

Trip Policy and Vaccine Requirements

A group of Juniors and Seniors are going to attend a workshop and perform with students from other Christian schools at Carnegie Hall.

Because of the policies in New York, notice was given up front to the parents that the COVID vaccine was required and that the students would be asked to show proof of vaccines to be able to enter Carnegie, see a show at Broadway, or eat in a sit-down restaurant.

23 Juniors and Seniors were invited and 17 of the students are currently signed up to attend. So far, one parent has raised an objection that their child cannot attend due to their conviction to not take the vaccine.

Their argument is that we are discriminating against their child because we are offering a trip when we know that all students would not be able to attend.

They also believe that as Christians, we should not be adding to the segregation that the vaccine is causing.

He asked me how many other students are not vaccinated that are getting vaccinated to go on the trip. His fear is that as adults, dangling a trip in front of them is putting pressure on them to be vaccinated.

We have two students that are not currently vaccinated who are attending the trip. One student's parents are vaccinated but they are allowing her to decide if she wants to be vaccinated or not. Another student was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease over the summer and had to wait for Dr.'s approval before getting vaccinated. Both of his parents are vaccinated.

The fear of the parent who is objecting is that these types of activities are leading to more serious restrictions in the future.

I can see both sides. The Admin team discussed the circumstances surrounding this and other potential future conflicts regarding the vaccine for the future. We feel that as long as the opportunity is an optional opportunity that we could still offer it. We would probably have to come up with a different option for students who would not be able to attend due to vaccine status. We do feel that there is potentially a conflict in the future with some events being required. For example, a competition such as speech and debate, or a sporting event. In those cases, we feel that we would not be able to attend those events.

We want to make sure that we are not sending conflicting messages to our students. With that being said, we would like the Board's input as to what the stance of the school should be regarding offering opportunities that we know some students will not be able to attend due to their vaccination status.