



CYE Class of 2023 Christmas Meeting  
December 2 - 6, 2022

In New York...

alte Version, die neue Version wird ca. 2 Wochen vor Reisebeginn veröffentlicht







## Concrete jungle where dreams are made of...

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Only eleven more days until this year's CYE Christmas Meeting in New York! As I am writing these lines, I am enjoying a glass of Bretz' Cabernet Merlot while listening to *Caro nome che il mio cor* from Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the opera we will see and -more importantly- hear live at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. You should take a listen to it, too - without the Cabernet Merlot, of course.

I decided to include in this year's New York mini travel guide seven references to works of art. This mini travel guide is full of hints and references to various forms of art (literature, music, visual art, etc.), all of which have a hidden or even a blatant relevance to New York or to our time in New York. If you are the first person to find all seven references to works of art that I am making in this travel guide, you will receive a surprise gift in New York - quite a nice one, too.

After two years of Covid-19, being able to travel as a group, being able to visit live performances in some of the most spectacular venues the world has

to offer, being able to celebrate the season of advent in an energizing city like New York feels mighty good. It is a blessing and a privilege. New York is a busy and crowded place. Like in any other huge city, there are risks to be mindful of. Please be careful as we travel, protect yourselves and others. And yes, as always, please do count your blessings!

Our program will be pretty packed, as you would expect. We have put together for you a good mix of sightseeing, cultural events, excellent dining, and -yes- some house cleaning. We will have a lot of business to discuss during our meeting. I expect your full cooperation during those sessions. Above all, the Christmas Meeting is a welcome opportunity for students to talk to each other and share their experiences - good and not so good.

Please give my kind regards to your host families! And buckle up, you're in for a ride! It's going to be a great five days in the Big Apple! Let's make the best of it!

Mr. Kanter and I look forward to seeing all of you in good health and spirits on Friday, December 2.

Ho, ho, ho,

*Marki Seluiz*







There's nothin' you can't do...

**Airport Shuttle Outbound  
Friday, December 2, 2022**

Atlanta Van:

- 14:40 John Carroll Catholic High School  
Hella M. **Breckweg**  
Greta C. **Schwegmann**
- 15:00 Indian Springs School  
Amelie C. M. **Biagosch**  
Anacristin **Schulz Soto**
- 18:30 Atlanta International Airport  
Domestic Terminal
- Driver: Martin **Schulz**  
256-655-5514 (c)

Atlanta Car:

- 16:20 Jonathan P. **Schmidt**
- Driver: Tristan **Schönweiß**

**Airport Shuttle Return  
Tuesday, December 6, 2022**

Birmingham Van:

- 21:30 Atlanta International Airport  
Domestic Terminal
- 22:50 The Elder Residence  
Hella M. **Breckweg**
- 23:10 Indian Springs School  
Amelie C. M. **Biagosch**  
Jonathan P. **Schmidt**  
Anacristin **Schulz Soto**
- 23:30 The Coon Residence  
Greta C. **Schwegmann**
- Driver: Armin **Kanter**  
256-754-4500 (c)

**Lodging Information**

**Courtyard Long Island City**  
29-15 Queens Plaza North  
Long Island City, NY 11101

Phone: +1-718-786-0003  
[www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)







## These streets will make you feel brand-new...

### 1 Missing School Days

We will ask your schools to grant you an excused absence for Monday and Tuesday, December 5 and 6. It is extremely important that you talk to each of your teachers after Thanksgiving break and explain that you will be absent on Monday and Tuesday. You need to proactively ask if there is any make-up work for those two days. If you are missing a quiz or test on those two days, ask if and when you can take that quiz or test upon your return to school. If your teachers notice that you are very organized about the assignments, quizzes, and tests you are going to miss, they will work with you to ensure that you are not losing any points.

### 2 Luggage Allowance

You may check one bag or suitcase weighing **23 kg or less**. You may also bring one carry-on item, either your CYE backpack or something that size. Finally, you may bring a personal item, such as a laptop bag, a purse or something of that nature.

### 3 Christmas Gifts

In addition, you may bring all the Christmas gifts you or your host family would like to send to your families in Germany to New York. Those gifts must be densely boxed up, wrapped, and clearly labeled with names and addresses. Several smaller boxes are easier for us to transport than one big box. Shoe boxes are a perfect size. Absolutely no gels or liquids, no farm products, no dangerous or custom-critical products. Only 'normal' Christmas gifts, please!

### 4 Individual and Group Pictures

We will be taking casual individual and group Christmas pictures at various locations throughout New York and also at the formal dinner on Saturday. Look pretty! That goes for your clothes & footwear as well as hair, etc.

### 5 Proper Attire

For the opera and the formal dinner, you will need what is known as "informal attire" (not "semi-formal"). Check the link to wikipedia (below) for details. Do it! Absolutely no casual footwear/sneakers, jeans, non-dress pants! Everyone: Dress up! Ladies: evening dress or business costume; Gentlemen: suit, buttoned-down, long-sleeve shirt with collar, tie or bow tie, black or brown leather shoes; [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informal\\_attire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informal_attire)



*The true New Yorker secretly believes that people living anywhere else have to be, in some sense, kidding.*





## Big lights will inspire you...

### What to pack...

#### Personal Effects:

- ✓ casual daytime clothing for four days
- ✓ comfortable walking shoes/sneakers
- ✓ warm winter coat, headwear, gloves, scarf
- ✓ 'informal' attire\* for opera and formal dinner
- ✓ personal hygiene articles, personal medication
- ✓ writing utensils (notebook, pen/pencil)
- ✓ photo or video camera, cell phone
- ✓ small gift for your Secret Santa partner
- ✓ presents, boxes, Christmas gifts for Germany

#### Personal Documents:

- ✓ your Alabama learner's permit or passport
- ✓ your PNC Bank debit card
- ✓ some cash for snacks

*\*look up 'informal attire' on Wikipedia!*



*The city seen from the Queensboro Bridge  
is always the city seen for the first time,  
in its first wild promise of all the mystery  
and beauty in the world.*





## Let's hear it for New York

### 6 Opera and Formal Dinner

We will visit the Metropolitan Opera at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday evening and see Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Preceding our visit to the opera, you will have at least two hours of free time at our hotel to take a nap or rest, snack, shower, and get dressed.

We want you to walk into the show well rested so that you can be attentive and get the most out of the performance of one of Verdi's best known operas in one of the most impressive opera houses every built. Lot's of superlatives, I know. The impressive cast of several hundreds of singers and the magnificent set combined with the live, unamplified music will surely capture your attention. *Rigoletto* is an opera in three acts. It is performed in Italian (German or English translation is available on a small screen built into the seat in front of you). We will have a pre-opera briefing some time on Saturday afternoon. I encourage you to read the synopsis available on the Metropolitan Opera website and also listen to some of the pieces on Youtube or Spotify. <https://www.metopera.org/discover/synopses/rigoletto/>

### 7 ACT Practice Sessions

With your ACT coming up on December 10, we will set aside two student meetings for ACT practice tests. We realize that this is taking away time from other cool places we could visit in New York, but we have to make sure that you are well prepared for your ACT, and since some of you haven't been making much of an effort to that effect, we will have to make a corporate effort while in New York.

However, those of you who bring printouts of at least three complete ACT practice tests they have already done in Alabama (complete meaning all four sections, all pages with your original markings) may be exempt from the second student meeting and get some extra shopping time instead.

### 8 Christmas Gift Baskets

Upon return from New York, you will be dropped off at your family's residence. At the time of drop-off, your home-made Christmas cookies will be picked up. The gift baskets will be produced on December 7 and be delivered during school hours on December 8. Please be sure to make at least five or six cookie sheets of hand-made cookies so that we have enough for all the gift baskets for your schools.



*Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*





*If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere.  
It's up to you, New York, New York!*