



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, EUROPE
UNIT 29649 BOX 7000
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February 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR DODDS-E HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

SUBJECT: Senior Trips and School Vacations


Spring recess for most DoDDS-Europe schools is scheduled for April 11-15, 2005. Selected communities in the Bavaria District will hold spring break from March 14-18, 2005. During that time, DoDDS-E will not sponsor, sanction, or authorize any school trips or vacation excursions for students. This is a matter of policy and not related to any force protection concerns.

Each year, many tour companies offer trips to a variety of vacation spots. Some of these trips are marketed as senior trips to various locations. Some of the advertisements for these trips can be misleading to parents who think that the trips are sponsored and sanctioned by DoDDS. That is not the case. There may be legitimate trips offered by community agencies; however, they are in no way connected with DoDDS-Europe.

This is particularly true for seniors. There have been past incidents where groups of seniors have arranged trips with tour companies during school breaks or at other times of year without any coordination with school. When they are marketed as "Spring Trip for seniors" or "Senior Class Trip", parents mistakenly think the school is providing supervision. This is not the case. DoDDS-E does not offer trips for seniors to vacation spots at anytime. DoDDS-Europe does not sanction any senior skip days or any senior trips during instructional time. Any school-sponsored activity involving seniors will always be clearly communicated to parents by school officials. If a parent has not received official notice of an activity from school officials, they should question it carefully.

Parents are advised to carefully research any trips or activities that students are participating in during the upcoming spring recess and at other times of year. Principals are requested to communicate this message to all parents, commanders, and community agencies.

As a result of the heightened force protection concerns throughout Europe, parents need to carefully heed advisories warning U.S. citizens traveling throughout Europe when planning vacations this year. The safety of our children must always be our main concern.


Diana J. Ohlman
Director, DoDDS-Europe

cc:
District Superintendents, DoDDS-E