

# *Cold Spring Harbor High School*

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
82 TURKEY LANE  
COLD SPRING HARBOR, NEW YORK 11724-1799  
(631) 367-6900 -- FAX (631) 367-6836 -- [www.csh.k12.ny.us](http://www.csh.k12.ny.us)

August 14, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians of 8<sup>th</sup> graders-

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, we are planning a full day outing to the Nassau BOCES Environmental Center at Caumsett State Park Preserve in Lloyd Neck for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Working with facilitators and naturalists, we have planned a day of numerous activities for our incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

This excursion has been planned for many months with a number of desired learning outcomes in mind. Using the framework of the Dignity for All Students Act (D.A.S.A.), as well as our own experience in incorporating and emphasizing Social and Emotional Literacy (S.E.L.) skills into the fabric of our curriculum, students will:

- Contribute their efforts to those of their group members to solve a problem or complete a task.
- Identify a time when the group was collaborative and cooperative in its approach to solving a problem.
- Demonstrate a sensitivity and respect for members of their groups.
- Take on various roles: as leader, as supporter.
- Demonstrate conflict management and negotiation skills.
- Practice good communication skills-both listening and speaking.
- Be more aware of the existence of cliques in the school and to be more aware of their own behaviors which may unknowingly exclude other individuals from various activities.

Working in randomly assigned groups capped at 15 students, the groups will move through a series of elements during 3 activity sessions: **Cooperative Games** ("icebreakers"), **Initiatives** (problem solving tasks) and **Low Ropes Course** (physical challenge course). All groups are facilitated by a BOCES trained teacher as well as co-supervised by a member of the CSH faculty. In addition, these activities also support the New York State Learning Standards in several subject areas such as Physical Education and English Language Arts.

Below you will find an FAQ list which should address many of your questions:

**Q:**What should my child wear?

**A:**Shorts or jeans. Sneakers. No flip flops. Tee shirt, polo or blouse. A light sweater or sweatshirt might be advisable if it looks like it will be a cool day.

**Q:**Will food be provided?

**A:**Yes. Bagged lunches and beverages will be distributed to all students. If you have any concerns regarding food allergies that we may not already be aware of, please contact Ms. Malone in the Junior High Office at 631-367-6800.

**Q:**What about cellphones?

**A:**They should be left at home that day.

**Q:**Can my child be assigned a group with his/her friends?

**A:**One of the motivations for this day was to expose students to peers who they might not otherwise get to know during the course of the school day. Therefore, it is important to ask students to somewhat step out of their "comfort zone."

**Q:**Will a nurse be on site?

**A:**Yes. Ms. Pendel, our school nurse, will be attending as well. All emergency contact and medical information already on file will be available to us throughout the day.

# Cold Spring Harbor High School

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
82 TURKEY LANE  
COLD SPRING HARBOR, NEW YORK 11724-1799  
(631) 367-6900 -- FAX (631) 367-6836 -- www.csh.k12.ny.us

**Q:**Should my son/daughter take their books to school that day?

**A:**No. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will gather in the PAC at the start of period 1 (7:45 a.m.) for a brief orientation and to meet the members of their pre-assigned group and faculty supervisor. Buses will depart from the school at 8:15 a.m. Students will return to the school by 1:15 p.m. (middle of 8<sup>th</sup> period) and immediately meet in the PAC for a "de-briefing" with their faculty supervisor. This individual and group assessment of the day's activities will continue until the end of 9<sup>th</sup> period at 2:25 and dismissal.

**Q:** Who do I contact with any questions or concerns?

**A:**Feel free to contact me by e-mail ([jmatuk@csh.k12.ny.us](mailto:jmatuk@csh.k12.ny.us)) or by phone at 631-367-6831.

**Q:**What if it is raining that day?

**A:**There is no scheduled rain date. A decision will be made the night before and you will be contacted by phone/text regarding any cancellation. If the trip must be cancelled due to poor weather, then Tuesday will be a regular day of classes for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Below you will find a permission slip for the trip. **We ask that you have your child return it to their 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher no later than Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup>.** You may also mail the form to us should you wish to do so, or fax it to 631-367-6836.

We looking forward to working with our students on what we hope will be a wonderful day of self-awareness, team-building and physical activities.

Sincerely,



Jay Matuk  
Principal

---

Nassau BOCES Environmental Education Center at Caumsett State Park

**Permission Slip**

**(please return to 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher by Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup> or fax to 631-367-6836.)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the attached letter and (check box below)  
(print parent/guardian name)

DO

DO NOT

grant permission for my son/daughter \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in  
(print student name)  
the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Caumsett field trip on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

---

(Signature of parent or guardian)