

**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 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

## Our Vision...

*As inquisitive learners, we grow through perseverance, resilience, and innovation. We believe that, to act with integrity and empathy, we have a responsibility to advocate for ourselves and others, honoring our community and the world.*

# 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:

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Food for Thought, Sustainable City Planning,  
Water Stewardship

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Skyscrapers, Forensics, Global Solutions

8<sup>th</sup> 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

- > 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Ancient civilization and non-Western countries
- > 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: US History
- > Collaborations: Facing History and Ourselves, Constitution Works

# Mathematics

- > Development of deep understanding of mathematical processes through problem-solving, conversation, and routine skills practice.
- > Algebra 1 Regents exam at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- > Urban Advantage School

# Foreign Language

- > Spanish, Grades 7/8
- > 7<sup>th</sup> grade focus on conversation
- > 8<sup>th</sup> 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

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Arts Elective**



# Physical Education & Health

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

# 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
- > Student Led Conferences
- > Kids Can Project
- > Lunch Clubs and Recreation
- > Strong Support Staff

# Special Education, ESL, and Academic Intervention Services

- > Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) inclusion program
- > ASD Nest Program
- > SETSS
- > Speech, OT, and PT
- > ESL services
- > Lit Lab and Math Lab for small group targeted instruction and academic intervention

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

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

- > **Admissions criteria:** The Math & Science Exploratory School admits students through a screened admissions method. For their admissions process, they evaluate students based on the following:
- > Academic and personal behaviors (fourth grade)
- > Final 4<sup>th</sup> grade report card
- > ELA and Math entrance exams (in-house assessments given in January)
- > Priority to students of current siblings of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students



# Diversity in Admissions Pilot

M.S. 447, in its core value of Commitment to Diversity, aims to serve a diverse student population and will be piloting a new admissions policy starting with students applying this fall to enter sixth grade in September 2017.

**As part of the admissions pilot, the school will give priority to applicants eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) for 30% of seats. Additionally, the school will rank a diverse range of learners in their admissions process.**

# Learn More...

- > Visit our website: [ms447.org](http://ms447.org)
- > Contact our Parent Coordinator, Amy Sirot  
[asirot@ms447.org](mailto:asirot@ms447.org)