

**Be a Part of History - The 75th Anniversary of D-Day:
St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S. Educational Enrichment Experience 2019**



- Please read the enclosed information pertaining to the D-Day 75 Program that will be offered in 2019.
- If you are interested in joining the D-Day 75 Program, pick up an application package from Mrs. Harwood in room 305. Complete the application package and submit the application along with the deposit cheque to Mrs. Harwood by Wednesday, March 21. Interviews will take place in late March.

Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board Mission Statement

Our inclusive Catholic learning community is dedicated to excellence. We give witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ, as we journey in faith and learning, to develop the God given abilities of each person.

Our Vision

Nurturing faith, illuminating minds, inspiring hearts, and empowering hands - we are working together to transform our world.

Our Faith

Our faith reminds us that we must put service into action every day. This program is an opportunity to share and examine our faith, while growing in our own understanding of God and ourselves. By participating in this program learners will prepare for the journey to the beaches of Normandy, and have an opportunity to reflect upon, and think critically about their journey, while experiencing an element of adventure, challenge, and discernment.

Travel Arrangements

The D-Day 75 tour will depart from St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S. on May 31, 2019 and arrive back at St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S. on June 10, 2019. Travel arrangements will be made by Education First (EF) Tours. While in Europe local transportation will be organized and provided by EF Tours.

Finances

Trip Fees - EF Tours will coordinate a monthly payment schedule through direct deposit for the D-Day 75 tour. Participants will be charged a fee of approximately \$4700 which includes round trip airfare, accommodations with students from our group with private bath, continental breakfast and dinner (drinks are not included with dinner), sightseeing tours and entrance fees as part of the itinerary, airport transfers and transportation, a full time bilingual tour guide, 24 hour worldwide emergency service, all applicable sales taxes, cancellation insurance, medical and accident insurance as well as baggage loss. Additional EF Tour fees (for example, an excursion to Versailles), may be added at a later date.

Deposit

A deposit of \$250 is to be made payable to St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S and is due to Mrs. Harwood by Wednesday, March 21, 2018 to secure a spot. This deposit will be used to cover expenses not included in the EF Tours trip fees, such as:

- The cost of bussing to and from Pearson airport
- Gratuities (for the trip tour guides, tour director, and bus drivers)
- Trip incidentals

Please note: the cheque will only be deposited if you are selected to be in the D-Day 75 Program.

Other Costs

Items not covered in the cost of the trip include:

- beverages and lunches
- cost of free time activities
- spending money (approximately \$40 - \$80 per day)
- passport fees (**passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the end of the tour - i.e. it cannot expire before December 2019**)
- changes in departure fees or expenses caused by airline rescheduling, cancellations or delays beyond EF Tours' control.

Fundraising

There will not be group fundraising initiatives to offset costs for this trip. Any fundraising will be done at the discretion of the individual student.

D-Day 75 Program- St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S. Educational Enrichment Experience 2019

A unique and distinguishing component of this program is the concept of experiential learning. Experiential education includes an academic component designed to prepare the learner in terms of content and competencies relevant to the experience, immerses learners in an experience and then encourages reflection and critical thinking about the experience to develop new skills, attitudes and ways of thinking. This learning program is offered as a two credit program, during semester 2 of the 2018-2019 school year. Students will be placed in the following courses, depending on their grade level: CHC2D (Canadian History: 20th Century), CHT30 (20th Century World History), HRE20 (Christ and Culture), and HRE3M (World Religions). Of course, the highlight of the D-Day 75 Program will be the experience of bringing history alive through travels to historical sites in Italy and France and participating in the D-Day 75th Anniversary Ceremony on the beaches of Normandy.

D-Day 75th Anniversary Tour - The Italian Campaign and Juno

The D-Day 75 Program will allow students to become a part of history and carry on the legacy of past generations during once-in-a-lifetime commemoration ceremonies with thousands of fellow Canadians. This adventure will offer students the opportunity to take in significant sites in Italy and France. Below, is the proposed itinerary:

Days 1-2: Rome

Fly overnight to Rome and meet your Tour Director at the airport. Explore the city's incredible past during free time in the Jewish Quarter.

Day 3: Monte Cassino | Rome

Travel to Monte Cassino and visit the Abbey of Monte Cassino. This historic building was accidentally destroyed by Allied bombing in 1944 and rebuilt after the war. Visit the Cassino War Cemetery, then return to Rome.

Day 4: Rome

Take an expertly guided tour of the ancient city of Rome. Visit the Colosseum, where gladiators once battled and actors performed dramas based on Classical mythology. Then, explore the ruins of the Roman Forum, and take a guided tour of Vatican City. Visit the Sistine Chapel to marvel at Michelangelo's stunning masterpiece before carrying on to visit Peter's Basilica.

Day 5: Rome | Normandy Region

Fly to Paris and travel to the Normandy region.

Day 6: Normandy Region

Visit the Juno Beach Centre and take a tour of Juno Beach Park. Visit the Bayeux-War Cemetery which contains Canadian soldiers who fell during the initial attack on Normandy Beach. At the end of the day return to your hotel to get ready for the D-Day 75 ceremonies.

Day 7: Normandy Region

A huge milestone in world history that contributed to the shaping of our national identity, join fellow Canadians for the D-Day 75 ceremonies, commemorating the Allies' Normandy Landings. Learn more about the attack that is known as the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

Day 8: Normandy Region | Paris

Travel to Paris, the City of Light. Learn about the city's rich history during a walking tour of the Latin Quarter. Then, visit the Notre Dame Cathedral and admire the sculptured façade, stained-glass rose windows and seemingly weightless vaulted ceilings. Carry on to explore the Louvre, home to treasures like Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa.

Day 9: Paris

Take an expertly guided walking tour of Paris. Take an optional excursion to the Palace of Versailles.

Day 10: Paris | Vimy Region

Travel to the Vimy region and spend the day exploring the battlefields where soldiers fought and fell, and stand by the towering Vimy Memorial, built so we will always remember.

Day 11: Depart For Home

Travel to the airport and depart for home, prepared to carry on the legacy of past generations.

Itinerary subject to change.

Code of Conduct

Each student will be expected to adhere to the St. Thomas Aquinas C.S.S., Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board and EF Tours Code of Conduct. This will ensure that respect for each participant, his/her property, and wellbeing is safeguarded. This code will preclude harassment and abusiveness, and will prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs. Should a participant not follow the Code of Conduct during the journey to Europe he/she will jeopardize participation in the program, and similarly while on the trip, the student may be sent home at the expense of the student's parents, at the discretion of the school supervisors, as per the SMCDSB Field Trip Policy. Above all, the rights and responsibilities of all participants will be clearly defined so that the objectives of this program may be achieved within a healthy and safe environment.

Health and Medical Update

All students are required to complete a Student Health Form, as per the SMCDSB Field Trip Policy. Participants must be in good health to travel. Should a medical situation arise prior to the trip the parent must make the school aware immediately, so that a plan can be developed. In some cases, a doctor's approval to participate in the trip will be required, and the final decision for travel will rest with the school, in consultation with the parent. In addition, each participant must complete the Consent to Medical Treatment Form in the event that urgent and emergency care is required.

Student Selection

To be eligible for the D-Day 75 Program, students will have to complete the application package and be interviewed.

Students will be selected for this program according to the following criteria:

- Trustworthiness, reliability, responsibility and maturity
- Respect for other people and cultures
- Adaptability to new experiences
- Leadership potential
- Entering grade 10 or grade 11 in September 2018
- Students entering grade 12 in September 2018 may be considered for the trip, but they will not obtain 2 credits.

Please consider embracing this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

