

France Under Attack CHS Students Cancel Trip to Europe

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Tragedy has struck the nation of France and the city of Paris in recent days. ISIS terrorists attacked several different locations throughout the city, leaving over 120 people killed and almost 100 civilians critically wounded.

Paris, France was attacked on Friday, November 13th. The attacks took place at six locations spread throughout the city. The terrorist organization of ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack. There is also reason to believe that ISIS is responsible for the bombing of a Russian jet, on October 30th, which killed 224 people. France and Russia have recently responded by carrying out airstrikes on ISIS targets throughout Syria. Citizens across the U.S and other countries have been showing their support by changing their profile pictures to the French Flag and posting the "Peace for Paris" symbol on social media.

Some CHS students signed up for a history department trip to Paris with WorldStrides, a company that organizes trips around the world for schools. Seniors Emma Nelson and Katie Sinclair are two students who signed up to go on this trip before

the attacks. "It's scary to think about being over there and it happening again." said Nelson.

Instructional coach and former CHS history teacher, Karen Randall, the organizer of the trip stated that "they won't send us into

harm's way. Some students wondered if the trip would be

canceled. We are just going to have to take a wait and see attitude." Randall stated that she wasn't afraid of a possible attack taking place while they are in France. However, some students disagree. After talking to students

and parents who planned to go on the trip many felt uneasy about traveling to Paris, leading to some students canceling. Randall decided that the trip should now be canceled. She is now talking to the WorldStrides about refunding student's deposits.



"When the Paris attacks happened, Randall talked about pulling out the Paris extension and we were just going to go to London," said senior Kyle Dooley. "That's what we were excited to go see, Paris and the Eiffel Tower." "[I] wanted to see pretty Paris, not threatened and destroyed Paris.

There are more schools than just Chariton going and if ISIS gets news that high school American tourists are coming, there could be another attack." added Sinclair.

In a statement released by WorldStrides CEO Jim Hall, Hall stated that "First and foremost, the safety and security of our travelers is and always will be our highest priority. On all travel programs, WorldStrides has emergency contingency plans in place to ensure the highest level of safety for travelers in every scenario." Hall went on to reassure travelers, saying, "We are parents and educators first and foremost. We will never compromise the safety and security of any WorldStrides traveler. And, we will do everything possible to ensure that travel opportunities remain available for the education of students worldwide."

As of press time, Randall was in contact with WorldStrides representatives and was seeking refunds for students who had already signed up for the trip. "I'm sad. The kids are sad," said Randall. "ISIS terrorism is all about fear and scaring people and that's what they've done."

Photo illustration by Kule Dooley. Original design by Jean Jullian.

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