



A LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On _____, _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM, your student's class will visit BaySail to participate in an educational program aboard the *Appledore* where students will engage in a hands-on, outdoor education experience designed to expand and enhance classroom learning. During this program, students will explore the world around them through a variety of STEM activities while traveling on our local waterways aboard a traditionally-rigged Great Lakes tall ship schooner.

Preparedness Guidelines:

- Students will spend the majority of the trip outside, please have them dress appropriately for the weather. The temperature often feels **10 to 20 degrees cooler** on the boat than on land due to wind and cooler water temperatures.
- The program will take place rain or shine (with the exception of severe weather) and there is little space for cover on board the vessel. Please provide your child with a rain jacket or poncho if rain is predicted in the forecast.
- Students will be walking on a painted steel boat deck; they must wear tennis shoes or other closed-toed, rubber-soled shoes that do not slip on/off.
- BaySail reserves the right to refuse passage to students who are not prepared for the conditions they may experience during this program.
- Upon arrival, passengers will receive pre-boarding safety instructions. Following shipboard rules is vital to a safe and successful trip. Horseplay will not be tolerated.

BaySail is a private, non-profit organization that owns and operates the schooners *Appledore IV* and *Appledore V* and provides award-winning environmental education programming to over 1700 students each year. The *Appledore IV* and *Appledore V* are U.S. documented vessels inspected and regulated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The ships meet or exceed all requirements necessary for approved operation in the Great Lakes. Vessels carry safety equipment including enough life jackets for all passengers, life rafts, fire detection and extinguishing equipment, rescue gear, and electronic positioning beacons. Ship captains are licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard and are required to maintain current Red Cross first aid and CPR training. All crew receive company safety training and are subject to periodic safety drills.

More information about BaySail can be found at www.baysailbaycity.org.

Sincerely,

Emily Nummer

BaySail Director of Education