

August 5, 2023

Dear Students and Parents of the Class of 2026,

We hope this letter finds you well-rested and eager to begin the 2024/25 school year as we embark upon our trip to Angel Island! As we come together again as a community after a summer apart, Angel Island is the perfect place to reunite. The Park holds both natural beauty and historical importance in California's immigrant story. We will have time during the trip to reconnect with friends and classmates and to reaffirm what it means to belong to the Class of 2026 as we embark upon Junior year.

Our adventure begins as we travel by ferry from San Francisco. Once on Angel Island, *Absolute Adventures* will instruct us in our objective as we compete against other teams to complete a series of missions both serious and silly. Activities range from kayaking to hiking, to downtime with friends. Snacks and a picnic lunch will be provided. Junior Class Trip will be a great day for catching up with your friends and classmates, all while enjoying the views and scenery of one of the most beautiful State Parks in the Bay Area.

We understand that circumstances may have changed since we received your confirmation and permission form in May to participate on Thursday, August 15. If there have been unexpected changes since that time, and you cannot attend, and the Dean's Office/Attendance Office have yet to be notified, parents will be billed a cancellation fee. **The buses will leave promptly at the time noted below, and "no-shows" will be charged.** If you haven't let us know the reason for the absence, the absence from the class trip will result in an unexcused absence as the class trip is an official school day. You may contact the Assistant to the Dean of Students, Mrs. Kelley McCoy, if you have any questions at kelly.mccoy@harker.org. She is always happy to help.

Important Departure Time/Location Information: We will travel by bus, departing the Saratoga Campus promptly at 6:45 a.m. **Students should arrive NO LATER than 6:45 a.m.** Students will return to campus between 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. A complete breakfast at home is strongly recommended to start this fast-paced day. Upon arrival on campus, you will locate your advisory group before boarding the bus.

What to bring:

- Warm and cool layers, including a layer that acts as a windbreaker - weather can vary significantly from hour to hour on the island, especially during the summer, so be prepared for all kinds of conditions.
- If you plan on kayaking
 - Tops: Short or long sleeves depending on the weather and a windbreaker. Quick dry materials are ideal. Avoid cotton as when it gets wet it stays wet and you will get cold!
 - Bottoms: Shorts, bathing trunks, yoga tights, or nylon pants. Again, quick dry materials are best.

- Footwear: Water shoes, Teva-type sandals, old sneakers, booties or barefoot is fine (footwear can get wet stepping in/out of kayaks).
- A towel and change of clothes - you could get wet!
- At least 1 Liter of water in a reusable bottle
- Make sure you have a good breakfast. You'll want energy to compete with the other advisors.
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Comfortable footwear suitable for walking (sandals aren't ideal since you may be walking in the forest to solve some of your missions)
- Fully charged smartphone - students will use their phones during our adventure to take photos.
- Backpack for carrying water and your lunch
- Your sense of adventure!

How to prepare for your advisory missions:

Students are invited (but not required) to download a free app that is available for any Android or iPhone. They will be using this app for the Photo Scavenger Hunt, but having the app is not required for participation in the game. The app is called "Goosechase." The logo is orange with a white "g" that looks like a bird. If you download the app, please only download it and **DO NOT** log in, sign in or create an account. We are building teams for students in advance that they will log into during the hunt kick-off on the Island.

Get ready for a day of high excitement and plenty of fun! Please feel free to contact either of us by email if you have any questions about the day.

Sincerely

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