**France, Germany and Switzerland – Summer 2013**

**June 15, 2013: One week to go!!!**

(only 7 days until we depart!)

* **General Business**
  + Parent Packet:
    - Flights/hotels
    - Emergency Contact List
    - Copy of your traveler’s passport
  + Non-Negotiables (see the back of this agenda)
  + Pairs ‘n’ Squares (5 pairs, and one triplet – 3 squares)
  + Pack your student ID!!! The Tour Director has requested that we bring our student ID’s for entry into some of the sites.
  + Optionals – Please sign-up for the optionals you would like to attend, you must be able to pay for it on tour.
  + Departure Day (June 22nd )
    - Wear your t-shirt!

* + - We will meet at WEHS (in the library) at 11:00am, and pulling away at 11:45am.
    - Ms. Taylor will check your carry-on for anything that might not clear security. She will also weigh and tape your bag. Please form one-line when you enter the library. Parents, who are not traveling, please have a seat in the waiting area.
    - Bring money (USD) to eat lunch at the airport.
  + Don’t forget to call credit card/cell provider to let them know about the trip.
  + I have extra copies of suggested packing list, if you need it!
  + Ms. Taylor’s cell #: 903-520-9573 (text with last minute questions)
* **Setting the expectations**

**Don’t Forget!**

Your passport

Your student ID

Checked bag no more than 40 lbs.

1 carry-on and 1 personal bag

Be at Wylie East by 11:00am on Saturday, June 22nd

* + Airport(s)
  + Group Mindset
  + The European Way
  + Behavior
* **Thinking Ahead**
  + Reminder to pick up your traveler at DFW International Airport. Please use the screens in the airport to determine which baggage claim to meet us at. There will not be a shuttle from the airport to Wylie.
  + We are *scheduled* to arrive on Sunday, June 30th at 2:15 pm (Lufthansa #438)

**Ms. Taylor’s List of Non-Negotiables**

On the day of departure, I will be checking for the following things from each traveler…

* **At least €50 - €100 in cash** (yes, in the Euro). Sometimes it takes us a while to find an ATM when first arriving. It is best to have some cash on you, to get you through one or two days.
  + You can order the Euro at most major banks. It usually takes them a week or more to have the currency delivered to the bank branch…so, plan ahead. (For example, I bank at Capital One. I go into my local branch at least a month before departure and fill out a form to order the currency. They look up the current exchange rate, and let me know how much the currency will cost in the US dollar. I sign the agreement, and they deduct the amount from my account.)
  + You can also by cash from a currency exchange store. This usually comes with a fee and a higher exchange rate. I have used the Travelex Store in Addison before. (5100 Beltline Road Suite 532, Dallas, TX 75254)
* **A wrist watch.** I know that most students today don’t wear watches anymore. Speaking from experience, cell phones are not reliable as your only source of time. The roaming often drains the battery quickly. (Mine wouldn’t stay set to the correct time zone, once). I recommend leaving the time on your cell phone set to Central Standard Time, if possible, so that you will always know what time it is in Texas when you want to call home. We will often split up in groups and have a set meeting time. Being on time is **very** important.
* **A change of clothes in your carry-on bag.** You are not a believer until you have had it happen to you…you arrive in Europe, but your bag doesn’t. It is very miserable to go a day or two without a change of clothes and basic toiletry items. Play it safe, and bring a few items to make it through, in case the inevitable happens. I have also found it helpful to use this change of clothes when staying only one night in a city/hotel…not having to drag in my large suitcase.
* **System for securing money and passport.** Be sure that you have a safe way to carry your money and passport at all times. I carry a messenger bag with an inside zipper pocket (the inside pocket makes it a tricky for the pick-pockets). I have used a back pack before (you need to keep money and passport in an inside pocket…backpacks are easy targets). I have had students in the past who have used a passport wallet that hangs around their neck. Whatever you decide to use, it needs to be with you at all times. On the day that we depart, I will give you a card that has all the addresses and phone numbers of the hotels where we will be staying. This card is designed to be the same size as your passport. Please include it in your bag/wallet, and have it on you at all times.