

M.S. 447

★ The Math & Science Exploratory School



Arin M. Rusch, Principal

The Basics...

- > High-performing and nurturing academic environment
- > Approximately 520 students
- > 6 classes per grade
- > Integrated Co-teaching Classes on all grades
- > 3-year advisory program
- > 6-day (A-F) schedule
- > Busing for 6th Graders

The Math & Science Exploratory School

CORE VALUES

- > Learning through **Inquiry-Based Experiences**: Opportunities that empower students to question, explore and make sense of the world around them.
- > **Collaboration and Partnership**: Between students, teachers, families, and our city
- > Education of the **Whole Child**: Students as citizens who are self aware, socially aware, and environmentally aware, and act as responsible members of our community.

Exploration Program

- > Interdisciplinary units focused around a central theme
- > Taught onsite & offsite by a core seven-teacher team
- > Collaborations with NYC cultural institutions
- > Each unit ends with an Exposition for friends & family

Exploration Units of Study:

6th Grade: Food for Thought, Sustainable City Planning,
Water Stewardship

7th Grade: Skyscrapers, Forensics, Global Solutions

8th Grade: Genetics, Perception, Service Learning

Some of Our Destinations and Collaborations...

- > Brooklyn Botanic Garden
- > Sloop Clearwater
- > The Innocence Project
- > Center for Architecture Foundation
- > Dolan DNA Learning Center
- > Gowanus Canal Conservancy
- > NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability
- > Queens Museum of Art
- > NY Hall of Science
- > Taste Buds Kitchen

...And Some More

- > Paley Center for Media
- > Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm
- > Museum of Natural History – Sackler Lab
- > Frick Collection
- > Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- > Liberty Science Center
- > Metropolitan Museum of Art
- > NYC Greenmarkets
- > Museum of Tolerance
- > Oyster Farming in Red Hook
- > Prospect Park
- > One World Trade Center

English Language Arts

- > We follow a balanced literacy (reading and writing) curriculum in English Language Arts
- > All disciplines integrate literacy into their curriculum
- > Daily instruction reflects a cooperative spirit in which students engage with one another to ask big questions, make meaning, synthesize, apply, and share their learning

Social Studies

- > 6th Grade: Ancient civilization and non-Western countries
- > 7th & 8th Grades: US History
- > Collaborations: Facing History and Ourselves, Constitution Works
- > Invitation to US History & Government Regents

A close-up photograph of a green leaf with several water droplets on its surface. The leaf's veins are clearly visible, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Mathematics

- > Development of deep understanding of mathematical processes through problem-solving, conversation, and routine skills practice.
- > Invitation to accelerated Algebra Regents course for 7/8 grade

Science

- > Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Science
- > Inquiry-based lessons and projects
- > Long-term investigations
- > Emphasis on four modes of investigation
 - Controlled experiments
 - Secondary research
 - Field study
 - Exploring working model/systems
- > Living Environment Regents for all students in 8th grade
- > Urban Advantage School

Foreign Language

- > Spanish, Grades 7/8
- > 7th grade focus on conversation
- > 8th grade focus on grammar, reading, writing, and speaking



The Arts

All students Grades 6-8 Participate in:

- > Studio or Performance Art
- > Technology

Talent choices:

- > Dance
- > Instrumental Music
- > Theater
- > Studio Art

7th Grade Arts Elective

Physical Education & Health

- > Two P.E. periods per cycle
- > Sports and Games/Team building
- > Fitness/Healthy Living
- > Additional Health class in 7th Grade
- > Recess Sports

Advisory

- > Safe, consistent, and nurturing setting
- > Small Group (8-10 students)
- > Focus on five competencies:
 - Self-Awareness
 - Self-Management
 - Social Awareness
 - Relationship Skills
 - Responsible Decision Making

Social Emotional Learning

- > Peer Mediation
- > Student Government
- > Upstander Project
- > Peace and Diversity Conference
- > Sixth-Seventh Grade Buddies
- > Kids Can Project
- > Lunch Clubs and Recreation
- > Strong Support Staff

Special Education and ESL

- > Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) inclusion program
- > ASD Nest Program
- > SETSS
- > ESL services

Sample 6th Grade Schedule



The Math & Science
Exploratory School

Class 601

MS 447 - MATH & SCIENCE EXPLORATORY SCHOOL, 345 DEAN STREET, BROOKLYN

	A	B	C	D	E	F
AM Lockers 8:20 - 8:26 AM	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454
1 8:26 - 9:11 AM	Geneen PE Gym	Acker / J. Farrell / McKanna Mullins Arts Talent B22,303,306,453	Khan / Shedwell ELA 454	Moore / Wilson Math	Khan / Shedwell ELA - Ind. Read. 454	Khan / Shedwell ELA
2 9:14 - 9:56 AM	Moore / Wilson Math 455	Khan / Shedwell ELA - Ind. Read. 454	Khan / Shedwell ELA - Ind. Read. 454	455	Exploration	454
3 9:59 - 10:41 AM	McColum Computer Apps 304	Khan / Shedwell ELA 454	Acker / J. Farrell / McKanna Mullins Arts Talent B22,303,306,453	Khan / Shedwell ELA 454		Geneen / Schrup PE Gym
4 10:44 - 11:26 AM	Davis / Shedwell Social Studies 452	Davis / Shedwell Social Studies 452	Davis / Shedwell Social Studies 452	McColum Computer Apps 304		Davis / Shedwell Social Studies 452
5 11:29 AM - 12:11 PM	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch
6 12:14 - 12:57 PM	Khan / Shedwell ELA 454	Moore / Wilson Math	Frantzis / Hyman Science 325	Frantzis / Hyman Science	Exploration	Shedwell / Moore / Antonielli Advisory 302,455,452
7 1:00 - 1:43 PM	Shedwell / Moore / Antonielli Advisory 455,454,302	455	Moore / Wilson Math	325		Moore / Wilson Math 455
8 1:46 - 2:30 PM	Acker / J. Farrell / McKanna Mullins Arts Talent B22,303,306,453	Frantzis / Hyman Science 325	455	Davis / Shedwell Social Studies 452		Acker / J. Farrell / McKanna Mullins Arts Talent B22,303,306,453
PM Lockers 2:30 - 2:35 PM	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454	Lockers 454

Mondays: Staff PD, 2:35-3:55. Tuesdays: Parent Engagement, 2:35-3:15. Wednesdays & Thursdays: Office Hours, 2:35-3:35.

aSc Timetables

Overnight Trips

- > 6th grade: Camp Bernie (Outdoor Ed, team building, candle making, night hikes, & more)
- > 7th Grade: Boston
- > 8th Grade: Washington, DC

After School Program

- > Free, full-time after school program (SONYC)
- > In partnership with Big brothers Big Sisters of NYC
- > Robotics, Fine Arts, Dance, Volleyball, Flag Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Soccer, Spoken Word/Creative Writing, Photography, Film Production, Cartooning, Theater, Songwriting, Games Factory, Vocals, Life Skills, Homework Help, and more...

Family Involvement

- > Parents as partners
- > Trip Chaperones – Exploration off-site, overnight trips
- > Class Parents
- > Fundraising
- > Family Activities
- > Strong and Involved PTA & SLT

High School Admissions

- > Art and Design
- > Bard
- > Bard Queens
- > Beacon
- > Brooklyn Latin
- > Brooklyn Tech
- > Edward R. Murrow
- > Frank Sinatra School of Arts
- > HS of Telecommunications
- > La Guardia
- > Leon Goldstein
- > Midwood
- > Millennium Brooklyn
- > Nest + M
- > NYC iSchool
- > New York Harbor School
- > Stuyvesant
- > Talent Unlimited

Admissions

- > An interview with a small group of peers
- > A problem-based math or science assessment and a short writing task
- > The 4th grade report card (academics and student behavior competencies)

Learn More...

- > Visit our website: ms447.org
- > Contact our Parent Coordinator, Amy Sirot
parentcoordinator447@gmail.com