

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SCHOOL?
MS 447 6th Grade Curriculum Updates Fall 2020

Subject	Curriculum Overview for MP1 (12/14/20)
PBL (Project Based Learning)	Imagine NYC is a project-based learning experience that every student engaged with as we began our academic year. Our goals were to create a community among classmates and teachers that works for everyone, and to learn and practice skills to help us succeed in our very different learning environment. The core of the unit centered around issues that have affected each of us and our fellow New Yorkers over the past six months. Our driving question asked, how can we make NYC a better place for New Yorkers to live? Students explored topics of interest that relate to the pandemic and racial justice, identifying problems and possible solutions, and presenting findings at a virtual event.
English Language Arts	Our first unit will focus on short stories, we will teach the elements of a story and learn how to write organized paragraphs to develop an extended response. We will study various genres this year including nonfiction, poetry, persuasive essays and storytelling. Throughout our units, we will embed writing styles and strategies including paragraph, essay, poetry, and creative writing.
Math	Our first math unit is Exploring Ratios and Rates. Students will investigate different strategies and models for working with ratios through a variety of tasks, problems, and real-world situations. Students will be assessed on their ability to engage with each model or strategy to represent their thinking. Our curriculum is based on the Open Up Resources math curriculum, which provides students an opportunity to explore their math ideas collaboratively.
Science	<p>The sixth grade Science curriculum focuses on developing the foundations of Science. We will be learning how scientists think and what skills they use and we will be practicing applying these skills by learning about our planet, Earth. This year will be broken down into four big units: An Introduction to Scientific thinking, Astronomy (the Earth's place in the universe), Weather (the Earth's gases) and Geology (the materials that make up the Earth).</p> <p>To keep our lessons uniform in remote and in-person classes we will learn new material through interactive videos on the Edpuzzle platform. This will be coupled with synchronous and/or in-person lessons to practice using our new skills and knowledge together in activities and projects. We look forward to an exciting year.</p>
Social Studies	For Social Studies this year, we'll learn about humanity's ancient history in the Eastern Hemisphere. We will start with the Stone Age

	<p>and then start learning about the civilization of Mesopotamia. We will spend the year learning about our ancient ancestors and early achievements (and mistakes). An important part of the work we do in SS is learning, using, and breaking apart words using Greek and Latin roots. Starting in November, students must go onto Quizlet each week to practice their roots so that they can grow their knowledge. When in doubt, help your student practice their roots as we will have assessments based on their root knowledge.</p>
Exploration	<p>Exploration is an interdisciplinary, project-based curriculum. Learning is collaborative, inquiry-driven, and draws upon diverse resources both inside and outside the classroom, to practice real-life problem solving and build knowledge. Our program offers interdisciplinary enrichment opportunities in the areas of science, technology, mathematics, humanities, the arts and social consciousness. 6th graders will engage in two Exploration units this year. In the first unit, "Food for Thought," students will consider how their eating choices affect their community and the world. Learning activities will include writing about a family recipe, learning about the parts of a plant and growing plants from seeds, and learning about food justice and access to healthy food. Each Exploration unit ends with an "Expo," in which students present their learning and families and guests are invited to attend and offer feedback.</p>
Art	<p>During the first cycle of art, students will be introduced to Graphic Novel Illustration, Product Design, Social Justice Art and one-point perspective drawing. We meet live on Zoom for each class after a brief independent drawing warm up. After our meeting students will work asynchronously on their independent work.</p>
Music	<p>Music meets live on Zoom for every class. We begin each class with a listening activity followed by a physical and vocal warmup. We sing a variety of music, study how to play musical instruments, and learn how to read music notation and symbols.</p>
Dance	<p>We meet live on zoom each class! Our first unit is Hip Hop and our second is African Dances. We dance together on zoom and then work in groups or use video links on google classroom to end class.</p>
Theater	<p>We meet live on zoom for each class. We begin Theatre class with 3 minutes of relaxation, followed by Theater activities. We play ensemble building theater games, learn improvisation techniques, engage in playwriting exercises, and work on scene study with partners in breakout rooms. Students reflect on their work verbally and in journals.</p>
Physical Education	<p>We meet live on zoom for every class! Class structure: Stretching, Stretch of Day, Exercise of Day, Essential Question, Topic of Day, Workout and Reflection. During the first cycle our main focus is Fitness. Topics include: 5 components of fitness, 6 related</p>

	components of fitness, HITT (High, Intensity, Interval, Training), Tabata and many others.
Technology	<p>In our first unit, students are learning how to use Google presentation tools. Many kids have previous experience using Google Slides, but we are going deeper into the functionality this software offers and learning about making good design choices. First students created characters representing themselves in Google Drawings, learning how to modify fill and outline colors of shapes and lines, how to arrange layers on a document, and how to group objects. Next students are using these characters to tell a story in Slides, adding text boxes and speech bubbles, creating backdrops, and animating elements using transitions.</p> <p>We almost always meet live on Zoom. Since Computer Apps only meets once per week, when work is not completed during our meeting period, it may be necessary to finish it outside of class time.</p>
Advisory	<p>The advisory program helps support social and emotional learning throughout all grades with a focus on the five interrelated sets of cognitive and behavioral competencies; <i>self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.</i></p>