

Advisory Program

In Fifth through Eighth Grade, students are assigned to a faculty advisor who oversees a small group of students. The advisor serves as a support, advocate, and mentor for the students in their group, and they meet on a weekly basis for planned activities and discussion based around the school-wide character trait of the month. The advisory program is designed to provide an opportunity for each student to develop a close relationship with a member of the faculty, who works in concert with all of the student's teachers to create a positive academic, social, and emotional school experience. The advisor supports students in managing all aspects of school life and helps students develop positive character traits and strong decision-making skills. Advisors have frequent, open communication with parents about student growth and progress, and parents are encouraged to contact the advisor for help in handling any concerns.

Athletics

At East Woods, Fifth through Eighth Grade students participate in interscholastic sports. There are generally teams in soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, cross country, and lacrosse. For an additional fee, any boy or girl in Fifth Grade through Eighth Grade can choose to play ice hockey in the winter. Within the athletic program, emphasis is placed on developing proper technique and skills, learning sportsmanship and teamwork, and building a foundation for an active, healthy lifestyle.

Enhanced Curriculum

In Fifth Grade, the students are required to take art, music, drama, technology, and library as part of their scheduled classes, much like the Lower School schedule. Each of these classes meets for a forty minute period, once per week. The Fifth Grade curriculum focuses on bridging the gap between the Lower School schedule and the block scheduling curriculum offered in Sixth through Eighth Grade.



In Sixth through Eighth Grade, the Enhanced Curriculum subjects of art, health, information technology, and music are offered in multi-week blocks, two blocks per term. Students meet four times per week for fifty-five minutes. The Enhanced

Curriculum faculty members provide various electives for the students to choose from based on their interests. All students are required to take health and informational technology once throughout the course of each year, and all Eighth Grade students are required to participate in the creation of the school yearbook.

Drama: Fifth Grade

The Fifth Grade presents a theatrical performance every winter, chosen by

and cooperation, audition technique, following stage directions, vocal technique, learning dance steps and choreography, creating a character, reading music, projection on stage, and proper diction. Students are also involved in creating and painting the set during this time. The performance is given in December to a thrilled audience of students, parents, friends and family.

Drama: Sixth through Eighth Grade

All Sixth through Eighth Grade students are required to participate in the annual Upper School musical as actors, stage hands, set designers, or musicians. Through the rehearsal and performance process, students enhance and stretch their emotional and physical skills and learn that solutions to problems can take many forms. Students observe, listen to directions, follow complicated instructions, and work as a collaborative team. The critical thinking skills students use in performance include mental alertness, attention to sequence and detail, and memorization. Every rehearsal and performance provides the students the opportunity to communicate their ideas, feelings, experiences, memories, hopes, and dreams. With guidance from the creative team, faculty, and parents, this production is a highly anticipated annual event.

the drama teacher. Beginning in September, the drama teacher works with the students four times per week. Students explore all facets of participating in a musical, from auditioning to the final performance. Throughout this course, students work on skills such as teamwork



Art: Fifth Grade

In Fifth Grade, students advance from the Lower School foundation to explore multi-layered ideas that encompass varying aspects of the art making process. Open discussions of artists, their work and background are encouraged, ranging from art history to contemporary. The teacher-led experiential approach is to nurture desire and interest in the subject, encourage individual style, develop skills as a participant,

and build appreciation of the working process of an artist. Integral to the program is an introduction to theatre where students are guided through a collaboration to design and create the scenery for their annual production. The year-long curriculum includes working in two and three-dimensions through a variety of media such as soft and oil pastel, tempera and acrylic, and plaster and clay.

Art: Sixth through Eighth Grade

The elective art courses are designed to develop an appreciation for the arts. Students engage in exploration and discussions of art history, contemporary art, and of artists, their work and background. Theme-based projects are created depending on student interests. Various offerings have included "Concepts in Cubism" (painting and drawing) and "Tribal Mask Making" (plaster construction). Team-taught, interdisciplinary courses have also been offered such as the "Warhol Project," in which students explored art, industrial arts, and technology in creating their projects. Offerings such as an introduction to printmaking techniques, clay-hand building, and working on the potter's wheel offer process and experimentation as a theme. All courses focus on building skills in problem solving as well as techniques in various media. Museum visits to exhibitions related to course topics also enrich the curriculum.

As part of the annual Upper School musical production, students discover the backstage workings of theater in a Scenery and Set Design course in a nine-week, team-taught course. As set builders, students use hand and power tools in constructing set structures and individual props. As scenic painters, students work closely with reference photographs in designing sets. Basic and intermediate construction and a variety of textural painting surfaces and sculpture techniques are explored. During rehearsals

and at performances, students serve as stage crew. This course also includes a field trip to television and film stage sets and media museum visits.

Health: Sixth through Eighth Grade

All Sixth through Eighth Grade students are required to take Health for one block, which runs four days a week for four weeks. While the general topics are the same for the three grades, the information and concepts taught become progressively more complex and extensive over time. Functional health knowledge is taught to assist students in knowing how to keep themselves safe, live a healthy lifestyle, and achieve overall health and wellness. The following topics are also included in the curriculum: self-management, relationship management, stress management, substance abuse prevention, human sexuality, communication, planning and goal setting, decision making, and advocacy. In all grades, students' specific concerns and interests direct the curriculum and its focus of content.

Library: Fifth Grade

Students attend one forty minute class per week. Instruction guides students to demonstrate proficiency in previously taught information literacy skills and to apply them to classroom research assignments. Students learn the skills needed for formal report writing and effective oral presentations and participate in activities that promote inquiry-based learning such as the Invention



Convention. Students read and learn to respond to literature in various formats including text-based questions and student-generated book reviews.

Music: Fifth Grade

The goal of Fifth Grade general music is for students to continue to build a lifelong and meaningful connection with music. This class focuses on Western Classical Music, as well as American Popular Music and World Music. The development of critical thinking skills and overall musicianship continues from the previous years of study. Based on student interest, this class has used digital recording technology in order to explore contemporary music production. Students are introduced and guided through the use of the technology and software needed to create professional sounding

recordings. Through a sequence of projects, students explore the multifaceted roles and responsibilities of artists, musicians, engineers, producers, songwriters, and arrangers.

Technology: Fifth Grade

In Fifth Grade, students attend one forty minute technology class per week. The students are provided an email address to use within East Woods School and for online learning on specific websites. Internet Safety and Netiquette are reinforced at this time. Through a combination of lessons from Common Sense Media, EverFi and NetSmartz, student skills are reinforced about Internet safety, copyright and privacy. Students continue to build upon previously learned skills and apply them to new programs. Fifth Grade students

are introduced to all of the tools within the Google Suite for Education platform: Docs (Microsoft Word), Slides (PowerPoint), Sheets (Excel). This platform allows for collaboration with teachers and peers. Students are introduced to 3D printing through the use of Tinkercad. Students create unique key chains initially drawing to scale and then translating their ideas to Tinkercad using various shapes to complete their drawing. Programming skills continue to develop as students complete courses in the Code.org curriculum and move on to Scratch to create their own animated game.

Throughout an East Woods School student's career, they are exposed to keyboarding both formally and informally, again building upon previously learned skills. In Fifth Grade, students spend one term increasing their keyboarding skills through touch-typing. Students are evaluated on proper form and accuracy, not speed.

Students in Fifth Grade also attend the Makerspace. This space allows each child to be creative and explore a wide variety of topics which include technology, computer coding, engineering, design, woodworking, movie-making, manipulatives, and crafting. Creativity can take many forms from idea generation to problem-solving. The Makerspace is dedicated to hands-on creativity and imagination.



Information Technology: Sixth through Eighth Grade

The focus of the Information Technology Program for students in Sixth through Eighth Grades is on the refinement and independent application of skills used in the research process and the utilization of appropriate technologies to communicate ideas and information to others. Students come to the library and technology labs for intensive, multi-week blocks of integrated instruction. Although the final products vary and may include term papers, debates, individual projects of personal interest, or interdisciplinary multimedia projects, the process of information analysis and organization is a consistent thread running through all activities. Information technology skills increase in depth and scope, as students develop specific competencies and good digital citizenship practices. Students utilize six-week blocks to create multimedia projects that interconnect various class instruction with Informational Technology. These projects are a culmination of skills learned throughout their years at East Woods School. Eighth Grade students also learn page layout design and are responsible for creating and organizing *The Echo*, the East Woods School yearbook.



Makerspace: Sixth through Eighth Grade

The Makerspace is a collaborative workshop where students can gain hands-on experience to design and build projects. It is designed to provide students with a space to get together, create, and explore topics of interest which include technology, computer coding, engineering, design, woodworking, movie-making, manipulatives, and crafting. Creativity can take many forms from idea generation to problem-solving. Students also have the ability to work with virtual reality technology allowing them to experience 3-D.

Band and Chorus: Fifth through Eighth Grade

The music curriculum provides students with a variety of experiences, both instrumental and vocal. Students in Fifth through Eighth Grade meet two to four times per week to prepare for select performances throughout the year. The curriculum introduces and develops the skills fundamental to being a good musician: note reading, rhythm reading, listening, and practicing. East Woods feels that arts are essential to the whole education of a child, so participation in Band or

Chorus is mandatory for all students. The Band and Chorus rehearse twice each week to prepare for the Holiday Concert, Spring Concert, Commencement Ceremony, and other various performance opportunities.

Community Service: Fifth through Eighth Grade

In the spirit of working globally, nationally, and locally, our community service program allows students to participate in many different ways. There are a number of hands-on projects including recycling every Wednesday before school, the Homework Tutor Program at the Family Service League, visiting senior citizens at a local assisted living facility, participating in Trick or Treat for UNICEF, lending a hand at the Fall and Spring Coastal Clean-Ups in Oyster Bay, helping out running games at the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery Fall and Spring Festivals, supporting the Shoe, Clothing, Toy, Toiletries, and Food Drives, helping at the Project Hope Soup Kitchen in Huntington Station, participating in community runs or walks for charity, and singing at a local Senior Center. Students are encouraged to build upon their interests and passions, and students may also take the initiative to support a cause or project that is meaningful to him or her.

Student Council: Fifth through Eighth Grade

The Student Council of East Woods School is a student organization whose members are elected from Fifth through Eighth Grades to represent the



students and to serve the best interests of the student body. All East Woods School students have the opportunity to run for Student Council, and two representatives are elected from each class. Through participating in weekly meetings and organizing events over the course of the year, the Student Council fosters unity within the student body, and its members show leadership, responsibility, and good citizenship.

Culture Club: Seventh and Eighth Grade

The East Woods Culture Club is made up of students in Seventh and Eighth Grade, and the club members participate in a variety of cultural experiences in New York City. From attending sporting events, to touring the NBC studios, each outing allows students to see and experience new things and to bond with each other.

Theater Club: Seventh and Eighth Grade

The East Woods Theater Club gives students in Seventh and Eighth Grade an opportunity to see major Broadway and Off-Broadway shows four times per year. The trips into the city include lunch

at some of New York's most famous attractions and then excursions to see shows such as *Cats*, *The Lion King*, and *All Shook Up*. On occasion, cast members from the shows are able to join the students at the end of the show to discuss life in the theater, share thoughts on the show, and answer questions from the students.

Trips: Fifth through Eighth Grade

The Upper School takes an overnight trip every September. Students in Fifth through Eighth Grades participate in the following types of activities: ropes challenges, salt marsh exploration, fishing, kayaking, and marine archaeology. In addition to the activities provided by the camp, the students also complete team building exercises aimed at allowing students to get to know each other on a different level. In the spring, students in Fifth through Eighth Grade take overnight trips focused around their curriculum that provide hands-on learning experiences. Trips have been taken to Philadelphia, Boston, New York City, Chicago, Williamsburg, and to the Dolphin Research Center in Florida.