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Dear Educator(s):

One of your students, _____, would like to join thousands of teens from over 50 countries on the international March of the Living. March of the Living is an experiential educational trip to Poland and Israel from April 29 – May 13, 2019. Please take a moment to note the enclosed overview, which will give you more information about this program.

If one of the goals of education is to deeply affect and motivate our youth, then the “March of the Living” is an excellent prototype. It demonstrates graphically, the ultimate result of prejudice and discrimination in a world gone crazy. It conveys the importance of loving all mankind, even in a world in which humanity seems to have given up on itself. Above all, it teaches not to be indifferent to wrong doing wherever it may occur.

From past trips, we have learned that the participants return to their school with a variety of reactions and, with a new-found level of maturity. I thought that it would be important to share some of these experiences with you in the hope that you can pass this on to your staff. This may help the teachers gain a better insight into and understanding of the type of program in which your student will participate. It may also help the teachers understand some of the emotional reactions that may be encountered upon return.

Participants typically grieve in some manner. Having visited death camps and the devastated ruins of cities that were once vibrant centers of Jewish life, there is no way to prevent this from having some impact on them. The re-entry to “normal life situations” after such a traumatic and dramatic program is difficult. I suggest that each teacher please have some sensitivity to the experience. The sudden understanding of the “loss” of six million can be overwhelming. Understandably, touring Israel will be exhilarating, having just come from Poland. The contrast will be startling, having just left a country in which 3.5 million Jews were murdered, to visit Israel, where many survivors now live.

I thank you in advance for your kind consideration and help in this matter. I am sure that your understanding of the experience and sharing this information with your staff will ensure our success toward this important endeavor.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Meir Tannenbaum

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