

AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS

Progress Report **grade of A** five years in a row • **Noteworthy review** on Inside-Schools.org • **Urban Advantage** science education initiative partner school • **Well Developed** from the School Quality Review • **Blackboard Award** for Outstanding School in Brooklyn, New York • **\$35,000 technology grant** from Councilman Brad Lander's Office

HIGH SCHOOLS OUR GRADUATES ATTEND

Art & Design
Bard
Bard Queens
Beacon
Brooklyn Latin
Brooklyn Tech
Edward R. Murrow
Frank Sinatra
High School of Telecommunications
LaGuardia
Leon Goldstein
Midwood
Millennium
Millennium Brooklyn
NEST +m
NYC iSchool
NY Harbor School
Stuyvesant
Talent Unlimited

MS 447 HIGHLIGHTS

- > A small, high-achieving school with a family feeling of community
- > Math and science treated as a vital and fascinating focus within a well rounded humanities and arts curriculum
- > An interdisciplinary Exploration Program in collaboration with outstanding NYC institutions
- > ICT inclusion programs / ASD Nest program
- > A talent program including dance, drama, instrumental music, and visual art
- > Math, Science, and American History Regents courses
- > Spanish for all seventh and eighth grade students
- > Advisory for all students
- > Lunch club choices available for all students
- > Comprehensive free after school enrichment program
- > Overnight trips each year
- > Art and technology classes for all grades
- > Peer mediation program

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Amy Sirot, Parent Coordinator
parentcoordinator447@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

ms447.org

The Math & Science Exploratory School



Arin M. Rusch
Principal

345 Dean Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217
Phone: 718 330-9328
Fax: 718 330-0944
ms447.org

WHO WE ARE

The Math and Science Exploratory School is a sixth through eighth grade middle school

that operates on the belief that all children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and how it works. Inquiry education is very empowering for middle school children because they can take ownership of their learning by constructing knowledge for themselves, with the guidance of their teachers, through exploration within a meaningful context. Middle school students are social individuals, and benefit from learning through cooperative groups by practicing social skills and putting the idea of 'teamwork' to use in order to meet a common goal. Inquiry based instruction addresses the needs of students of all learning styles, interests, and backgrounds, enabling students to expand their knowledge and skills in the content areas. Our faculty uses entry level data, baseline assessments and portfolio development in order to identify student needs and implement differentiated instruction to support student learning.

ACADEMICS

We offer a rigorous, engaging, standards-based curriculum that nurtures students' academic interests as well as prepares them for competitive high schools. Through hands-on inquiry, our goal is to help children develop the critical thinking and creative problem solving ability using mathematical and scientific skills. We follow a balanced literacy (reading and writing) curriculum in English Language Arts, and all disciplines integrate literacy into their curriculum. Daily instruction reflects a cooperative spirit in which students engage with one another to make meaning, synthesize, apply, and share their learning. Students may be offered Regents level math, science, and social studies courses.

THE EXPLORATION PROGRAM

The Math & Science Exploration program is an outgrowth of the school's philosophy. The Exploration experience provides our students with the opportunity to engage in hands on, minds on research in selected topics in the sciences. Through their work in collaborative groups, students can socially construct knowledge while journeying through the steps of problem solving. The experience allows children to apply the skills and content acquired from all subject areas to the investigation of real life issues, the exploration of scientific theories, and the pursuit of interests in the field of science and the natural world we live in. In Exploration, students investigate topics such as aquatic studies, green technology and design, human body systems, and forensics. Eighth graders culminate with a service learning project. Much of the Exploration program takes place off-site, through collaboration with respected institutions, including Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, NY Aquarium, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Metropolitan Museum.

THE ARTS/TECH TALENT PROGRAM

Our talent program includes dance (ballet, modern, jazz and hip hop), theater, music (instrumental, including a jazz band), and visual art. Sixth grade students rotate through each talent, and in seventh grade select a specialization for the next two years. Talent courses take advantage of the city's rich offerings through off-site visits and partnerships, such as the Museum of Modern Art, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Dancewave Studios, The Cooper Hewitt Design Museum, and Carnegie Hall. In addition to the choice talent program, all students take a technology course each year, and all seventh graders take an arts elective.

ICT INCLUSION CLASSES

MS 447 has built a strong capacity to support students with a range of needs. Students are heterogeneously grouped and have opportunities to be both learners and teachers through our inclusion classes:

Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT): These classes serve both general education and special education students within a collaboratively co-taught, unified group. One of the teachers is a licensed special education teacher; the other is a content teacher.

ASD Nest program: Also co-taught inclusion classes, Nest classes serve both general education and up to five higher functioning students with autism spectrum disorders. ASD students learn how to function well academically, behaviorally, and socially in school and in their community. Special features of the Nest program include executive functioning support, peer-mentoring programs, social clubs facilitated by an ASD trained social worker, social development curriculum implemented by an ASD trained speech provider, special education teacher support, and collaboration with NYU and Hunter College.

ADMISSIONS

We are looking for students who are inquisitive, cooperative learners, and who are willing to undertake a rigorous academic journey and in-depth exploration over the course of their time at MS 447. Admissions is based on the following:

- An interview with a small group of peers
- A problem-based math or science assessment and a short writing task
- The fourth grade report card