September, 2021

Dear Parents and Students,

We are proud to offer an extensive extra- and co-curricular program at Eastchester Middle School. This program plays a key role in the overall social/emotional developmental and educational program at EMS. This handbook is provided as a guide to the many opportunities presented to our students for activities outside the classroom.

In this handbook, you will find descriptions of our many clubs and activities. As mentioned in our school’s vision, “we want our students to take risks, become well-rounded, and explore new opportunities.” It is our desire to provide a setting that allows for such exploration and establishes a framework in which students learn to make good choices based on personal knowledge and experience. The program described herein is indicative of our commitment to that goal. Students are welcomed and encouraged to seek out the many different experiences that are provided by our varied and diverse activities.

Thank you for taking the time to explore our co-curricular program. Please encourage your children to take full advantage of the many opportunities afforded them at EMS. We look forward to their continued growth and achievement.

Sincerely,

Tom Chickery
Assistant Principal

“Eastchester Middle School is committed to providing a rigorous academic program within a safe, supportive, and understanding learning community.”
**Art Club – Ms. Simeone**  
The Art Club welcomes students who enjoy creating works of art in a relaxed atmosphere. Club members work individually on projects and also in groups. The yearly focus is determined by the interests of the club members. Students from all grades are encouraged to join.

**Chess Club – Mr. McGowan**  
The E.M.S. Chess Club provides a comfortable place for students to learn and play chess. Students can choose to play competitively, or just for fun. Several optional tournaments are held each year. Chess Club meets every Monday from 2:30-3:30.

**Debate Club – Mr. Gibson**  
The Middle School Speech and Debate Club provides students the opportunity to practice public speaking skills by participating in good-natured debates. Topics of the debates range from issues that students are concerned about here at EMS to more serious issues such as gun control and the death penalty. Emphasis is placed on developing techniques that enable students to feel more comfortable speaking in front of others. Debates are held approximately every three weeks. The two weeks leading up to each debate are used for research and preparation.

**History Club – Mr. McGowan**  
The History Club meets every Wednesday from 2:30-3:30. We enjoy movies based on historical events, and use play acting and skits to showcase various people and events. The History Club also has guest speakers who speak to us on a variety of subjects. We have had police officers and firefighters who were present at 9/11, as well as veterans who have served our country. We also learn the history of Eastchester, and often have the town Historian come and visit. We’re constantly looking for ways to enjoy all there is to the subject of history!

**International Club – Mrs. Shay & Mrs. Logan**  
International Club is designed to increase cultural awareness and foster intercultural friendships throughout the school community. Members learn about new cultures while sharing traditions of their own. Club meetings include participating in cultural activities, tasting ethnic foods, and celebrating holidays. All students are welcome!

**Intramurals – Mr. McGee**  
EMS Intramurals are an opportunity for students to participate in a variety of athletic activities with other EMS students. Activities vary by season.

**Notable: A capella Club – Ms. Bonner**  
Do you love to sing? Come join Notable...the A capella club here at EMS! We will be working on performing as a group... without instruments! Notable will meet after school on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30pm in room 111. Come sing and make music with us!

**Ukulele Club – Ms. Bonner**  
Ukulele Club is a group for students looking to play the ukulele! All experience levels allowed. Students can bring their own ukulele (concert size is preferred) or borrow one from the school (first come, first served). We meet after school on Thursdays from 2:30-3:30pm in room 111. Come join us to play and sing your favorite songs!
**Jazz Band** – Ms. Rende
Middle School Jazz Band meets every Thursday after school and is open to students in grades 6-8 that play an instrument. It is a performance-based group exploring many different types of jazz music, culminating in two concert performances in January and June, plus the opportunity to perform at different school events. We even get to perform with the HS Jazz Band!

**Jazz Co./Dance Club** – Ms. Leone, Ms. Kearns, Ms. Martucci & Ms. Monteiro
Jazz Co. is designed to encourage students to develop their abilities in dance. Students will sign up at the end of February and weekly workshops begin in March in preparation for the May show. The dance styles are mainly hip-hop and jazz.

**Players Club** – Ms. Bonner & Ms. Rende
The Middle School Players Club is designed to help students grow as performers and to learn the skills necessary to mount a production of a play. Auditions will be held in October and students who are cast will meet regularly throughout the fall and winter leading to opening night at the end of January. The stage is waiting for you! All it takes to make it in theater is for you to be yourself. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Science Club** – Mrs. Wilson
"Science is Fun! Science is Cool!"
The Science Club will meet Tuesday afternoon from 2:40-3:30 in room 203. It will begin 10/26. As a member of this club, you will further explore Science. Science Club is open to all students in grades 6th-8th. Everyone with an interest in Science is invited. This time will be devoted to:

- Science Demonstrations
- Hands on Experiments
- Discussion about Science Current Events
- Discussions on Science Interests.

**School Newspaper** – Ms. Mejia
Our school newspaper provides information on many topics in a variety of ways. News stories will tell us what's happening on the local, state, national and international scenes. In addition, our school reporters cover sporting events, social happenings, fashion, and technology. Along with our reporters, photographers enhance our paper with many visual presentations. Our objective is to inform, interpret and entertain.

**SPARC (After-School SPIRIT)**
SPIRIT is a 30-week after-school social, recreational program designed for students with special needs. Programs meet for one hour immediately after school dismissal. Specialists develop lesson plans for all activities, choosing instruction and components to assist students in developing appropriate personal skills; goals vary based on the functional and social abilities of student groups. Students will be given time for unstructured mingling when appropriate and engage in goal-oriented activities. Topics of exploration include friendship skills, self-esteem, self-awareness, leadership skills, decision making, independence, community living skills, and techniques for dealing with socially challenging situations.
**Student Council** – Mr. Chertok & Ms. Logan
The Student Council seeks to promote school spirit in the Middle School, as well as to enforce positive connections within the community. This club is comprised of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who will assist in developing a productive and encouraging school climate. Weekly meetings are held, along with fundraising, spirit week, and various school activities (i.e., dances, activity nights, holiday & athletic activities).

**Student Leadership Club** – Mr. Chertok & Ms. Logan
The Student Leadership Club is Eastchester Middle School’s service learning after school program that involves students in community and school based projects that lay the foundation for a life-long commitment to community service. Students involved in this program learn leadership skills, civic responsibility, and commitment to their school and community. Activities and projects focus on developing each student’s leadership and decision-making skills. Activities center on helping others and building school spirit.

**Photography Club** – Mr. Boissonnault
Photography is much more than just having a camera and taking photos. Students in this club have opportunities to hone their skills by understanding and learning about what makes a good photograph, from composition to artistic expression. All levels of experience are welcome and membership is open to all students in grades 6-8 who are interested in photography.

**Yearbook** – Ms. Rende & Ms. Vlad
“Indulge in your imagination” and help the Yearbook Club create and design the entire EMS Yearbook. Collaborate with your peers and bring the school year to life. The Yearbook club is looking for members that are interested in photography, school spirit, digital design or if you’re just looking to try something new; then this is the club for YOU.
## Eastchester Middle School
### Clubs and Activities
#### 2021-2022

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<th>Club/Activity</th>
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<td>Tuesdays - Room 264</td>
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<td>Intramurals</td>
<td>Mr. McGee</td>
<td>Varies by season, listen for announcements</td>
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<td>History Club</td>
<td>Mr. McGowan</td>
<td>Wednesday - Room 232</td>
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<td>Jazz Band</td>
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<td>Jazz Co./Dance Club (Second Semester)</td>
<td>Ms. Leone, Director, Ms. Kearns, Ms. Martucci, Ms. Monteiro</td>
<td>6th Grade Girls – Thurs &amp; Fri, 7th Grade Girls – Wednesdays, 8th Grade Girls – Mon &amp; Tues, 6, 7, 8th Grade Boys – Mondays, Various Locations</td>
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<td>Players Club</td>
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<td>Listen for Announcements</td>
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<td>SPARC (After-School SPIRIT)</td>
<td>Various Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yearbook</td>
<td>Ms. Rende &amp; Ms. Vlad</td>
<td>Wednesdays - Room H136 (across from nurse)</td>
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