

May 7, 2014

Dear Superintendent McDaris and Members of the Board,

My name is Kathryn M. Bailey and I am currently employed as a French teacher at Brevard High School and also teach via distance learning to Rosman High School.

I am writing this letter to ask for your approval of a non school-sponsored educational tour of France with a group of students. The trip would take place in June of 2016, once school is out for the summer, and would be sponsored by Passports Educational Travel.

After researching travel company options, I have determined that Passports would be the best choice for this trip. Passports has been a prominent, respected company in the educational travel industry since 1965. While on tour, we would be supported by a 24/7 Operations Hotline and a personal Tour Director. Passports has demonstrated over the years that the safety and security of their travelers is their number one priority. All hotels are centrally located and all firms providing the transportation utilized during the tours have been reliably doing so for Passports for many years. In addition to this, the legal contract between Passports and parents states that trips are not school sponsored, unless otherwise determined, so that the school and district are exempt from any liability claims. I, as well as any other traveling faculty, am covered by this Passports liability insurance policy.

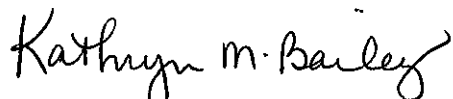
Attached, you will find the itinerary for our nine-day tour, entitled *La Belle France*. This is an invaluable opportunity for our students who study French to practice their language skills. It is also a chance for these students to gain a first-hand experience of a culture different from their own. Such an experience will greatly enhance our students' future college and employment applications, especially given the new attributes of a future ready graduate, such as multi-lingual and being a knowledgeable global citizen.

The trip is an educational experience in itself, and our Tour Director will only further its educational value. Passports Tour Directors are extremely knowledgeable, experienced in the industry, and trained to direct tours specifically for American high school students. They are multilingual, and know well the cities we will be visiting. Their expertise will surely enhance all that my students have learned in the classroom. In addition, I have taken a student group in the past and I have traveled to each of these cities as well. My grasp of the language and culture and my experience in travel allows me to comfortably lead a group.

I look forward to reviewing this itinerary with you at the next School Board Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2014. Attached, you will also find additional information regarding financial security, insurance policies, and liability. I feel confident that this material will give you the assurance you need to allow me to move forward with trip planning.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kathryn M. Bailey  
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EDUCATIONAL  
PASSPORT



# passports

educational group travel

## La Belle France

*An itinerary prepared for*  
*Mrs. Kathryn Bailey*  
*departing from Charlotte, NC*  
*on June 22, 2016*  
*9 days*

*France is your destination and you'll sleep in Paris, St. Malo and Tours. Highlights include Versailles, the D-Day Beaches, Loire châteaux and Mont St. Michel.*

### Basic Inclusions

Services of a specially-trained **passports** courier throughout • Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels • Rooming on a triple basis • Metro Carnet (ten tickets) in Paris

### Overnights

Paris 3 • St. Malo 1 • Tours 2 • Paris 1

### Meals

All breakfasts • All dinners

### Transit Summary

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline • Airport arrival transfer on Days 1-2 • Airport departure transfer on Day 9

### Enrollment Information

#### To enroll by check:

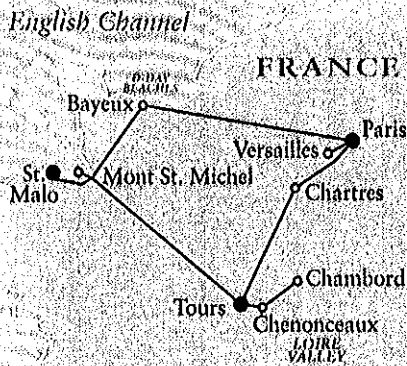
Complete and return the application on page 13 of the Enrollment Guide. Your group leader has one for you.

#### To enroll online by credit card or check:

Visit [passports.com/enroll](http://passports.com/enroll) and type your Tour ID:

**KBAILEY2016-4**

in the upper-right of the site.



# Tour Highlights

## **Paris City Sightseeing, Excursion to Versailles, RER train to Paris**

Professionally-guided coach tour of Paris, with drop-off at Versailles

Services of a specially-trained full-day local guide in Paris

Visit to the State Apartments and the Hall of Mirrors, including audioguide

Visit to the Main Gardens

Headset receiver for guide at Versailles

RER train Versailles-Paris

## **Visit to Notre-Dame Cathedral**

## **Visit to the Louvre**

## **Ascent to the third level of the Eiffel Tower**

## **Bateaux-Mouches cruise**

Illuminations drive

## **Travel to St. Malo, via Bayeux and D-Day Beaches, from Paris**

Visit to the Bayeux Tapestry

Visit to the D-Day Beaches

Visit to the Arromanches 360 circular cinema

Visit to the American Cemetery

## **Courier-led walking tour in St. Malo**

## **Travel to Tours via Mont St. Michel from St. Malo**

Visit to Mont St. Michel, including a visit to the abbey with audioguide

## **Full-day coach excursion to Loire Valley Chateaux**

Visit to the *château* of Chenonceau

Audioguide for the *château* of Chenonceau

Visit to the *château* of Chambord

Audioguide for *château* of Chambord

## **Travel to Paris via Chartres from Tours**

Visit to Chartres Cathedral

Audioguide for Chartres Cathedral

# La Belle France Special

## DAYS 1-2: ARRIVAL

Weeks, or even months of preparation come to fruition at last as you board your airplane bound for Europe and the glittering jewel at her heart, Paris, the "City of Light." *Bienvenue!*

Settle into your centrally-located hotel, then set out to explore one of the world's most beautiful capital cities.

Head to Montmartre, Paris' highest hill and its most celebrated bohemian district. Artists still flock to the charming *Place du Tertre*, as they did when Toulouse-Lautrec painted the French Cancan dancers at the famous *Moulin Rouge* cabaret. Enjoy panoramic views of the city as you make your way to the *Sacré-Coeur*, the white-domed basilica that anchors the Parisian skyline.

*Meals included: Dinner  
Overnight: Paris*

## DAY 3: PARIS SIGHTSEEING, EXCURSION TO VERSAILLES, RER TRAIN TO PARIS, NOTRE DAME, OPTIONAL MOULIN ROUGE

Set out on a coach tour of the city in the company of a local guide. On the Right Bank of the River Seine, see Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Champs-Élysées*, the *Place de la Concorde*, and the exuberant *Opéra Garnier*. On the Left Bank, discover the Eiffel Tower, the Invalides, the Latin Quarter and *Saint-Germain-des-Prés*. **The Palace of Versailles** • A bit of relevant French history today where the Sun King, Madame de Pompadour and Queen Marie-Antoinette all come to life. In this ultimate example of Baroque architecture, you will marvel at the lavish decoration, abundant gilding and exuberant ornamentation, particularly in the Royal Apartments of Louis XIV and in the Hall of Mirrors. Imagine the sense of self-importance that must have inflated the egos of these kings and queens.

Then, take a stroll around the Main Gardens.

Return to Paris using the efficient RER transit system.

**Notre-Dame Cathedral** • Cross the River Seine to get to the boat-shaped

island known as the *Ile de la Cité*, the very heart of the ancient city which the Romans called *Lutetia*. There, visit *Notre-Dame*. This cathedral has presided over centuries of glorious and somber French history, from its construction in the Middle Ages to its desecration during the French Revolution, and the coronation of Napoléon Bonaparte in 1804 (the 35-year-old upstart crowned himself emperor, with the Pope and all of Europe watching). Admire its bas-reliefs, statuary, gargoyles and remarkable rose windows.

**Optional Moulin Rouge Cabaret Show (11:00pm show)** • Enjoy a late-night show at the *Moulin Rouge* (Red Windmill). There's indeed a windmill on the top of this famous building, one of the landmarks of the area known as *Pigalle*, sitting at the foot of Montmartre. When most people think of Paris, they think of the Eiffel Tower, the *Sacré Coeur*, and the bright lights of *Pigalle*. This is the cabaret show *par excellence*, and the show is truly *fantastique*, albeit a little *risqué!*

*Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner  
Overnight: Paris*

## DAY 4: LOUVRE, PARIS, EIFFEL TOWER ASCENT, BATEAUX-MOUCHES, ILLUMINATIONS

Visit the Louvre Museum to explore its restored galleries and their ancient treasures, as well as the modernistic underground galleria beneath I. M. Pei's glass pyramid. You will see Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and the *Vénus de Milo*, among countless other masterpieces.

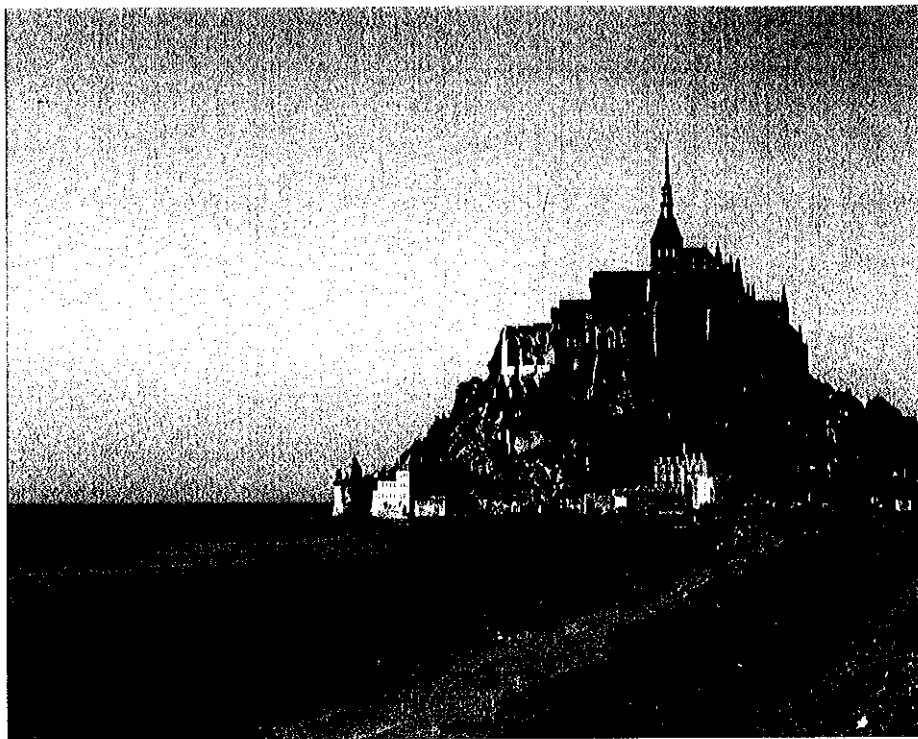
**Free time in Paris** • This afternoon is free to plan as you wish.

You may wish to visit the *Musée de la Parfumerie Fragonard* housed in the *Théâtre des Capucines*, a theater built in 1900 that was transformed into a museum in 1993. Its collections illustrate the history and manufacture of perfume. A mini-factory with a 19th-century copper distilling apparatus demonstrates the extraction of essences. Visitors also learn all about the esoteric artistry of the "Noses."

For a change of pace, go have a look at



DAY 3: Hall of Mirrors at Versailles



DAY 6: Mont Saint-Michel

21st-century Paris at the *Quartier de la Défense*, on the outskirts of the city. Admire *la Grande Arche*, a feat of modern architecture with its hollow cube large enough to contain *Notre-Dame*. See how it is situated in near-perfect alignment with the *Arc de Triomphe*, the *Place de la Concorde* and the *Louvre* (you may want to take the elevator to the top for a better perspective). Check out *Les Quatre Temps*, a huge shopping center located nearby.

**Eiffel Tower Ascent** • Ascend by elevator to the third level of the most famous structure ever built, *la Tour Eiffel*, for an unforgettable panorama of Paris.

**Bateaux-Mouches** • See Paris transformed into a wonderland like no other during a *Bateaux-Mouches* cruise along the River Seine. **Illuminations drive** • An illumination drive past the most famous monuments of the French capital shows you why Paris is called the "City of Light."

*Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*  
*Overnight: Paris*

#### DAY 5: BAYEUX, D-DAY BEACHES, ST. MALO

Head west to the Normandy city of Bayeux, which was the first French city to

be liberated by the Allies on D-Day, and one of the few in the area that escaped major damage. It has kept its 14th-century half-timbered houses and a magnificent cathedral which overlooks the city.

View the city's treasure, the 231-foot-long *Tapisserie de Bayeux*, embroidered in the 11th century to chronicle another invasion, that of England by the Normans, almost a thousand years before the D-Day landing. **D-Day Beaches in Normandy** • This is indeed Second World War country: sobering memorials, bunkers, and barbed wire everywhere. Over sixty years later, the beaches of Normandy are still often referred to by their code names. **Arromanches 360 circular cinema** • View the impressive *Normandy's 100 Days* show, a twenty-minute HD film with surround sound, which is presented on nine screens. It places the spectator in the middle of the Battle of Normandy, thanks to archival footage. **American Cemetery** • Just over the coastal cliffs, in Colleville, lie the 9,387 military graves of the American Cemetery and Memorial, which you will visit. Their endless, crisp rows are poignant reminders of heroic days. **Travel to St. Malo** • Travel on to the medieval harbor of *Saint-Malo*. The town is perched on a rock at the mouth of the River Rance, its only link to the

mainland a narrow causeway. It is known as *la Cité des Corsaires* for famous native seafarers such as Surcouf, who captured countless English ships, and Jacques Cartier, who sailed to the New World and up Canada's St. Lawrence River in 1535.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*  
*Overnight: St. Malo*

#### DAY 6: ST. MALO WALKING TOUR, MONT ST. MICHEL, TOURS

Enjoy the walled city of St. Malo in the company of your courier. See landmarks such as the *Cathédrale Saint-Vincent* (whose 12th-century nave, lit by sparkling modern stained-glass windows, houses Jacques Cartier's tomb), and the 15th-century castle with its *Tour Quiquengrogne*. You may want to stroll along the ramparts for great views. Look for souvenirs along the narrow shop-lined streets.

**Travel to Tours via Mont St. Michel** • Travel to Mont St. Michel, which will appear out of the sea mists with its spired abbey church perched upon a mountain of granite.

On your way up for a visit to the abbey, you will walk along steep streets and hear tales of pilgrimages and of prisoners who were once kept on this small island.

Then, spend some time browsing in the souvenir shops at the foot of the *Mont*, or walking along the dike laid across a flat seabed, where incoming tides are said to rush in as fast as a galloping horse.

Vineyards and wineries color the road to *la Vallée de la Loire*. The poet Joachim du Bellay spoke eloquently of *la douceur angevine* and of this area that some consider to be the true heart of France.

Arrive in Tours, hometown of Saint Martin and novelist Honoré de Balzac. Of particular interest is the renovated *Vieux-Tours* with its Gothic cathedral, towers and timbered houses.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*  
*Overnight: Tours*

#### DAY 7: EXCURSION TO LOIRE VALLEY CHATEAUX

An excursion takes you into the very essence of the history and culture of France. See two of France's loveliest *châteaux*, which define the sophistication of the Renaissance. **Chenonceau Chateau** • Visit the castle of Chenonceau, the prettiest of the Loire Valley *châteaux*

as it spans the River Cher. In 1547, a century before the royal palace was designed at Versailles, King Henri II gave this property to his mistress, Diane de Poitiers. On her orders, splendid gardens were added and a bridge was built to link the castle to the other bank of the Cher. The famous gallery erected upon that bridge by Queen Catherine de Medici served as an escape route between Nazi-occupied northern France and unoccupied southern France during WWII.

An audioguide is included. **Chambord Chateau** • Visit the breathtaking *Château de Chambord*, the largest of them all with its 440 rooms and 80 staircases. At the age of 25, flamboyant King François I decided to build this sumptuous residence, but over the 32 years of his reign he spent only 42 days in Chambord! This is *your* day to admire the park (enclosed by a wall 18 miles long), the grand façade and the spirals of *le Grand Escalier*, which cross and recross as they rise from the *Salle des Gardes* to a 100-foot turret crowning a roof adorned with 365 chimneys!

*Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*  
*Overnight: Tours*

## **DAY 8: CHARTRES, PARIS**

Today, travel to the region known as the Ile-de-France.

The spires of Chartres Cathedral first come into view, solemnly rising above the wide-open fields of *La Beauce*. Soon, you're facing the most beautiful Gothic structure in Europe, reputed for its stunning stained-glass windows. The cathedral itself *defines* Gothic architecture and the concept of the flying buttress, which you will see during your visit.

A short coach ride on the *autoroute* then takes you into a whole different world: the stately monuments and broad boulevards of the French capital.

*Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner*  
*Overnight: Paris*

## **DAY 9: DEPARTURE**

*Most* good things must come to an end. Your suitcase full of memorabilia and of photos ready to be processed, you'll arrive home later today, eager to share your discoveries with family and friends.

*Meals included: Breakfast*

# Participant Cost Breakdown

**Itinerary** La Belle France Special  
**Departing** June 22, 2016  
**Departure City** Charlotte, NC  
**Rooming** Triples  
**Program Cost** \$3,484

+ \$95 *Lifetime membership/registration fee*  
+ \$729 *Estimated Airline fees\*\**  
- \$200 *Early Enrollment Discount for enrollments before July 15, 2014*

**Total Cost** \$4,108

**Estimated Monthly Payment** \$157

*\*Total Cost includes discounts which expire as listed. Program Cost is valid for those who enroll with the \$495 deposit before July 15, 2014 and pay in full by the published final payment deadline (April 1, 2016). Estimated monthly payment is for enrollments before May 15, 2014 after \$495 deposit.*

**Included Add-ons** Eiffel Tower Ascent

**Available Add-ons** Moulin Rouge Cabaret Show (11:00pm show): \$180  
*not included in price* Double rooms: \$280 per person - 7 @ \$40 per night (mandatory for adults 24 years and older)

TravelPak benefits package includes life, health, and accident insurance, and trip interruption coverage and is included in the Program Cost of your trip. There is no fee for this benefit. Upgraded TravelPak+Plus cancellation insurance is optional. See page 11 of Passports' Enrollment Guide for details.

\*\*Includes taxes and fuel charges and is subject to change. Does not include any applicable baggage-handling fees imposed by the airline.