

## **STUDENT COMMITMENTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR TRIPS**

Part of our mission is to educate students about good character and to help them realize their rights and responsibilities as members of a community. As part of both these efforts, we do all we can to help students learn what it means to make a commitment and how to balance the various commitments they make as members of our community. In prioritizing these commitments, we use the triage of family first, academics second, and athletics/performing ensembles third. Every other commitment comes after these three.

One of those “other” commitments is participation on trips. We are blessed to be able to offer, through the initiative and hard work of many faculty and staff, a number of excellent trips—both international and domestic. Participation in these trips is an honor, a privilege, and not a right, and many trips have a selection process through which candidates must pass in order to be allowed on a given trip.

Given these two realities, no student will be allowed to sign up for a trip if he/she is in academic trouble (i.e. having failed a course in the previous quarter), in arrears in meeting financial obligations to the school, or a member of an athletic team/performing ensemble that has practices, performances, or games during the time of the trip. Put simply, once a student has committed to be a member of a team or performing ensemble, that commitment trumps all other extracurricular commitments.

Once a list of students interested in a trip has been generated, it will be culled by the Dean of Students, the Academic Dean, and the Director of Business Services to determine eligibility.

If a student wishes to appeal his or her exclusion from a trip, he or she must schedule a hearing with the Director of Campus Life, the Dean of Students, and the affected Department Chair. This hearing will be scheduled through the Headmaster’s Office, but only after a written request for a hearing—stating the mitigating circumstances that justify an appeal—has been submitted to the Dean of Students Office.