

# Boston Chaperone Expectations

**Being Chaperones on the Eighth Grade Boston Trip:** Before outlining a few of the particular expectations for this trip, it is best to provide a context—some frames, as it were—for these expectations.

- *TGS on Location*—The eighth grade trip to Boston is part of the curriculum of the dialectic school, in many ways a culminating part. Like all the parts of the curriculum at The Geneva School, this means that the trip fits into the larger purpose of the school.
- *Education for Life Together*—We express this purpose in terms of educating virtuous scholars and cultivating a community of faith and learning. Everything we try to do as faculty chaperones, and we expect of you as parent chaperones, is to carry this purpose along with us on our trip—no more, no less. That is, of course, in addition to having a really great time together.

That said, here are a few standards toward which we will highly resolve:

- *In Loco Parentis*—The children on this trip are under our care and supervision and in our protection from the moment we walk toward the security check-point at OIA Monday morning to the time the children's parents arrive to pick them up at arrivals Thursday evening at OIA.
- *Authority and Responsibility*—You will have particular responsibility for the students in your own room, but keep in mind that *you have the general authority and responsibility for each of the students on the trip*. Feel empowered to exercise that authority in terms of student behavior, but also by encouraging interest in the events and building community.
- *Healthy Choices*—On this trip we try to strike a balance between allowing the students some structured freedom—in order to engage them personally in the experience of the trip—but we also need to make sure they are making healthy choices. At meal times, please assist the students in eating (somewhat) balanced meals, and at the end of the day please set lights-out in your room at a reasonable time.
- *A Tight Ship*—We try to make the most out of our time on this trip, and that means a tight schedule. Ensuring that your students are on-time—wake-up, meal, rendezvous times, etc.—will help us keep on schedule.
- *Technology*—Every chaperone will have the cell phone for his or her room on this trip. Two things in that regard: we ask chaperones to uphold the TGS cell phone policy, and to allow students to make use of the chaperone's phone, if necessary. (Of course, the trip leaders will also have cell phones the students may use, and there are land-lines available in the hotel.) Also, to prevent the inadvertent viewing of inappropriate material, we ask chaperones not to allow the students to use televisions in their rooms. (A common area with a television is available, if time permits.)
- *'Be Imitators of Me'*—Over the years it has become clear that the success of the trip depends largely on the chaperones—and not simply, or even primarily, in terms of student behavior. Your interest and engagement in the itinerary sets a tone for the whole trip. Good teachers are good students; their own love of learning is often what awakens that same quality in their students.