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Myers students set sail on Half Moon

For eighth-grader Grant Dias Carlson, social studies class at Myers Middle School offered a “once-in-a-lifetime experience” this year that he’d “do again in a second.”

Grant was one of six Myers students who spent a week in September recreating the 1609 voyage of Henry Hudson’s ship, the Half Moon. In its eighth year, the annual adventure teaches students about life, science and history on the Hudson River.

Dan Marinski, a seventh-grade social studies teacher at Myers, described the experience as a chance to go beyond traditional classroom learning.

“Students have the opportunity to do scientific experiments on the water, the weather and the climate,” said Mr. Marinski, in his second year as a crew member and teacher on the trip. “There is a home and careers aspect to it when they help out with the galley; there are life lessons such as meeting other people and learning how to work with them and the crew. It’s beyond our standard curriculum.”

Joined by their middle school peers from Rensselaer, the Myers crew boarded the vessel in Westchester County and traveled north to Albany, where a crowd of supporters greeted the ship as it returned to the Corning Preserve on a sun-splashed afternoon Sept. 19.

“We learned about the wind and how the sun affects the water and the air,” said Myers eighth-grader Shiaiva Morris. “Plus, how often do you get to go on a boat for seven days *during* school?”



The Hudson River provided a great classroom for a week aboard the Half Moon for Myers Middle School students and teachers. Pictured, from left, are (back row) teacher Jennifer O’Leary, Shiaiva Morris, Grant Dias Carlson, teacher Dan Morency and Emma Kipness, and (front row) Erika Portelli, Michael Allinger and Kristian Uzheca.



The Half Moon returns to port in Albany on Sept. 19.