

Regretfully, I am emailing to communicate the cancellation of school sponsored out of state travel until further notice. With guidance from public health agencies and others, schools across the nation are canceling school sponsored trips as a result of the coronavirus outbreak across the country and beyond. In an effort to mitigate the spread of the disease and keep our students and staff safe, we are no exception.

Some of the concerns stem from adjustments states and cities are making now, and as things evolve, in the area of mass transit and large group settings. Additionally, the risk of exposure and subsequent quarantines are also concerning especially as students and staff are farther away from home, their primary care doctors, and loved ones.

I know this is an inconvenience, but we too have to keep the best interest of all involved at the forefront. Interestingly enough, Vanderbilt University in Nashville is canceling face to face classes, and some schools have closed. The same is the case in New York, where precautions are being taken to limit the use of the subway systems (mass transit) and school closures also exist. Coastal states are also making adjustments due to cruise lines and large attractions. We have trips to these areas planned in the coming weeks. We simply can't participate in school sponsored activities out of state in light of these concerns.

Also today, we must announce the cancellation of our sister city student exchange that was set to begin March 31. After careful communication with several community and school leaders, we've determined that it would be in the best interest of our city and our school families to cancel the Germans' trip to Washington. With the heightening global concerns of the spread of the Coronavirus, we aren't willing to risk the health and wellness of our community or of our German guests.

While this was a very difficult decision to make, we must keep the safety and health of our students our top priority. Decisions regarding the city's exchange in April and the student exchange this summer will be made at a later date.

St. Francis Borgia Regional High School and Washington High School look forward to participating in the student exchange in the future.

So, as of March 10, 2020, we will not permit out-of-state travel with school sponsored groups. Also know, that we will be monitoring the situation and will keep everyone informed once travel is advisable and safe for our school groups. We are truly sorry for the inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation as we work through the guidance coming from the CDC, state and local agencies to make the most informed decisions.

Sincerely,

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