

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

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:

6th Grade: Food for Thought, City Planning and Community Development, Water Stewardship

7th Grade: Engineering and Responsible Urban Development, Forensics and Justice, Art for Social Change

8th Grade: Inventions for a Better World, Perception/Critical Media Literacy, 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

Mathematics

- > Development of deep understanding of mathematical processes through problem-solving, conversation, and routine skills practice.
- > Algebra 1 Regents exam at the end of 8th 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
- > 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
- > Restorative approaches to discipline
- > 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 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	McCollum 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	McCollum 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 / Antoniello Advisory 302,455,452
7 1:00 - 1:43 PM	Shedwell / Moore / Antoniello 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 LEAP
- > 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 4th grade report card
 - > ELA and Math entrance exams (in-house assessments given in January)

Diversity in Admissions Pilot

M.S. 447, in its core value of commitment to diversity, aims to serve a diverse student population and will continue its new admissions policy with students applying this fall to enter sixth grade in September 2018.

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
- > Contact our Parent Coordinator, Amy Sirot
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