

TRIP DETAILS & SCHEDULE

MBLC Visits to Competency Collaborative Schools in NYC

March 5-7, 2025



This document shares trip details for MBLC members' March, 2025 visits to schools in the [Competency Collaborative](#), a K-12 public school network across New York City that use Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CRSE) together with Competency/Mastery-based Learning.

On this trip, specifically for MBLC member schools, we will visit 4 NYC public middle and high schools with strong CRSE/MBL practices. Visits will include interactions with staff, leaders, and students; shared resources; classroom rounds; and time to reflect and connect the visit to your own school or classroom context. Host schools this year (could be subject to change):

- [Robert Van Wyck Middle School](#) in Jamaica, Queens, serving 1348 students in grades 6-8
- [The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria](#), serving 567 students in grades 6-12
- [NYC iSchool](#) in Soho, Manhattan, serving 454 students in grades 9-12 (This school is a 5th floor walkup in a building without an elevator. Please let us know about accessibility issues. Thank you.)
- [Manhattan International HS](#) in Midtown East, Manhattan, serving 352 students in grades 9-12

Learning outcomes:

- Visit and learn from exemplar practitioner schools in the [Competency Collaborative](#), a network of public K-12 schools in NYC practicing culturally responsive-sustaining MBL.
- Deepen understanding and capacity with high-quality implementation of culturally responsive-sustaining MBL.
- Reflect and make connections with what is or could be happening in our own schools.

Schedule at a glance ([see pp 6-10 for a more detailed schedule](#))

We will travel by private bus from your hotel to host schools each day—it's Magic School Bus, NYC edition! Each visit will include an informal working light breakfast. On Wednesday and Thursday, there will be an informal working buffet lunch at host schools.

- **Please bring a water bottle and government/photo ID (required by NYC schools for entry!)**
- You may find it useful to **bring an ipad or laptop** for note-taking, and reflections.
- Dress however you care to—you're perfect just the way you are. Maybe check the forecast before packing; the temperature has gotten quite unpredictable.

Wednesday, March 5, 2024

- **Full day:** [Robert Van Wyck Middle School](#) (grades 6-8)
[85-05 144th St, Briarwood, NY 11435](#)

Thursday, March 6, 2024

- **Morning:** [NYC iSchool](#) (grades 9-12) [131 6th Ave, New York, NY 10013](#)
- **Afternoon:** [Manhattan International High School](#) (grades 9-12) [317 E 67th St, NY, NY 10065](#)

Friday, March 7, 2024

- **Morning:** [The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria](#) (grades 6-12)
[23-15 Newtown Ave, Astoria, NY 11102](#)

Trip ends here at noon! The bus will drop off at LGA & JFK Airports immediately afterwards. Going somewhere other than the airport? For those extending your trip, the quickest way back to the Sonesta hotel is the [subway](#)—click link for directions. You can use public transportation, a yellow or green cab, Uber, etc. to get to your next destination.

Your accommodations: **The Fifty Sonesta Select New York**
[155 East 50th Street, New York, NY 10022](#)
212-751-5710 [website](#)

Checkin March 4 pm, checkout March 7 am, unless you requested an extended stay

You may choose to take a cab or ride-hailing service (Lyft, Uber, etc) from the airport to the hotel, but if you are arriving at JFK Airport and want to take public transportation, [here is how to get to the hotel using public transportation](#). It requires walking up/down several sets of stairs and making at least one transfer mid-trip, so best if you are traveling light.

Trip Contact: Joy Nolan

- **Before the trip, please email:** joy@newlearningcollaborative.org
- **During the trip, please text Joy: 917-647-6880** (Please text instead of calling unless urgent, thanks.)

Nearby dining: *Your hotel is in Midtown East, a neighborhood teeming with small restaurants, delis, pizza joints, and inexpensive/interesting street food. A pizza slice almost anywhere in the city is a decent bet—be ready for NYC style pizza: thin crust, floppy, cheesy, saucy, messy, and delish.*

If you have time to branch out, check out Chinatown (downtown Manhattan), Williamsburg in Brooklyn, or Harlem uptown in Manhattan. Google Maps is a great source of intel for good restaurant choices, and how to use public transportation. To find a particular cuisine you're hankering for, see ny.eater.com. You may want to go exploring and see where you land . . . but here are some highly rated suggestions, with a few editorial comments. :) Mangia!

[Ess-a-Bagel](#)

831 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10022

A famous bagel joint, and perennial contender for best NYC bagels—right near your hotel!
(Editorial: an everything bagel with scallion cream cheese from Ess-a *is everything*.)

[The Comfort Diner](#)

214 E 45th St, New York, NY 10017

Eggs, meatloaf, chicken pot pie, etc. in a retro-diner setting. (Editorial: Classic diner, cute as a button.)

New York Luncheonette

135 E 50th St, New York, NY 10022

Bustling, cozy diner for breakfast & other American fare. (Editorial: NYC diners are not just breakfast!)

Omar Mediterranean Cuisine

154 E 55th St, New York, NY 10022

Unassuming local eatery for casual Mediterranean cooking: falafel, kebabs & shawarma.

Teranga

601 Lexington Avenue, 153 E 53rd St, New York, NY 10022

West African restaurant, welcoming and delicious. In Senegal, “Teranga” means “good hospitality.”

The Smith

956 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10022

Jack-of-all-trades staple, go-to spot for after-work drinks, quick/comforting dinners, great for groups!

Sushi & Co- LEXI

459 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10017

Counter-serve outfit with limited seating offering classic rolls, with a build-your-own-box option.

Mian Kitchen

230 Park Ave, New York, NY 10169

Casual Asian eatery, with a focus on Taiwanese cuisine.

Spice Mantra

1047 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10022

Indian food, expertly spiced.

Café Luce Italian Restaurant

235 E 53rd St, Manhattan, NY 10022

Cozy and friendly trattoria located in Midtown East Manhattan.

Frida Midtown

214 E 52nd St, New York, NY 10022

Mexican-Peruvian Cuisine

Coletta

956 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10022

A bit of a walk downtown, and on the posh side, but worth it. Where else can you get top of the line vegan, Kosher, Italian food? (Editorial: You will never forget the cheese board nor the “chick’n” parm.)

Venchi Chocolate & Gelato Columbus Circle

1796 Broadway, New York, NY 10019

A bit of a walk to the west, an Italian gelato and chocolate shop. (Editorial: The gelato of your wildest dreams. Thank me later ... and don’t forget the napkins. :)

Nearby attractions: *Your search engine will do a better job than I can with directions and details—but here are some do-not-miss attractions, large and small, relatively close to your hotel. Enjoy.*

NY Public Library (*Pet and take a selfie with the famous stone lions, Patience and Fortitude.*)

MoMA

Metropolitan Museum

Time Square

Central Park

Broadway (*the theaters*)

Broadway (*the long walk diagonally through Manhattan*)

Radio City Music Hall

Grand Central Terminal (*Don’t miss the Whispering wall!*)

United Nations

Rockefeller Center (*including Top of the Rock observatory*)

Beloved midtown skyscrapers: Chrysler Building, Empire State Building

Bryant Park

The High Line (*a park built on an old elevated train line*)

Roosevelt Island Tram

Circle Line (*2-hour cruise around Manhattan Island, relaxing and fun*)

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/things-to-do/new-york>

The Atlas Obscura Guide to 755 Cool, Hidden, and Unusual Things to Do in New York City

[NYC free walking tours](#) (New York Times architecture critic suggestions)

MBLC Trip to Competency Collaborative Schools in NYC

DAILY SCHEDULE

March 5-7, 2025



Breakfasts and lunches herein are working meals. Over a light breakfast each day, visitors will look at and discuss artifacts from host schools. During lunch Wednesday and Thursday, visitors will engage in conversations with school leaders, staff, and/or students.

Trip and school visits organized by Joy Nolan, [New Learning Collaborative](#), Brooklyn NY. Please get in touch with any questions or concerns.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

Robert Van Wyck Middle School, MS 217, [85-05 144th St, Briarwood, NY 11435](#)

Slides: bit.ly/MS217_March2025visit

Bathrooms: 1st floor across from office, no key needed

Time	Activity
7:20-7:35 am	Bus pickup at hotel
8:15-8:50	Welcome! Working Breakfast: MS 217 Schoolwide Outcomes Warmup Rounds
8:50 -9:15	Plan for the Day, About our school
9:15-10	Our school's journey with this work: what we have done, and where we want to go and grow next Intro to visit focus areas: • Our focus on equity and SEL • Our schoolwide shared learning outcomes • Our grading policies and practices Preparing for classroom visits: Notecatcher and protocols
10-10:45	Classroom rounds
10:45-11:10	Classroom Visit Debrief and Q + A
11:10-11:30	Wellness brain break
11:30-12:15	Student roundtables
12:15-1	Teacher roundtables
1- 1:45	Q & A with Leaders and Staff

Thursday, March 6, 2025: MORNING

NYC iSchool (grades 9-12), [131 6th Ave, New York, NY 10013](#)

This school is a 5th floor walkup in a building without an elevator. If you have accessibility concerns, please reach out to [Joy](#) so we can make a plan together. Thanks.

Time	Activity
8-8:15 am	Bus pickup at hotel
9:00-9:30	Welcome! Working Breakfast while exploring NYC iSchool's learner-centered approach About Our School Shoptalk • Our learner-centered, personalized approach • Our schoolwide learning outcomes & grading policy • Our Classroom Best Practices Our school 's journey with this work . . . what we have done, and where we want to go and grow next
9:30-9:40	• Preparing for Classroom rounds CLASSROOM VISIT NOTECATCHER and Protocols
9:40-10:10	Classroom rounds
10:10-10:30	Classroom Visit Debrief
10:30-11:15	Q + A with Staff and Students
11:15-11:30	Reflection and connections bit.ly/NYCTripBOOKLETMarch2025 Farewell! Bus to Manhattan International HS

Thursday, March 6, 2025: AFTERNOONManhattan International High School, [317 E 67th St, NY, NY 10065](#)

Time	Activity
12-12:30	Welcome, Informal Working Lunch
12:30-1:00	About our School • New York Performance Standards Consortium • Internationals Network Visit Framing and Plan for the Afternoon
1:00-1:30	Intro to Visit focus areas: • Performance Assessments • Our schoolwide learning outcomes ○ College and Career Readiness/ Habits of Heart and Mind ○ Technology ○ Academics • Teaching and Learning using the HELLO model Our school 's journey with this work . . . what we have done, and where we want to go and grow next
1:30-1:40	Preparing for Classroom rounds CLASSROOM VISIT NOTECATCHER and Protocols
1:40-2:10	Classroom rounds
2:10-2:30	Classroom Visit Debrief
2:30-3:00	Q + A with Staff and Students
3:00-3:30	Reflection and connections bit.ly/NYCTripBOOKLETMarch2025 Farewell! Bus back to hotel

Friday, March 7, 2025: MORNING 3.5 hours**The Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria (grades 6-12)****23-15 Newtown Ave, Astoria, NY 11102**

Time	Activity
7:20-7:35	Bus pickup at hotel
8:00 - 8:15	Welcome Introductions Objectives Light Breakfast
8:15 - 9:00	About our school: TYWLS-Astoria Overview
9:00 - 9:15	Meet our Youth Ambassadors and Prepar for Classroom visits
9:15 - 10:25	Classroom visits (3 classroom visits ~15-20 mins each)
10:25 - 10:40	Classroom visit debrief
10:40 - 11:10	Mock Student-led Conference & Questions with TYWLSA Youth Ambassadors
11:15-11:50	Teacher Panel
11:40-12:05	Reflections and feedback bit.ly/March2024NYCTripBOOKLET
12:05	Farewell! Bus to LGA & JFK

This MBLC visit was organized by Joy Nolan, New Learning Collaborative, who has served as one of the MBLC Professional Learning Coaches, and was the longtime Director of the Competency Collaborative. Please feel warmly welcome to reach out with trip-related questions: joy@newlearningcollaborative.org.

The contents of this resource (apart from the host school agendas and resources) were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.