



FAQs

What are the school hours?

9:00 AM - 3:20 PM

Where do I go when I arrive at school?

Enter the school via the doors to the left of the main entrance (closer to 78th St.) and go left, directly to the large cafeteria. At 8:35 AM doors open and breakfast is available (details below). Unless attending Open Gym, in which students must arrive prior to 8:35, all students in the cafeteria must wait to be escorted upstairs by Advisors at 9:00 AM.

What is Open Gym?

Open Gym takes place Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM. Students must use the main entrance and go directly to the small gym on the 5th floor via the main staircase. During this time, students are permitted to play basketball and other games before the beginning of the school day. Students must check-in with the teacher-in-charge upon arrival. Students may leave open gym at 8:35 AM to go to breakfast, but must then remain in the cafeteria until they are escorted to Advisory at 9:00 AM.

Are parents permitted to enter the building for arrival and dismissal?

No. Parents must remain outside of the building at arrival and dismissal.

What if my student needs to leave school before dismissal?

If a student has to leave school early for any reason, prepare your child in advance.

Parents/Guardians/Caregivers must go up the stairs to the main office on the 4th floor when arriving to pick up a child before dismissal. Staff members cannot bring students down to the Security desk. This person MUST be listed on the student's blue card, otherwise the child will not be released. Please note that in order to enter the school building, the adult on the blue card must show a valid ID.

What if I arrive late to school?

School starts at 9:00 AM and each child should be in his/her/their Advisory seat at 9:05 AM. If a child comes to school late, he/she/they should bring a note explaining the reason for the late arrival, particularly so the event can be coded as 'explained' - the note allows us to understand that the lateness was not caused by the child. Please realize that a note does not reverse the fact that a child's arrival to school was late and the lateness will still appear on their record. The

note should be brought to the main office and given to Ms. Morales or Ms. Williams. Your child must then sign-in at the main office on the 4th floor before proceeding to Advisory or class. If the student does not sign-in upon arrival, he/she/they will be marked absent.

What do I do if my student is ill or not able to come to school?

Please call Iris Morales (917-432-5413) to inform her of the situation. Upon his/her/their return to school, have your student bring a Doctor's note or other pertinent documentation to the main office.

How do I get a student MetroCard?

Students residing within a given distance from the school may be provided with an MTA MetroCard allowing them to ride to/from school on school days only. The type of pass a student receives is pre-determined by the DOE, based on each student's official home address. YEMS does not determine if a student is to receive a MetroCard or the type they receive (half/full fare). Eligible students will receive two passes during the school year, one in September and one at the beginning of the second term. If your student misplaces his/her/their MetroCard, it may take 1-2 weeks before a replacement card can be issued.

For assistance on transportation-related concerns and questions, contact Iris Morales at IMorales@ms177.org.

Does YEMS have a dress code?

While we are not a uniform school, we still have expectations for student dress. Clothing that disrupts learning or the school community should not be worn in school. Thus, clothing should be clean, neat, sized appropriately (not too tight or too loose), and should not reveal underwear or too much skin. We do not allow hats, hoods, beads or durags. These items must be removed upon entering the building.

Students who wear inappropriate clothing, including clothing with profanity or derogatory messages, will be provided alternatives at school and/or asked to call parents/guardians to bring a change of clothes.

What classes will be on my schedule?

Students are grouped into Advisories with whom they travel throughout the majority of the school day. In addition to AM and PM Advisory, there are 8 periods each day. Periods are approximately 45 minutes in length. Throughout the course of the week, all students will take:

- 7 Periods of ELA
- 7 Periods of Mathematics
- 5 Periods of Social Studies
- 5 Periods of Science
- 2-3 Periods of Spanish
- 2-3 Periods of Art

- 2-3 Periods of Physical Education/Health
- 3 Periods of Cerebral Diversity
- 1 Period of Extended Advisory

What is Jupiter Ed?

Yorkville East uses Jupiter Ed, an online grading system on which to record student grades and track student progress. Families are encouraged to log on to the system to monitor how their child is doing in their various classes. Generally speaking, grades are entered within a week of the assignment's due date, but please note that teachers require ample time for grading and providing quality feedback to children on their work.

What is the Grading Policy?

The academic year is comprised of four Marking Periods. Students receive number grades ranging from 55% to 100%. No child will receive a grade lower than 55%, which is considered a failing grade on their STARS report card. This may differ from a child's grade in Jupiter Ed as Jupiter Ed is a reflection of the teacher's grade book. Grades will be updated in our Jupiter Ed system so that Advisors, students and parents can track student progress throughout the Marking Period.

Progress Reports are backpacked halfway through each Marking Period, and Report Cards are backpacked about two weeks after the end of each marking period. Parents/Guardians should sign and return these reports to the child's Advisors.

What is the Homework policy?

In accordance with the Chancellor's Regulations, homework is considered to be a vital component of the learning process. The total average time spent on homework for all subjects is approximately 1.5 hours daily. This does not include 30 minutes of independent reading. Individual teachers assign between 20-30 minutes of homework each night, and utilize Jupiter Ed to communicate homework completion to parents and students.

How do I get in touch with teachers?

The most efficient way to communicate with teachers is via email. All Yorkville East staff members utilize school-based email and check those emails regularly. Messages for school staff can be sent to these email addresses or our Jupiter Ed system. Please allow 24-48 hours during the work week for a teacher to respond to your correspondence. Teachers are not expected to return work emails on the weekend.

What if I want to change my Advisory?

Students receive their September classroom assignments over the summer. Yorkville East Middle School does not accept requests for class assignments. Once placement decisions are made, changes to an Advisory assignment will not be considered. Changes to an Advisory

assignment may be made, however, if a student requires an IEP (Individual Education Plan) or as a result of a modification to an IEP.

Do students take the New York State Tests?

All students participate in the New York State testing program. 6th and 7th graders take two exams, the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. In 8th grade, students take the NYS ELA, Algebra I Regents Exam and the NYS Science test. Grading for the NYS ELA, Math and Science tests is on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being "Exceeds the learning standards", 3 being "Meets the learning standards", 2 being "Partially meets the learning standards or meets part of the learning standards" and 1 being "Shows serious academic problems." The Algebra I Regents Exam uses a 1-5 grading scale instead of 1-4, and provides students with numerical grades as well ranging from 1-100.

What is the cell phone policy?

All students may use cell phones before school begins and after school ends outside of the school premises. These devices must be kept out of sight in the students' backpack and turned off during the instructional day, including on-site lunch and recess, before/after school programs, and during school-sponsored activities, such as field trips.

In the event a student is found using a cellular phone in violation of this policy, the school will consider the following consequences. Such measures may include but are not limited to:

- Student will be given a warning
- Confiscation of cell phone and returned at end of school day
- Confiscation of cell phone and returned to parent/guardian following a conference
- Revocation of privilege to bring item to school.

**This policy extends to ear buds, headphones and all other electronic devices as well.

Please visit the 'Resources' tab on our website, ms177.org, for the link to the cell phone policy in its entirety.

May I bring a snack to school?

Yes. Students are permitted to bring a healthy snack to be consumed at the beginning of 3rd period at 10:53 AM. Please note, sugary snacks/drinks are not allowed and will be confiscated. Water is the only beverage to be consumed during this time.

For our complete healthy snack policy, please visit the 'Resources' tab on our website, ms177.org.

What meals are available at Yorkville East?

Breakfast and lunch are free to all students.

Breakfast is served between 8:35 AM – 8:55 AM. Students who arrive at school between 8:35 AM - 9:00 AM are required to go to the large cafeteria, even if they do not eat breakfast. Students who arrive before 8:35 AM are required to go to Open Gym.

Lunch is served between 1:10 PM - 1:45 PM in the small cafeteria. In addition to eating lunch, students will have approximately 20 minutes of recess time in the yard (weather permitting).