

# Manhasset Middle School



## 6th Grade Parent Orientation

### ***Class of 2030***

***February 28, 2024***



**Rich Roder**  
**Secondary School Principal**  
**267-7605**

*RRoder@manhassetsschools.org*



**Paulette Williams**  
**Interim Assistant Principal**  
**267-7501**

*Paulette\_Williams@manhassetsschools.org*

**Margaret Ronai**  
**Interim Assistant Principal**

**267-7637**

*Margaret\_Ronai@manhassetsschools.org*

## ***District Directors & Coordinators***

|  |                            |                 |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Secondary Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services</b><br><i>Stewart_Grabelsky@manhassetschools.org</i> | <b>Stewart Grabelsky</b>   | <b>267-7672</b> |
| <b>School Counseling Services</b><br><i>Kerry_Fallon@manhassetschools.org</i>                                    | <b>Ms. Kerry Fallon</b>    | <b>267-7611</b> |
| <b>Instructional Technology</b><br><i>Richard_Sevilla@manhassetschools.org</i>                                   | <b>Dr. Richard Sevilla</b> | <b>267-7533</b> |
| <b>Physical Education, Health, &amp; Athletics</b><br><i>Christine_Raffo@manhassetschools.org</i>                | <b>Christine Raffo</b>     | <b>267-7551</b> |
| <b>Fine and Performing Arts</b><br><i>Joseph_Owens@manhasetschools.org</i>                                       | <b>Dr. Joseph Owens</b>    | <b>267-7645</b> |
| <b>English, Reading, and Libraries</b><br><i>Rebecca_chowske@manhassetschools.org</i>                            | <b>Dr. Rebecca Chowske</b> | <b>267-7582</b> |
| <b>Mathematics &amp; Business</b><br><i>Lauren_Tallarine@manhassetschools.org</i>                                | <b>Lauren Tallarine</b>    | <b>267-7570</b> |
| <b>World Language, ENL</b><br><i>Christina_Lang@manhassetschools.org</i>   | <b>Christina Lang</b>      | <b>267-7685</b> |
| <b>Science, Technology</b><br><i>Teresa_McGrath@manhassetschools.org</i>   | <b>Dr. Teresa McGrath</b>  | <b>267-7560</b> |
| <b>Social Studies</b><br><i>Frank_LaBianca@manhassetschools.org</i>  | <b>Frank LaBianca</b>      | <b>267-7576</b> |



## ***Middle School Support Staff (267-7511)***

**Mr. Gavin Gandulla** – *Blue Team Counselor*

*[gavin\\_gandulla@manhasset.schools.org](mailto:gavin_gandulla@manhasset.schools.org)*

**Ms. Jennifer Barbieri-Smith**– *Social Worker*

*[jennifer\\_barbieri-smith@manhasset.schools.org](mailto:jennifer_barbieri-smith@manhasset.schools.org)*

**Ms. Brittany Moloney**- *Orange Team Counselor*

*[brittany\\_moloney@manhasset.schools.org](mailto:brittany_moloney@manhasset.schools.org)*

**Ms. Stephanie San Antonio**–*School Psychologist*

*[stephanie\\_sanantonio@manhasset.schools.org](mailto:stephanie_sanantonio@manhasset.schools.org)*

# MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCES

## The People and Places Every Student Should Know

(Located on team websites)

### **Middle School Counseling Center**

Ms. Moloney - Orange  
Mr. Gandulla – Blue  
Ms. San Antonio– School Psychologist  
Ms. Barberi-Smith– Social Worker

### **The best first steps if you need academic assistance are:**

1. Subject teachers
2. Counselor/Assistant Principal
3. Parents/Guardians

### **Math Lab**

Room 163  
Monday thru Friday  
7:30 AM – 3:08 PM  
Ms. John

### **MS Computer Lab**

Room 271  
Monday thru Friday 8:08 AM – 3:08 PM  
Ms. Scharf & Mr. Mashburn & Mr. Savold



### **Tutoring**

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| National Honor Society: | Mrs. Tallarine  |
| Math Honor Society:     | Mr. Rupp        |
| Science Honor Society:  | Mr. DeFilippis  |
| French Honor Society:   | Mr. Maginier    |
| Italian Honor Society:  | Ms. Scaldaferri |
| Spanish Honor Society:  | Ms. Wiley       |

### **Writing Center**

Room 275  
Monday-Friday 7:30-3:08pm  
Ms. Thornton  
267-7583

### **Peer Responders**

Mr. Koondel, Advisor  
AP English students provide assistance with writing assignments

**Available every period in the  
ACC and/or Writing Center**

### **Language Lab**

Room 260  
Monday-Friday 7:30-3:08pm  
Ms. PJ

# Parent-School Connection

SCA: MS President -Dianne Tolentino

Email: [MSpresident@manhassetzca.org](mailto:MSpresident@manhassetzca.org)

Website: [www.manhassetzca.org](http://www.manhassetzca.org)

\*SCA Monthly Meetings

\*Volunteering Opportunities

**SCA Transitional Panel**

**Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m.**

**Blackbox Theatre**



Manhasset  
School Community  
Association



# **Transition Timeline From May to September**

## **Lunch on the Lawn**

Orientation for 6th Grade Students at Middle School

**May 24<sup>th</sup> (during the school day)**

## **The Annual Marie Rogers Friday Night Live**

Munsey Park and Shelter Rock students engage in ice breaker activities, building tours, and a pizza dinner.

**June 7<sup>th</sup> 5:15 p.m. –7:00 p.m.**

## **School Counselors Visit Elementary Schools**

Counselors will facilitate a question and answer session with students.

**June (during the school day)**

## **Summer Visit to Middle School**

Student schedules and locker combinations are posted to the parent portal. Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to visit the school to tour the building and locate their classrooms.

**Late August**

**BLUE**

# **Teaming**

**ORANGE**

**Approximately 120 students per team.**

**Students are randomly and evenly distributed between the two teams.**

**One school counselor per team:**

**Mr. Gandulla (Blue)**

**Ms. Moloney (Orange)**



# **Opening Day Special Schedule for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders**

**Seventh grade students do not attend regular classes until the second day of school.**

## **Schedule of Orientation Day**

- 8:08 to 9:00 a.m.** Welcome meeting with Principal and Assistant Principals, staff members, including fall sports coaches
- 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.** Welcome meetings with team teachers & Counseling staff
- 11:15 to 1:00 p.m.** Dignity Act Presentation, Project Adventure, SCA lunch
- 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.** Meeting with team teachers, locker setup, review supply list, and forum on school life
- 2:30 to 3:08 p.m.** Pep Rally

# Health Office

Jill McCarney, Lead Nurse, RN  
Christina Kalamotousakis, RN, MS

- Medications / MD Orders
- Illness / Injury
- Physicals / Health History / Family ID
  - Meningococcal A vaccine



# *Middle School Classes*

## **Major Subject Courses**

English 7

Social Studies 7

Math (7R, 7 Acc, 8, Algebra I Honors)

Science 7, Earth Science H

World Language (*French I-1, Italian I-1, Spanish I-1, Chinese I-1*)

## **Exploratory Courses**

Computer Applications, Theater, Business and Career  
Explorations, Technology, Music,

## **Support Services**

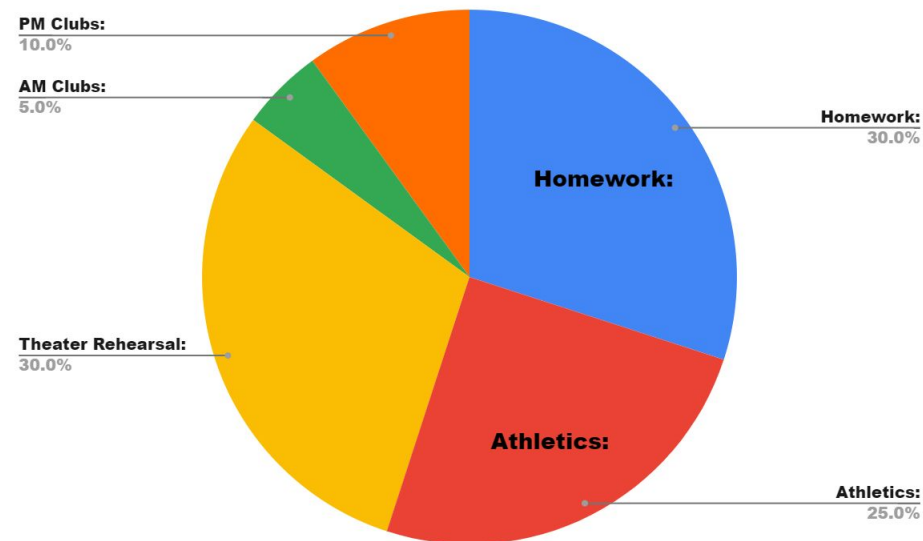
Transitions

Academic Intervention Services, Special Education Support

## *Striking the perfect balance...*

- Homework: 1 – 2 hours per night (not including weekends)
- Athletics: 2 – 2 ½ hours per day (after school)
- Theater Practices: 3 hours per day (in-season)
- Clubs: 30 minutes (AM clubs), 1 hour (PM clubs)

- ***All before or after the 8:08 AM – 3:08 PM school day***
- ***NOT including personal outside activities (e.g. travel sports, tutoring, music lessons, etc.)***



# Middle School Clubs and Activities

| Activity                          | Advisor                   | Activity                                     | Advisor                      |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <i>1680 Club</i>                  | Mr. Smith                 | <i>Mathletes</i>                             | Ms. Lee                      |
| <i>Art Club</i>                   | Ms. Tripi                 | <i>National Junior Honor Society</i>         | Ms. Sepe                     |
| <i>Broadcast Journalism</i>       | Dr. Coleman               | <i>Photography Club</i>                      | Ms. Macumber                 |
| <i>CASA Set Connect</i>           | Dr. Held                  | <i>Science Olympiad - Jr.</i>                | TBD                          |
| <i>Chief Yearbook</i>             | Ms. Pellegrino            | <i>Science Fiction Club</i>                  | Miss Zaso                    |
| <i>Coding Club</i>                | Mr. Mashburn              | <i>STAR - Students Taking an Active Role</i> | Ms. Moloney<br>Ms. Margulies |
| <i>Cultural Club</i>              | Ms. Wong<br>Ms. Dillworth | <i>Theatre</i>                               | Ms. DiCarlo                  |
| <i>Government – Middle School</i> | Mr. Shapiro<br>Ms. Diaz   | <i>Jazz Ensemble</i>                         | Mr. Sisco                    |

# Social Activities

**September** Welcome Dance

**October** Halloween Party/Dance (sponsored by SCA)

**June** BBQ / End of Year Dance



## Role of the Counselor

Ms. Kerry Fallon – Director of School Counseling Services  
Kerry\_Fallon@manhassetchools.org 267-7611

- Transition activities/program
- Individual and Group Counseling (as needed)
- Attend and participate at Team meetings
- Attend and participate in CSE and IST meetings
- Monitor academic progress
- Communicate with teachers and parents
- Participate in career exploration activities
- Conduct family conferences
- Serve as student and family advocate
- Wellness Learning Center (see following images)















**Special Education**  
**Stewart Grabelsky**

**Director for Secondary Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services**  
**Stewart\_Grabelsky@manhassetchools.org 267-7672**

**Related Services**

- Speech/Language Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Mandated Counseling

**Resource Room**

- Time Management
- Task Completion
- Study Skills
- Organizational Skills

**Integrated Co-Teaching**

- Students recommended for this program will participate in general education classes but need the assistance of a special education teacher in the classroom to manage the demands of the curriculum.

**Special Class Support**

- Provides pre and post teaching of the curriculum to assist students recommended for the Integrated Co-Teaching class.

**Special Class Subject Program**

- For students with special needs that may require a modified approach to meet their individual educational needs.

\* All Recommendations must be made by the Committee on Special Education



**English Department: English 7**  
**Dr. Rebecca Chowske**  
**rebecca\_chowske@manhasset schools.org 267-7582**



***Literature:*** Introduction to young adult contemporary and classic works; both teams read a core of texts, each team reads teacher-chosen texts, and students read independently selected works.

***Writing:*** Instruction includes exposition, argument, creative, portfolio, and research.

***The Writing Process:*** Includes pre- and post-writing: organizing, drafting and editing; peer review, teacher-led conferences, and the research process.

***Vocabulary, Grammar:***

- Vocabulary is taught in conjunction with literature (vocabulary in context).
- Spelling is regularly tested.
- Grammar and Usage: Students learn grammar essentials through mini-lessons and writing to master conventions.

***ELA Preparation:*** Is embedded throughout the year. Additional practice is offered prior to the assessment.



**English Department: English 7**  
**Dr. Rebecca Chowske, Director**  
**rebecca\_chowske@manhassetschools.org 267-7582**



**Enrichment and Support Opportunities:**  
**English and Reading**

***Enrichment:***

- Students are encouraged to write for publication, including for *Manhasset Media*; portfolio projects and presentation are central to the curriculum.
- Challenging activities and readings give students high level, Pre-AP opportunities.
- Extended research is included in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English classes.
- Writing contests offer opportunities to submit poems, essays and creative pieces; Manhasset students regularly win regional and national recognition.

***Academic Support:***

- Students are recommended from 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Reading classes to reading or Writing Workshop.
- All students are given opportunity for extra ELA practice prior to testing.
- Peer Responder program assists students and is organized in conjunction with the English Honor Society; upper-level students work with middle school students on English and other subjects and to improve overall study skills development.

**Math/Business Department Director: Lauren Tallarine**  
**lauren\_tallarine@manhassetsschools.org**  
**267-7570**

- **We will examine a student's entire profile to determine proper placement in math (e.g. course/final exam grades, assessment scores, teacher feedback, academic behaviors).**
- **Letters are sent in late June to each 6<sup>th</sup> grade family informing them of their child's 7<sup>th</sup> grade math placement.**
- **Students are closely monitored in 7th grade and adjustments are made during the first half of the school year, when warranted.**
- **Students should be challenged, not overwhelmed, in their math course.**





**Math/Business Department Director: Lauren Tallarine**  
**lauren\_tallarine@manhassetschools.org**  
**267-7570**

## **ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL FLOWCHART**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Math in Focus**

**Math 7**

**Math 8**

**Math 7 Accelerated**

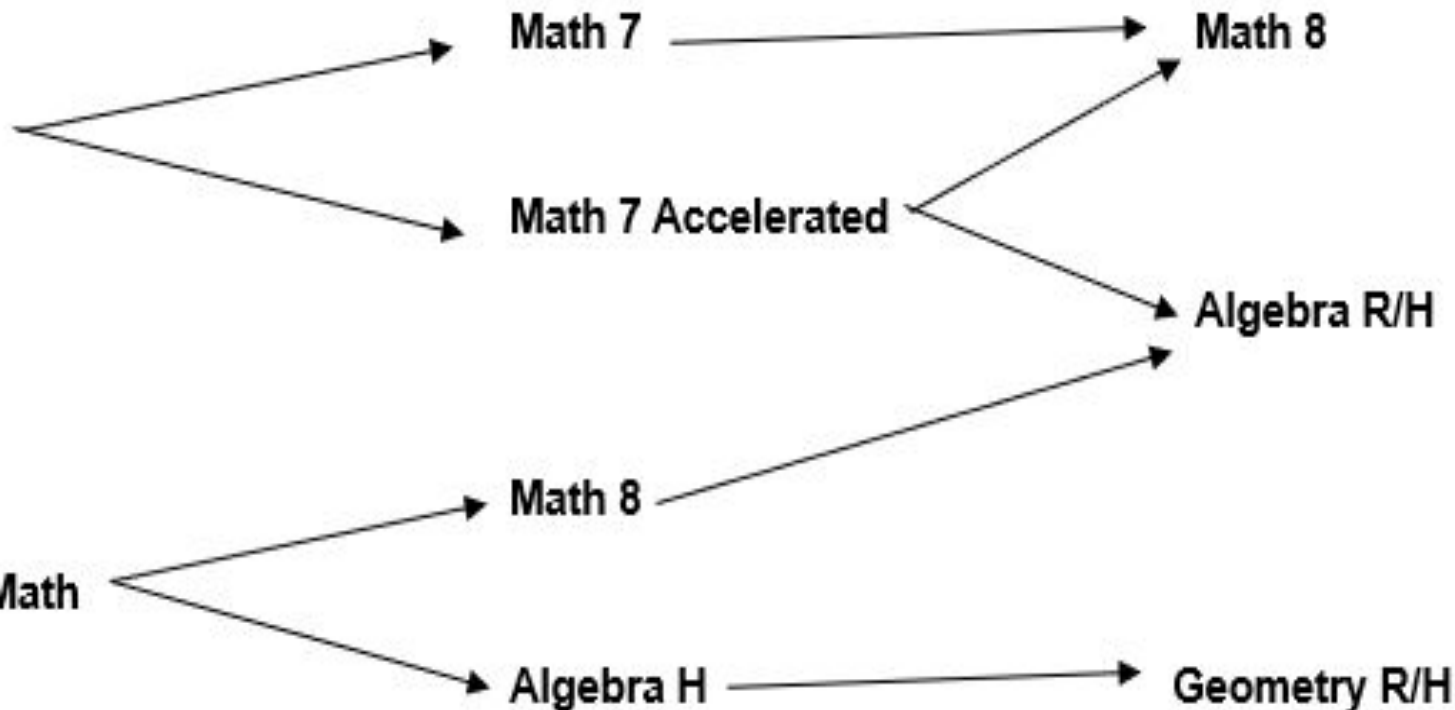
**Algebra R/H**

**Middle School Math**

**Math 8**

**Algebra H**

**Geometry R/H**



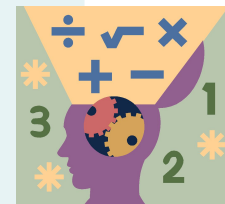
**Math/Business Department Director: Lauren Tallarine**  
**lauren\_tallarine@manhassetsschools.org**  
**267-7570**

### **Opportunities for Support**

- **Math Lab (Room 163) is staffed from 7:30 – 3:00 by TAs and Math Honor Society students who provide tutoring**
- **Skills classes opposite Math 7R provide AIS on alternate days**

### **Opportunities for Enrichment**

- **American Mathematics Exam: non-routine problem solving exam offered in the winter**
- **Junior Math Team practices each week before school and partakes in several competitions throughout the year**





**Math/Business Department Director: Lauren Tallarine**  
**lauren\_tallarine@manhassetsschools.org**  
**267-7570**

**Business & Career Exploration provides engaging opportunities for students to learn about themselves and the world as they explore:**

- **Teamwork**
- **Executive Functioning Skills**
- **Effective Business Communication Practices**
- **Professionalism**
- **Career Clusters**
- **Networking/Social Media Presence**
- **Marketing/Branding**
- **Work/Life Balance**
- **Financial & Consumer Literacy**



# Science & Technology Education

## Coordinator: Dr. Teresa McGrath

Teresa\_McGrath@manhassetsschools.org 267-7560

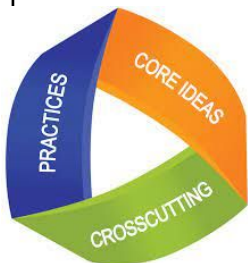
### Grade 7

#### Science-7: Aligned with NYSSLS (New York State Science Learning Standards)

- Forces
- Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Circuits and Signals
- Reactions in Living Things
- Weather in the Atmosphere

Single Period Every Day

Final Exam



### Grade 8

#### Life Science: Biology, changing from Living Environment in 2025-2026 to become NYSSLS aligned

- Structure and Function
- Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- Natural Selection and Evolution

Extra lab period every other day

NYS Biology Regents



# **Science & Technology Education**

## **Coordinator: Dr. Teresa McGrath**

**Teresa\_McGrath@manhassetchools.org 267-7560**

### **Academic Support:**

- **Biology X class available for students that benefit from more time with curriculum for mastery of content and additional practice with Regents style questions**
- **Regents Review Sessions to prepare students for the Regents exam in June**

### **Opportunities:**

#### **Technology 7 and Technology 8**

- **PLTW curriculum in both**
- **7th - Automation and Robotics**
- **8th - Design and Modeling**

#### **Science Olympiad Junior Division**

- **Grades 7, 8, and 9**
- **Open to all students**



**Social Studies Department**  
**Frank LaBianca**  
**Frank\_LaBianca@manhassetsschools.org 267-7576**

## Grade 7

US History

Pre-Columbian-Civil War

- Native Americans
- Colonial Developments
- American Independence
- Constitution
- Westward Expansion
- Reform Movements
- Civil War

## Grade 8

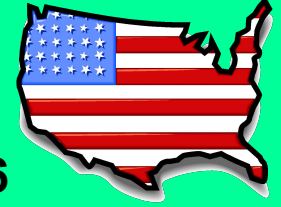
US History

Reconstruction-2010

- Reconstruction
- Industrialization
- Expansion and Imperialism
- WWI and the Roaring 20's
- Great Depression
- WW II
- Foreign Policy
- Post WWII America
- Domestic Policies

**Social Studies Department**  
**Frank LaBianca**

**Frank\_LaBianca@manhassetchools.org 267-7576**



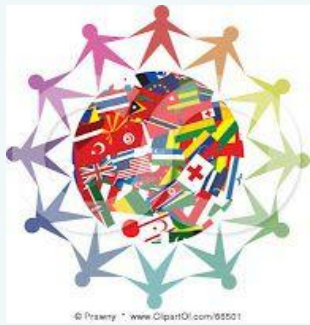
Social Studies grades 7 and 8, the goal is to enhance historical thinking skills in reading and writing.

**READING**

- *Informational text*: biographies, autobiographies, articles, textbooks, charts, graphs, maps, photographs, political cartoons.
- *Craft and structure*; identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view, stance or purpose and the impact on the reliability of the document(s).
- *Integration of Knowledge and Ideas*: distinguish among fact and opinion, a primary and secondary source, compare and contrast sources.

**WRITING**

- *Arguments*: use evidence to support a claim and craft an argument.
- *Informative*: organize ideas, concepts and information into broader categories and use content-specific vocabulary to inform or explain a topic.
- *Research*: events, topics, historical periods in America.



**World Languages Department  
Middle School  
Christina Lang**

***christina\_lang@manhassetsschools.org 267-7685***

***Language Offerings: French, Italian, Spanish, Chinese***

***Goals:***

- Students will develop the three modes of communication: interpersonal, interpretive and presentational.
- Students will interact with cultural competence and understanding.
- Students will identify and use vocabulary and grammar structures.

***Assessment and Grading:***

- Grade 8 culminates in a state-approved, regionally developed replacement Proficiency Exam (NYSAWLA – Checkpoint A Exam)
- The combination of level I-1 (Gr. 7) and I-2 (Gr. 8) serves as first year of three year language sequence required for high school graduation.

***Rosetta Stone:***

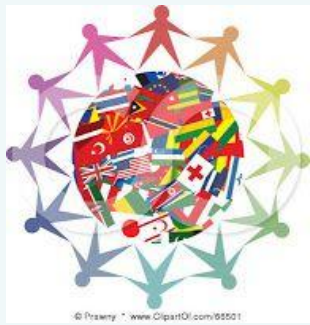
- All students who study a language receive an account
- Required supplement language curriculum
- Access from any mobile device and computer

***Opportunities for Support:***

- Peer Support programs assists students in need through the Language Honor Societies; upper-level students work with middle school students to improve a student's performance.

***Enrichment:***

- Students can participate in the national language contests in the spring. Manhasset students regularly earn regional and national awards for their performance.



**World Languages Department  
Middle School  
Christina Lang**

***christina\_lang@manhassetsschools.org 267-7685***

***Language Offerings:***

Chinese 1-1 (7th grade) is a new pathway that we are introducing for the 2024-2025 school year. As long as enrollment continues, students will continue in the pathway leading up to AP Chinese.



# Fine and Performing Arts Department

Dr. Joseph Owens

joseph\_owens@manhassetchools.org 516-267-7645

- Music
  - Concert Band
  - Orchestra
  - MS Chorus
- Theatre 7
- Enrichment opportunities
  - Musical
  - Play
  - Art Club
  - Photography Club
  - Jazz Ensemble

Art offered in grade 8: Art 8/Accelerated Art 8





# Athletics & Physical Education

Christine Raffo, Athletic Director

christine\_raffo@manhassetsschools.org 267-7551

## **Fall 9/3/24**

### **Girls' Program**

Crew  
Cross Country  
Field Hockey  
Soccer  
Swimming  
Tennis

### **Boys' Program**

Crew  
Cross Country  
Football  
Soccer



## **Winter I**

(November)

### **Winter II**

(mid-January)

### **Girls' Program**

Volleyball (I)  
Winter Track (I)  
Basketball (II)

### **Boys' Program**

Basketball (I)  
Swimming (I)  
Winter Track (I)  
Wrestling (II)

## **Spring**

(March)

### **Girls' Program**

Crew  
Lacrosse  
Softball  
Track

### **Boys' Program**

Baseball  
Crew  
Lacrosse  
Tennis  
Track

**Thank you for  
attending!**

