



Dear 11th Grade Families,

I'm writing with a few more details about our trip to Liberty & Ellis Islands this Friday. At this point the weather looks promising, though students should keep an eye on the forecast as the day approaches. It can be chilly on the harbor and I'd advise a light rain jacket or windbreaker on any day. We'll keep our fingers crossed for clear, sunny skies!

We will have some breakfast snacks for all students in the cafeteria in the morning, though the juniors will have a quick turnaround for our 8:45 am departure. We are aiming to arrive at Liberty State Park for our 9:30am security check-in and the 10:10 am ferry to Ellis Island.

There are wonderful museums on both Liberty & Ellis Island for students to explore, and my goal is to give them a little bit of freedom in terms of deciding how and where to spend their time throughout the day. The ferry moves in circuit from Liberty State Park, to Ellis Island, to Liberty Island, and then back to Liberty State Park. I will ask everyone to remain on Ellis Island until at least 11:45, at which point they can choose to take either the 11:45, 12:20, 1:00, or 1:35 ferry to Liberty Island. All students must be on either the 1:20 or 1:55 ferry back to Liberty State Park in order for us to make it back to campus in time for afternoon dismissal. Students are not allowed to board the ferries without adult supervision, and we will have chaperones assigned to each of the departure times listed above.

In terms of lunch, students had the opportunity to order a boxed lunch prepared by Chef Alex and his team last week, though many are opting to bring their own money to buy snacks on the ferry or at the food court on Liberty Island. Students who

ordered a boxed lunch will need to bring a small backpack in which to carry their food after they pick it up in the morning before boarding the bus.

Last week I also asked the students to [download the Chaperone field trip management app](#) on their phones, which will allow them to see the itinerary and ferry schedule as well as communicate directly with chaperones throughout the day. We'll go over how to use this app in our grade meeting on Thursday if they have any questions, and I'm hopeful that it will be a great resource for us all moving forward.

Finally, I have had a few requests from students wishing to take the ferry to and from Battery Park and meet us on Ellis Island. Because we have a group ticket that leaves from Liberty State Park, and because the ferry operator prohibits minors from boarding without an adult, I'm afraid this won't be logistically possible. I know this makes for a long day of travel for our Manhattan kids, but I hope they'll find a way to enjoy being present with their friends and see it all as part of the adventure.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. If your student is unable to attend school on Friday, please email me and Amanda Carstens-Potts ([pottsa@d-e.org](mailto:pottsa@d-e.org)) as soon as possible so that we can keep an accurate headcount for Friday.

Best,  
Emily