

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wir haben eine Gelegenheit für Sie! (German)

Fare abbiamo un'opportunità per lei! (Italian)

Сделайте мы имеем возможность Вас!

Faire nous avons une occasion pour vous ! (French)

Or in other words,

Do we have an opportunity for you! (English)



(Russian)

On Friday, January 27, 2017 the halls of **Pioneer Middle School** will be magically transformed into the halls of Ellis Island, 1899. The students will make their way through a series of inspectors, interviewers, and doctors trying to gain entrance into the land of opportunity--America.

Prior to this day, students will be given an identity: a name, a country and a background. They will need to memorize their information, come dressed as their character, carry luggage and inspection papers, and make their way through the exciting, yet scary, process of becoming an American Citizen. Immigrants who make it through the process, will take the Oath and will be allowed to board the boat heading for New York.

To simulate the Ellis Island experience, most students will try to enter with their "family". If their entire family makes it through the process, there will be great reason to celebrate. But if even one member of their family is rejected for any reason, the family will have a tough decision to make.

The Ellis Island Simulation is an incredible experience. There is a lot of excitement and emotion. It's also a day where hands-on learning takes place—a day that students will never forget! And that is where we need your help. So, back to the line at the beginning of this letter: **Do we have an opportunity for you!**

In order to send almost 750 students through this Ellis Island Simulation, we need over 200 volunteers to serve as doctors, inspectors, interviewers, oath givers, etc... We will train you the morning of the simulation. And as an Ellis Island employee, you will have the opportunity to be "crabby" and a bit "unreasonable" with the immigrants as they pass through the halls of Ellis Island. (For most of us, that is welcome news...the right to be ornery and not get into trouble for it!)

Training will begin at 8:00 and the actual event will start at 9:00, lasting until 11:30 or so. (It depends on how well you play your part.) **If you have the time, the desire to be cranky and brisk, the good nature to be willing to "act" for a couple of hours, and the kindness to help out some desperate teachers**, then we say once again: **Do we have an opportunity for you!**

If you are willing and able to help us out, please fill out and return the bottom portion of this page. We will contact you soon. But assume that if you return the slip...you are in! Thank you so much!

By all means, I would love to be a cranky inspector and/or doctor at Ellis Island. I would love to come and spend the morning of January 27th with the 6th graders...helping out their poor, desperate teachers.

[Sign Up Here to Volunteer](#)

We are also in need of refreshments for volunteers the morning of our district-wide Ellis Island Experience for 6th graders Friday, January 27, 2017. If you are willing to donate refreshments click [HERE](#) to fill out the form. Please deliver your donation to Pioneer Ridge Middle School (c/o Ellis Island Day) by Wednesday, January 25.