

SANTA FE STRONG IN NYC

SANTA FE HIGH SCHOOL, TEXAS

When Gunnar Tietge, Lead Choral Director at Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, Texas, learned about visiting One World Observatory through Green Light Tours, he knew it was an important opportunity for his students to experience.

But it almost didn't happen.

On May 18, 2018, Santa Fe High School witnessed a tragedy and endured a loss no school should ever have to bear: another senseless school shooting. In the aftermath, the school and the parents decided to continue forward with the student's trip to New York City, to help restore normalcy and provide a distraction from the events at home.

"When we arrived at One World Observatory, they really wanted to do something special for us that's not part of the normal tour: enter and see the view from the

102nd floor," said Tietge.

"There wasn't anything special on the floor, except for the view—it was spectacular! We were able to see all of New York from those windows and for a few moments, everything seemed very quiet and at peace.

"It was a moment from the trip and in our lives that we will never forget!"

Riding the elevator up at One World Observatory is a whole experience in and of itself.

"Without spoiling any part of the ride, I will say that it's no ordinary elevator ride," said Tietge. "They are able to transform the entire elevator into a whole new experience that makes you forget you are even in an elevator."

Tietge added that his students' reactions were by far his favorite part of the trip, noting they were so intrigued by and curious about every part of the One World Observatory.

"Getting to go to the 102nd floor was really cool experience and all of the workers at the One World Observatory were very generous and kind to us," said Payton Young, a Santa Fe High School student. "Our main guide was very knowledgeable and was able to help us learn more about 9/11."

Considering September 11, 2001, took place before most of Tietge's students were born, it was a great way for him to share that history.

"Everyone should go and see how much they were able to transform what was piles of rubble and debris into something that shows the true patriotism of what it means to be a New Yorker and an American."

