

# Welcome to MS 442 School for Innovation!

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- 300 students
- Class sizes range from 25 to 30 students
- Currently we have: 5 sixth grade classes, 3 seventh grade and 3 eighth grade classes
- All classes are taught by one general education teacher and one special education teacher in either an Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) class or an ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Nest class
- School begins at 8:00am and ends at 2:20pm
- We share the Bishop Ford Campus with Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School, PS10's PreK (K280), and Stanley Lamm PreK
- Selected as a **New York City Showcase School** for our use of Mastery Based Grading
- The first **Apple Distinguished School** in NYC for our innovation and use of technology

## What makes MS 442 Different?

**Mastery-Based Grading.** In a mastery-based learning environment, students progress by demonstrating independent mastery of learning goals, or outcomes. Goals are transparent from the start. Feedback focuses on crucial next steps to achieve and deepen mastery of skills and content over time. This is different from the traditional method of grading that many are used to. We encourage you to take a look at the Mastery-Based Grading page on our website to learn more: [www.ms442.org/mastery-based-grading](http://www.ms442.org/mastery-based-grading). At the end of each year, students' learning outcomes are translated to traditional number grades.

**Intensives.** In addition to regular core classes, MS 442 students have intensives (additional ELA and Math classes) built into their weekly schedule. Intensives change based on mastery data and allow students on a similar level to be grouped together with students outside of their home class.

- If students are struggling with a topic that others in the class have mastered, students can be grouped in their intensive class to help master that skill.
- If students are mastering content, those students will be grouped together for their intensive and can begin to work on content tied to the standards at the next grade level.

### **Technology.**

- **1:1 Student to Device Ratio:** Students have access to their own MacBook to use throughout the day. The use of technology in the classrooms allows for greater individualization of curriculum so that every student is pushed to their maximum potential and is just one of the many ways students can demonstrate their learning.
- **Technology Class in Every Grade:** Our goal is to transform students from content consumers to content producers. We teach how to productively navigate learning apps like iMovie, Clips, G Suite tools (Google Drive, Docs, Drawings, etc.), and various presentation tools. As students progress, they are exposed to computer programming languages like Swift, HTML, and Javascript. Work is grounded in meaningful, real-world projects and the purpose is clear. We emphasize the importance of being good digital citizens, seeking strategies to effectively research online, and staying safe while connecting with friends through social media.

### **Mentoring.**

- Students meet once a week with their mentor in a small group of 8 students.
- Mentor meetings focus on building community, setting academic goals and fostering positive relationships.

**Uniforms.** MS 442 students wear uniforms to school every day. We believe this helps foster a greater sense of school spirit and community while reducing competition among students. Uniforms consist of a MS 442 logo polo or t-shirt with a basic bottom.

**Homework Policy:** All homework is designed to support the curriculum and to give students the opportunity to extend lessons, practice skills and engage in critical thinking. Homework varies per class but is usually no more than 30-45 minutes a night, with an additional 30 minutes of reading.

**Foreign Language:** Spanish (2 years)

**Regents:** Algebra and Earth Science (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Music:** MS 442 offers band, orchestra, and modern band to all our students. Students have the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments including string and wind instruments and keyboard. (3 years)

**Art:** We focus on many aspects of visual arts such as drawing, painting, and multimedia through digital art programs. We are expanding to include ceramics and sculpture in all grades. (3 years)

**Physical Education:** PE is twice a week and it is not only fun and games but also an opportunity for students to gain confidence and build trust with their peers through many different skill and strength-building activities. (3 years)

**Lockers:** All students are assigned a locker and are able to access before school, before & after lunch, and after school.

**Lunch & Recess:**

- Free lunch is served daily in the cafeteria but students may bring lunch to school.
- Students have access to the schoolyard for recess during their lunch period.
- Lunch Release: One day/week for 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Two days/week for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**In-School Partnerships:**

- Beam Center and Fabrication Lab (Fab Lab): All 6<sup>th</sup> graders engage in hands-on learning workshops with Beam Center in the MS 442 Fab Lab, an advanced digital fabrication laboratory. 6<sup>th</sup> graders design, build, and solder portable boomboxes and build noise makers.
- College Access for All (7<sup>th</sup> Graders): An early college-awareness program that ensures every middle school student will be exposed to a college-going culture. 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to visit at least one college campus and attend college information workshops.
- Algebra for All: A NYC DOE program which infuses algebra into 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade to support all students passing algebra by the end of 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Wediko Children's Services: Wediko is a non-profit organization that provides additional social and emotional support for the students at MS 442. Wediko strives to create a positive school environment for students and their families using a clinical and trauma-informed lens. They provide individual and group counseling based on teacher and parent referrals, as well as classroom support and teacher coaching through a program called Side by Side.

**After School Activities:**

- Wediko Children's Services provides a free after school program at MS 442 on all school days, 2:20 to 5:00pm through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant. They offer a variety of clubs that provide either CORE or emotional learning, including EV3 Robotics, gaming, wiffleball, double dutch, drum line and more.
- **CLUBS:** MS 442 has a variety of free after school clubs including Coding/Robotics, Broadway Jr., Choir, Art Portfolio, Yearbook, Gardening, Ceramics, National Junior Honor Society
- **SPORTS:** Flag Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Track/Cross Country, Soccer

**The High School acceptances for MS 442 grads are as diverse as our students. Here is a small sample of where the 2018 grads ended up:** Art & Design, Beacon, Benjamin Banneker Academy, Boreum Hill School for International Studies, \*Brooklyn Latin, Brooklyn High School of the Arts, Brooklyn Collaborative, \*Brooklyn Tech, Edward R. Murrow HS, Fort Hamilton HS, High School of Telecommunication Arts & Technology, Millennium Brooklyn, Midwood HS, NEST+M, NYC iSchool, NYC Museum School, Park Slope Collegiate, Pathways in Technology Early College HS, Sunset Park High School, Urban Assembly Harbor School, Urban Assembly Gateway School for Technology, Urban Assembly Maker Academy, Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design.