

Denmark Educational Exchange 2024 Board Meeting Approval Presentation

For the past 11 years, Brevard High School has participated in an international exchange with the Mariagerfjord Gymnasium high school in Hobro, Denmark. In 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2023, the students from Hobro came to visit BHS. They stayed with host families, attended school, and explored western North Carolina. In 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2024, teachers and BHS students traveled to Denmark to stay with host families, attend school, explore local areas, and visit historical sites. In 2020, the teachers and students were prepared to return to Denmark, but the global closures due to COVID necessitated the cancellation of the trip at the last minute.

It has all been a tremendous success, both academically and culturally. We look forward to the opportunity to continue this exchange by traveling to Denmark again in Spring 2026. This year, with your approval, we have the opportunity to host Danish students and travel to Denmark in the same year. The Danish students plan to arrive in Western North Carolina during the 1st week of February and stay for about a week. They will stay with BHS families and attend some classes. In turn, our students will have the same opportunity in Denmark. Some of our students may have the chance to host a student and then travel to Denmark and stay with that student's family.

We tentatively plan to leave on April 10th and return on April 18th, flying from Asheville to Copenhagen. We will spend 3 nights in Copenhagen, then take a train to Hobro to stay with host families. We plan to leave Hobro and fly out of Copenhagen early morning on Saturday, April 18th. Students and teachers will return to school on Monday, April 20th, after missing a total of 5 - 6 school days, depending on flight options.

The total cost is estimated to be between **\$3,000** and **\$3,500** per student. This cost covers airfare, travel insurance, hotels in Copenhagen, travel cards while in Copenhagen, train ride to Hobro and back to Copenhagen, group activities in Copenhagen and Hobro, and teacher chaperon flight/hotel/Train expenses. Any leftover money (which has been the case in previous years) is refunded to the parents. Not included in the cost is a minimum of \$500 for meals and other expenses.

I would ask the Board to allow us some flexibility with the itinerary so that we may pursue the best value and logistical options leading up to the purchase of airfare and lodging.

At this time, we have had interest from students and parents to go on the trip. We are planning on hosting a parent meeting at the end of September. Interested students will be given parental permission forms and teacher recommendation forms. Once these forms are returned, we will require an initial deposit of \$500 so that we may lock in numbers and begin formally making reservations

Andrew Healy, Leslie Taylor, and Daisie Hullender
Denmark Exchange Committee

Denmark Schedule / Tentative Itinerary

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					<u>April 10</u> Depart for Copenhagen	<u>April 11</u> Arrive in Copenhagen
<u>April 12</u> Copenhagen	<u>April 13</u> Copenhagen	<u>April 14</u> Copenhagen to Hobro by train Students with Host Families	<u>April 15</u> Hobro Students in class Students with Host Families	<u>April 16</u> Hobro Students in class Students with Host Families	<u>April 17</u> Hobro Students in class Students with Host Families	<u>April 18</u> Train: Hobro to Copenhagen Copenhagen to Asheville
<u>April 19</u> Potential arrival in Asheville	<u>April 20</u> Students back to class at BHS					

Possible Field Trip Activities: **Copenhagen**

Bakken - World's oldest amusement park. Opened in 1583!!

Rosenburg Castle - Home of Danish Crown Jewels

The Little Mermaid Statue - In honor of the story written by Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen

The Round Tower - Observatory with spiral staircase. Climb to top to see view of Copenhagen

Nyhavn - A historical district along the canal. One of the oldest and most photographed areas in Copenhagen

Stroget - business district, shopping

The National Museum

Tivoli Gardens - Opened in 1843, gardens and rides

Canal Tour of Downtown Copenhagen

Christiansborg Palace - changing of the guard

Kronborg Castle - Setting of Hamlet, built in 1574

Helsingborg, Sweden - 20 min. ferry, Karnaen Tower (built 1310's), Kullagatan pedestrian street

Hobro Area

Fyrkat Viking Fort

Aarhus - 2nd largest city in Denmark, Aros Art Museum

Oldtown - Historic Snapshot of Denmark

Skagen - A fishing village in the most northern tip of Denmark, where the North Sea and Baltic Sea come together