

September 9, 2016

Dear Mr. Dupain,

Thank-you for your response to my concerns about the course.

Indeed, I was not aware, nor was my daughter, that “Perspectives mondiale” and “Eleves sans frontieres” were two separate entities. I have attached below the current course description where it is certainly advertised to the students as a single program. I believe there has been a lack of clear communication with the students, which can and should be cleared up immediately. I know of children who, back at the beginning of grade 10, specifically chose to not take “Perspectives Mondiale” as they did not wish to take the trip.

I understand the need to make changes due to a changing world, and I understand this may involve cancelling international trips such as the one to Senegal. However, I believe it's important to note that the world is not a less safe place; war has always existed and always will. The reality is that school boards are (understandably) reacting to increased terrorist activity, not to a more dangerous world. Terrorism is by nature an intention to disrupt the lives of ordinary citizens, and in the case of these school programs, the terrorists have succeeded.

Let's not lose sight of the fact that our children may miss out on a trip, yes, but the real losers are those in Senegal and other impoverished communities who lose out when the attention of an entire generation is turned away from them, permanently. If I understand correctly, the “Eleves sans frontieres” program is a humanitarian aid program and not an adventure trip. In fact, the name itself implies a link with “Medecines sans frontieres” which specifically goes into places where citizens of the world are in the greatest need. If the trips are cancelled, please consider other ways of involving the students with aiding (french) communities around the world who are in need. There can still be fundraising; Skype is useful for direct communication.

Also, it must be noted that a large percentage of my daughter's CSF friends did travel, even in the past few months, to France - a country plagued by terrorist activity. Parents themselves are not shying away from travel to such destinations: perhaps we must also consider the elephant in the room: how much of the decision whether or not to travel beyond our borders is due to potential litigation? Can this issue be mitigated by parents signing a waiver?

I am aware that the distance education program is under review, that the leadership of the program has changed, that the course is under review, that potential international travel is under review. However, the children themselves need to be updated ASAP on these matters. They were promised that a destination would be announced at the end of April, and when this did not happen, they were not apologized to, nor updated on the current situation. These children (now nearing adulthood) need and deserve honesty, integrity and respect from their leaders, and this involves clear communication. This is part of their education. Safety should be a top issue, but I disagree that safety is “the school board's number one priority”. Education is the number one priority.

Please do not feel the need to respond; my only wish is that the students of these programs receive direct communication on the matter, as soon as possible.

regards,

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Perspectives mondiales 10 et 11 (L)

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Le cours est conçu pour offrir aux élèves la possibilité de se conscientiser par rapport au monde et à ses enjeux complexes. Les élèves participeront à une étude exhaustive des questions d'ordre mondial et de la région choisie pour le projet en interaction directe avec des groupes communautaires de nature scolaires, d'affaires, clubs philanthropiques/organismes bénévoles et sociaux pour mettre leurs connaissances en application et réunir des fonds pour leur projet. **Durant le congé du printemps 2017, le groupe se rendra dans une destination à préciser.**

Les élèves doivent faire les 4 crédits pour participer au voyage.

Code: YFSSC10/YFSSC11
Septembre à juin (60 heures)
Crédits : 4 crédits sur 2 ans
