**NA Argentina Exchange Informational Meeting – 12/12/13**

*Trip dates: February 28-March 15, 2014*

1. Chaperones and Participants:

Chaperones

1. Mr. Bernie McMahon (bmcmahon@norfolkacademy.org/757-304-7552)

2. Ms. Price Massey (pmassey@norfolkacademy.org/757-642-5095)

Participants

1. Sam Archbell
2. Deztaney Belcher
3. Anna Brush
4. Nia Carter
5. Dominique Manuel
6. Sloane McTavish
7. Erica Moy
8. Arielle Murray
9. Ana Perreira
10. Zalaila Powell
11. Brian Shivers
12. Caylyn Weinstein
13. Chris Wiggins

Exchange Coordinator

Mrs. Brooke Fox (bfox@norfolkacademy.org/757-533-5646)

1. On Friday, February 28th, you need to come to school with your luggage and leave it in the Security office. At 1:30pm, we will meet under the arches, gather our things from Security, and board the bus for Norfolk International Airport.

You are allowed to check two pieces of luggage. Each piece must weigh under 50 pounds and not exceed 62 linear inches length plus width plus height. The first checked bag is free and the second bag fee is $75.00.

1. Flight Itinerary

**FEBRUARY 28, 2014**:

Delta #2206 depart Norfolk 4:30pm arrive Atlanta 6:23 pm

Delta #101 depart Atlanta 7:40 pm arrive Buenos Aires 7:55 am (March 1)

MARCH 14, 2013:

Delta #110 depart Buenos Aires 8:30 pm arrive Atlanta 5:44 am (March 15)

**MARCH 15, 2013**:

Delta #1113 depart Atlanta 7:25 am arrive Norfolk 9:01 am

1. Name of the school we are visiting March 1-March 12

Holy Trinity College in Mar del Plata - http://www.trinity.esc.edu.ar/eng/web.htm

Gascón 544, Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: +54 (223) 451-0168/486-3471

Headmistress and Contact: Mrs. Marcela de Tovo

Head of Middle School and Exchange coordinator: Mrs. Federica Valenzuela

1. Name of our hotel in Buenos Aires (March 12-14):

Circular Militar - http://www.circulomilitar.org/hotelgm.htm

Santa Fe 750

Buenos Aires, Argentina

1. Currency: Argentine Peso - 1 US Dollar = about 6 Argentine pesos

* Bring $200-300 personal spending money
* Make sure you know your PIN # for your Debit/Credit Card
* Inform your credit card company of foreign travel plans
* You might want to order some pesos from your bank in advance (around $100)
* GlobeConvert – free app – currency converter

1. What to pack:

* Average Temperatures in March: Highs in the 70’s; Lows in the 50’s
* Similar to late summer/early fall in Norfolk
* The same dress code applies for school attire.
* Sneakers and athletic clothing necessary for walking, hiking, and attending P.E. classes
* Purchase an AC power travel adapter for hairdryers, irons, etc. ($25)

1. Phones: Viber, WhatsApp
2. Safety precautions: Our group is registered with the State Department’s SMART TRAVELER ENROLLMENT PROGRAM (STEP) in case of emergency. Go to **http.travel.state.gov** for additional information.

Trip insurance: Through our travel agent, Nancy Martell, we have purchased insurance for the group (Travelex-underwritten by Nationwide). Nancy has booked trips for NA for decades.

Travel insurance reimburses $2,000 trip cancellation for "covered" reasons such as weather problems and military service; trip interruptions (pays for cost to return for an emergency); medical expenses up to $15,000.00; lost baggage ($500), and medical evacuation ($100.000).

1. Documents-Please make sure the following documents have been filled out and returned to Mr. McMahon before leaving on the trip:
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 2 copies of first page of your passport
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Health and Emergency Form
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Medical treatment, information Sharing, and disclosure waiver
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Consent to photograph, film, or record a student for non-profit use
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Release of Liability
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Minor travel consent form \*needs to be notarized
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Physician’s Authorization Form (only needed if we do not have a current athletic physical on file)

**Expectations**

The exchange experience demands the utmost of a student’s character, judgment, and enthusiasm. Everywhere we go, we will be representatives of our families, our school, our city, and our country. We must be mindful of the impressions we make. Unless we cherish this exchange opportunity *and embrace its attendant responsibilities* in a manner that is both mature and practiced, we exploit it and endanger its future.

**Students**

You need to understand that this is not your personal exchange. Each of you is exceedingly fortunate in being able to participate in this exchange. (One significant way of thanking your parents and your school is by behaving and dressing appropriately.) Our expectation is that you will behave in an exemplary manner all the time. There will be serious consequences (suspension / expulsion) should you misbehave while on the exchange.

**Parents**

You need to know the following:

* Argentine culture can be markedly different from American culture and law concerning attitudes regarding the consumption of alcohol by teenagers. You must be certain that your daughter or son is mature enough to make good decisions in such an environment.
* Our groups are often underway during our stay abroad. Chaperones will, of course, check on the members of our group at appropriate times to ensure that all are accounted for. They cannot, however, maintain a watch “24/7” to ensure that all are where they are supposed to be all the time. Again, you need to be confident that your son or daughter is mature enough to make good decisions in such an environment.