



**PS/IS 366: Washington Heights Academy**

*A Neighborhood Learning Community for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8*

*Mercedes Diaz, Assistant Principal*

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Dear Grade 8 Families:

We are honored to be working with your children during their final year at PS/IS 366: Washington Heights Academy! One of our primary goals as the Grade 8 Team is to maintain strong home-school connections, and to ensure that all of our students have a positive and productive school year. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns or questions.

**Curriculum and Instruction**

We will use a variety of rigorous and engaging curriculum programs that adhere to the New York State Standards in all content areas.

- We will draw upon *Code X*, *Expeditionary Learning* and *Passport to Social Studies* in a **Humanities** curriculum that addresses a wide variety of content, concepts and skills. To develop interdisciplinary awareness, Social Studies will often be integrated with English Language Arts.
- In **Math**, we will use the *enVision Mathematics* curriculum to practice skills and explore concepts that will prepare students for success in high school and beyond. Students who qualify for Grade 8 Algebra will have the opportunity to take the Algebra Regents in June.
- In **Science** we will integrate the principles of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) through hands-on, inquiry based learning activities, projects and assignments.

Below are some of the topics and themes to be covered in Math and ELA at the start of the year.

	<b>Math</b>	<b>Humanities</b>
<b>Unit of Study 1</b>	Exponents and Scientific Notation	<u>College 101</u> : Students will examine how teens set themselves apart to get into colleges, and consider what will be necessary for success as higher education evolves to meet the future.
<b>Unit of Study 2</b>	Functions and Proportional Relationships	<u>Survivor</u> : Through a combination of classic and contemporary texts, students will discover how authors develop characters with the strength to survive extreme environments.

The Grade 8 Team will also support all students with the High School application process. Throughout the year, students will continue to prepare for the transition to high school and beyond.

## Learning Activities

Students will practice key concepts and skills through a variety of learning activities, and will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned. Each unit of study will include:

- Pre- and post-assessments to show how students have grown from beginning to end of the unit
- Daily homework checks and regular assessments to gauge student learning throughout the unit
- Frequent written assignments in all content areas to reinforce and extend student learning
- Collaborative learning activities in which students work in groups, share knowledge, clarify misunderstandings, and support each other's mastery of the learning targets
- Special projects through which students may express individual understandings and interpretations

## Classroom Expectations

To achieve their full potential, all students must be on time, in uniform, prepared with homework and supplies, and fully attentive every day. Please keep in mind the following:

- Homework will be assigned every day. Please make sure your child completes each assignment with care.
- All students must be prepared for school each day with homework and other necessary materials.
- Please review and reinforce school and classroom rules and responsibilities with your child.

## Home-School Connections

We look forward to working closely with all families to support students' progress and to celebrate their growth. We hope to see you at Open School Night, Report Card Conferences, Student Recognition Ceremonies, and other special events throughout the year.

We are available by appointment on a weekly basis (Tuesdays, 2:45-3:15). If you would like to set up an appointment, you may contact us at the email addresses below, leave a phone message in the Main Office (212-304-3320), or send a note with your child. We look forward to sharing a wonderful academic year with you and your children!

Sincerely,

**Mr. Michael Sinatra**  
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## Open School Night

**Wednesday, September 25**

*Please come and learn more about curriculum and instruction, classroom expectations, special events, and how we can make this a successful school year for all of our students.*