



MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

January 30, 2026

Dear Sixth Grade Caregivers,

On **Thursday, February 26, and Friday, February 27**, the sixth grade will participate in two field trips (day trips). On each day, half of the sixth grade will travel to the **Buehler Challenger & Science Center** in Paramus, NJ, as part of the science curriculum, and the other half will travel to the **Newark Museum** as part of the history curriculum.

This letter is intended to give you information about the science field trip. Students will spend all day at the Buehler Challenger Center participating in the "Lunar Quest" mission and related STEM activities. They will take part in a mission control and spacecraft simulation, and participate in hands-on activities to learn about the related science and engineering skills and concepts behind their mission. This trip is undoubtedly one of the highlights of sixth grade.

Our trip will depart from MKA no later than 9:15 a.m. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. We expect to return around 2:30 p.m., well before dismissal. In preparation for the trip, please keep a few items in mind:

Lunch - Students must bring a nut-free lunch from home and label it clearly with their name. There is no place at the center to buy or reheat food, and we cannot provide school lunch on this day. We also encourage all students to bring a reusable water bottle (must seal shut — no straws, please) to refill at the center. Students should also plan to wear regular dress code clothing and comfortable sneakers. Students may want to bring a hair tie if they have longer hair.

Missing the Trip - If your child will be absent on the day of the trip, please email both Mr. Weller at dweller@mka.org and msattendance@mka.org. **If you know in advance that your child will not be in school on either February 26 or February 27, please email your child's science teacher (either davidallen@mka.org or jmartinez@mka.org), along with Mr. Weller.** This is important because students are all assigned to specific missions, flight crews, and teams well before the trip date. Changing students from one assignment to another on the day of the mission is very challenging.

Appointments & Conflicts - If at all possible, please make sure these dates are marked down in your calendars. These two days are not ideal for early departures or late arrivals to or from school due to various appointments. Please do what you can to schedule such obligations around the trip days. Please communicate any known conflicts to Daniel Weller, David Allen, Justine Martinez, Amy Mai Tierney, and Bill Bronson as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday, February 6**, so that we can best plan ahead in coordination with the history department for field trip attendance and “job” assignment.

Thank you for considering this information as you plan for that week.

Sincerely,

Daniel Weller, Science Department Chair
Denis Wong, Sixth Grade Dean