational standards and personal growth through hands-on learning experiences.
- **Innovation:** Engaging in new educational methodologies like experiential learning in diverse environmental settings.
- **Connection:** Building interpersonal and intercultural relationships that reflect MPS's commitment to community.

At Magnolia Public Schools, Global Citizenship means understanding global complexities, respecting and embracing diversity through dialogue, cultivating compassion, and actively promoting peace and inclusivity.



***Important:** This excursion is not a field trip, and is not part of the school year. It is a special, non-programmatic excursion similar to student trips provided by third-party organizers.

Educational and Experiential Learning Goals

- **Experiential Learning:** Interaction with Costa Rica's natural and socio-economic environments to enhance student's understanding of biodiversity, sustainability, and global interconnectivity
- **Community Service:** Hands-on volunteer work in local community to develop participants' leadership, empathy, and social responsibility.
- **Cultural Exchange:** Engage with Costa Rican culture through traditional cooking classes, dance workshops, and language immersion, broadening participants' perspectives.



Planning

Logistics, Funding, and Operational Support

- **Funding & Support:**
 - \$50,000 allocation from MPS Home Office Reserves
 - Vision is for annual funding through philanthropic support
- **Staff & Supervision:**
 - Open to 11th Grade Students (cap 50 students & 10 staff)
 - MPS Staff will support in organization and supervision of trip
 - Cost Overview includes transportation, accommodations, meals, and activities. (approx. \$1,800 per participant).
 - Two groups; one leaving on the 17th and the other on the 18th. Both coming back on the 27th.
- **Next Steps:**
 - Continue working with partners (legal & insurance)
 - Consult with school site principals
 - Schedule forum to engage student interest
 - Provide a detailed logistic report to MPS Board



Budget, Funding, & Next Steps

- **Cost Overview** - expenses includes transportation, accommodations, meals, and activities, with the goal to keep expenses manageable for participating individuals. (approx. \$1,800 per participant)
- **Fundraising & Scholarships** - team is working on fundraising initiatives to support trip.
- **Timeline & Preparations** - pre-trip orientation session for students, parents, and staff will cover logistics



Special Considerations & Recommendations

- **Overview of Special Considerations:**
 - Ensuring compliance with US and Costa Rican laws
 - Parental Consent Forms
 - Establishment of protocols for emergencies abroad
- **Insurance and Liability**
 - Secure comprehensive travel and health insurance
- **Other Recommendations**
 - Collaborate with travel agency
 - Conduct pre-trip orientation for students and parents to cover safety, behavioral expectations, and cultural norms in Costa Rica



Closing Remarks

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders

- **Recap:**
 - This excursion to Costa Rica is an unparalleled opportunity for our students to experience experiential learning, community service, and cultural exchange, aligning perfectly with MPS objectives.
- **Impact:**
 - By participating, students will develop critical skills like global citizenship and cultural awareness, preparing them for a successful future in a globalized world.
- **Call to Action:**
 - We invite the board's support to make this transformative experience a reality for our students.

