

# Student exchange with New Dorp High School

By Joeri

In the week from 21<sup>st</sup> of September till 28<sup>th</sup> of September some students from Jac. P. Thijsse College went to The United States of America for an exchange program with New Dorp High School, located on Staten Island, New York. I'm going to tell you what we've been doing this week.



In the weekend, the host families had to entertain/amuse us. For example you could go to the mall, go shopping in stores we don't have in The Netherlands, drink coffee at Starbucks or have snacks that you can only eat in The United States. Some people went to Central Park, watched street dancing, rented a boat or went to Central Park Zoo.

Monday was school day. On Monday we had to go to New Dorp High School. We had to follow classes with our exchange student. The very first period started at 7:10 a.m. (not every student

had to go to this period) and the last period ended at 2:18 p.m. (again not everybody had last period.) After the lessons, the Dutch students had to show their presentations. The school looked very different then our school. Some classes were taught by more than one teacher, students could eat and drink in class (they only have one break, so it's understandable), there is security at school and some classrooms didn't had windows. After school there were a few people who went to the mall, to shop or just hang out.



The next day, we went to the Brooklyn Bridge. 'Martha and Christophe take the City.' It was a very rainy day, and because of the rain, we stopped the program earlier than planned. You could go back to Staten Island with the teachers or you could stay in Manhattan and wander around there.

Wednesday was the day we did the most. We took the ferry early and our first stop was Wall Street. Our economics teacher told some history about this and we got to touch the balls of a copper bull. After that we walked to the 9/11 memorial. The memorial is very beautiful. The chaperone of the Curtis group had some words to say about the 9/11 memorial. We took the train to Grand Central Station, where we had to time to look around and eat something, once everybody had something to eat, we walked around the city of New York on our way to Rockefeller Centre. At 2:00 p.m. we could go to the Top of the Rock and have a look how New York looked from above. When we got back at Staten Island, we could go our own way again, but we had to pack, because we had to go home the next day.



Thursday/Friday. We had to be at New Dorp High School at 7:00 a.m. to get the early ferry, to Liberty Island to see the Statue of Liberty. In the afternoon we had time to shop at Times Square. And in the evening we had to catch our flight to Amsterdam.

So in the end, it was a week never to forget. We all can't wait for the American students to get to The Netherlands to show what highlights we've got here.

