**Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),**

Thank you for allowing your child to participate in this IMPACT experience. We are doing all we can to make this process a blessing to your entire family and community. We want nothing more than to see our students become people who love and serve others with the heart of Jesus. We are committed to our mission of providing students the opportunity to serve within a broad spectrum of intercultural experiences as they develop unique gifts and abilities with the purpose of loving Jesus and others, committed to the Kingdom.

When we think about the goals for this experience, it always comes back to relationships. On these mission trips, we see young people often choose to embrace and include others rather than exclude or reject. They feel convicted to serve others rather than fight for what is best for themselves. They choose to love and show compassion rather than be selfish. This is contrary to the world’s logic. This is the way relationships are intended to be. These connections are not a distraction to the mission, but the very essence of it. Students get a glimpse of the joy, freedom, and beauty of how God intended things to be.

We travel to some difficult areas internationally where injustices and poverty have been present for generations. While we cannot fix it all in a week, we can be fully present, love radically, and be willing to learn. We can expose young people to what God is already doing and invite them to be a part of His story.

We also know the stress that can be involved in sending off your child to another country. The IMPACT program is confident in their process for safety, as it is our top priority.

 ***Lots of information to come, but below is a glimpse of our safety protocols:***

* Work directly with in-country missionaries. Long term relationships.
* All missionaries we work with host teams
* 1:7 chaperone/student ratio required
* Parent/Guardian Communication - nightly update email
* Behavior expectations - Details on school policy will be sent. no tolerance
* Transportation only with VC employees
* Accommodations researched and has a history of hosting teams
* Food is always planned before
* Emergency plan for hospital
* Register everyone with state department
* Passport and Parent letter notarized.
* Travel insurance
* Medication - we will carry all OTC. Prescribed medications with medical chaperone.

Marcus Martinez, Anna Messersmith

IMPACT missions team