**Exploration** eagerly and with great enthusiasm includes several different content areas, themes, and disciplines that are not the primary expertise of the Exploration Teachers but are **selected for their importance in the fields of science, technology, art, humanities, and social justice.**

**Our 6th grade year includes units focused on:**

urban gardening local and sustainable eating

access to healthy and affordable food the impact our food choices have on our environment justice for food workers restaurant branding history of and stewardship of NYC waterways impact of waste and pollution on our waterways

The Billion Oyster Project the Gowanus Canal

**Our 7th grade year includes units focused on:**

responsible urban development structure engineering and design blueprints and architectural renderings monuments/NYC landmarks

the criminal justice system incarceration and the Innocence Project forensic science law enforcement art as a medium for justice

sculpting, dance, mural work, spoken word, music, video, film production, photography, and social activism

**Our 8th grade year includes units focused on:**

Innovation the design process inventing

simple machines media critical media analysis

social identities/stereotypes fake news journalism changing perceptions

media’s persuasive power environmental justice blue and green design/engineering

gardening food and housing insecurity NYC park system

community service/activism

As you can see, **there is a wide variety of expertise that can be utilized by the Exploration Department**. If you are an expert in any of these areas or if you think your expertise would be beneficial within these themes, **here is how we would like to involve you**.

**We especially love for parent experts to join us on our project work days and on days you might hear your children calling EXPO PREP days.** These days are specifically dedicated towards the creation and finalization of unit projects. On these days students might be creating a blueprint, editing a documentary, completing an evidence board, drawing a schematic, building a skyscraper or structure, choreographing a dance, creating a form of media to change a perception, branding a restaurant, etc. etc.

**On these specific days,** typically at least ⅔ or ¾ of the way through one of our units, **we invite parent experts to come into our classrooms,** **introduce themselves and speak for about 10 minutes on their particular expertise, and then circulate throughout the room supporting students with their projects.**

**If you have an interest in participating in this way please contact Joy Canning by emailing** [**jcanning@ms447.org**](mailto:jcanning@ms447.org)**. Include in your email your name, your expertise, your child’s name and Exploration color group, and any daytime availability that you might have.**  One thing to keep in mind; we can either utilize you by having you come into all 6 of our grade level classes (this would mean a few hours on 2 different days) or utilize you by having you just come to your child’s class or the classes meeting on the day your child has Exploration. **We look forward to learning from you and are eager to expose our students to those who work within the fields we are studying!**