



Hopatcong Borough Schools Press Release

Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow.

Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Metropolitan Opera Tour

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, May 3, 2018

Mr. Paul Saxton, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces

Hopatcong STEAM students visited two New York landmarks to study integrated disciplines. The first was the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where students climbed 175 steps up a spiral narrow stairway to the very top of the cathedral. Along the way the group made several stops at hidden hallways used for clergy, buttresses to view the cathedral from above and to get close up looks at the stained glass windows, and eventually a beautiful view of the city skyline from the cathedral roof! Tour guide Cheryl led the group in lessons on the need to build a "up", the importance of the cathedral as a community gathering place, incorporating lessons in social studies, history, arts and architecture. Cheryl commented how knowledgeable and personable the students were. Following the tour, students heard an organ recital and observed the acoustical properties created by the cathedral design. Later the students went to the Metropolitan Opera House where they took a backstage tour, getting another acoustics lesson including not only the design of the hall but in the materials that construct the hall, and through the backstage areas where they observed costumes and sets being made, observed a set raising for a production occurring that evening, toured the basement storage area, star dressing rooms, rehearsal rooms and they could even hear a live pit musician audition occurring from behind the closed door of the orchestra room. Earlier in the day, the students took a walking tour of Columbia University.



