



**MIDDLE SCHOOL AT
EAST MOUNTAIN**



East Mountain Middle School
Experience



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SECTION 1

- Foundations



MISSION, VALUES, GRAD PROFILE

Mission

A safe, innovative environment, East Mountain engages a diverse community of learners through transformative experiences and creative problem-solving to shape forward-thinking leaders.

Values

- Curiosity
- Integrity
- Reflection
- Collaboration
- Empathy

Profile of a Graduate

EMHS graduates are *Forward-thinking Leaders*



- We are **critical and creative thinkers**, capable of drawing new insights, asking good questions, and making connections; we **engage in productive disagreement** when appropriate
- We recognize that we will **confront obstacles**; we are **resilient and take ownership** of our mistakes.
- We **advocate for ourselves** and seek to improve the systems around us.
- We **enjoy learning** and we understand that we can grow through hard work, dedication, and repeated practice.

EMHS graduates are *College + Career Ready*



- We are intellectually prepared to **matriculate to college** and/or **enter the workforce**.
- We are **active learners** who **hold ourselves accountable** to meet our aspirations.
- We develop **habits of success** - self-advocacy, goal-setting, and communication - that will allow us to thrive in college and career.

EMHS graduates have a *Sense of Self*



- We are **honest** and **self-aware**.
- We are full people who understand what **makes us unique** - how our strengths allow us to contribute something special to the world.
- We are **aware of our growth areas** and find ways to improve.
- We **embrace transformational experiences** with an open mind.

EMHS graduates are *Collaborators*



- We can **collaborate** with folks from diverse backgrounds.
- We **demonstrate empathy** by seeking to understand the perspectives of others.
- We **build up** our school and **give back** to our community.
- We go out of our way to **show kindness** towards others.

East Mountain graduates approach the above with core values:
Collaboration | Integrity | Reflection | Curiosity | Empathy



PROGRAM MODEL

As a public charter school, East Mountain is built around a unique program model that shapes our programming and operations. Our program model is built on these four pillars.

 Inquiry-Based Learning <p>We provide an inquiry-based curriculum that is college-preparatory and based on a liberal arts model. Our students learn to think critically and articulate thoughts clearly by conducting independent research to form a cohesive understanding of topics.</p>	 Leadership & Enrichment <p>Our students have ample opportunities to lead and enrich their educational experience through academic, extracurricular activities, and athletics. The purpose is for our students to be well-balanced people with passions beyond the classroom and understand how to contribute in team settings.</p>	 Authentic Relationships <p>Relationships are the heart of our model. Fostered through intentionality and small class sizes, authentic relationships promote connection, establish trust, and facilitate feedback among our staff and students alike. This creates an environment where everyone takes ownership of their learning.</p>	 Supportive Environment <p>We strive to meet our students' most essential needs so that they can focus on academics. We invest deeply in wraparound supports, inclusive of counseling and tutoring, and guidance, offering both college and career planning. Our staff is mindful to ensure that no student falls through the cracks.</p>
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6-12 CAMPUS OPERATIONS

East Mountain is committed to an innovative, predictable pathway for our middle school and high school students. Our facilities are designed to maintain grade-level appropriate grouping while also offering carefully planned opportunities for student mentorship.

Start & End Times

M, T, Th, F:	W:	*Pending PED approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast: 7:40am-8:00am• Start 8:05 am• Lunch: 11:10-11:40am• Release: 2:55pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release: 12:30pm• Enrichment: 1:00pm-2:10pm	

Sixth Grade Space

By August 2026, our 6th grade students will be cohorted into the newest building on campus, located on the west side of the current high school. This building will only contain 6th grade classrooms and bathrooms. By August 2027, the new construction will be complete that will contain 7th and 8th grade classrooms, as well as shared spaces for the Multi-Purpose Room and the Library/Learning Commons.

Meals

Free breakfast and free lunch are available to every student every day. In the 2026-2027 school year, the Sunflower Cafe will house the kitchen where meals are distributed. 6th grade students will have a separate lunch schedule from the high school students. That schedule will continue as 7th and 8th grades are added, but the kitchen will shift into the new building.

Transportation

Planned bus pick up and drop off locations include:

- Tijeras Library
- Edgewood Smith's
- Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Overview

East Mountain asks that all families contribute 60 hours of volunteer hours toward the school community in a given year. There are a wide variety of ways families can get involved:

- THE PACK (our PTA organization)
- Events (attending games, chaperoning field trips, etc.)
- Tutoring, academic support
- Donations

Founding Families

As family members of our founding 6th grade class, you have a unique opportunity to help us create the best experience possible for our students. We want to co-create this experience with you, and we will frequently reach out with surveys and opportunities for you to weigh in on the East Mountain middle school experience. We consider you key partners in this bold new experience to make middle school better!



SECTION 2

- **Social-Emotional Program**



ADVISORY & MENTORSHIP

Program Overview

The advisory program is designed to support students' academic, social-emotional, and personal growth through a structured curriculum aligned with Powered by Compass (grades 6-8) and The RULER Approach (grades 9-12). Our advisory program fosters strong relationships by ensuring students build strong relationships with their middle school and high school advisors. A Peer Mentorship Program will integrate leadership opportunities for upperclassmen to support younger students.

Middle School Advisory Scope & Sequence (Grades 6-8)

Curriculum: Powered by Compass (SEL, Character, & Life Skills)

Daily Advisory: 30 minutes

Focus: Relationship building, goal setting, social-emotional learning, and community engagement

Grade 6: Foundations of Self & Community	Grade 7: Developing Leadership & Agency	Grade 8: Preparing for High School & Beyond
Q1: Self-Discovery & Growth Mindset <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Setting personal and academic goals- Identifying personal strengths and challenges- Understanding emotions and self-regulation	Q1: Identity & Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Exploring identity and values- Managing stress and self-care- Overcoming challenges and setting stretch goals	Q1: Independence & Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Setting personal and academic intentions- Developing time management skills- Understanding motivation and habits
Q2: Building Relationships & Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Active listening and effective communication- Respectful disagreement and problem-solving- Teamwork and collaboration	Q2: Leadership & Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction to leadership styles- Navigating peer relationships and social pressures- Conflict resolution and problem-solving	Q2: Managing Change & Transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coping with stress and uncertainty- Exploring high school opportunities and pathways- Developing self-advocacy and confidence
Q3: Responsibility & Decision-Making <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding responsibility and accountability- Ethical decision-making and digital citizenship- Building resilience and coping with failure	Q3: Advocacy & Voice <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speaking up for yourself and others- Exploring career pathways and goal setting- Understanding media literacy and responsible social media use	Q3: Ethical Leadership & Decision-Making <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding ethical dilemmas and values-based decision-making- Civic engagement and taking action for change- Planning for high school success
Q4: Community & Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introduction to community service and civic engagement- Understanding diversity and inclusion- Reflection and celebration of growth	Q4: Taking Action <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community service project development- Practicing gratitude and positive mindset- End-of-year reflection and leadership transition	Q4: Legacy & Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eighth-grade capstone project: Making a difference in our school- Reflecting on middle school experiences- Transitioning to high school advocacy and peer mentorship

HEALTH OFFICE

Overview: At East Mountain we believe that students do their best when they feel their best. The health office offers support for both physical and emotional well-being of all our students. We have a full time school nurse, part-time nurse assistant, a full time social worker and two certified counselors on staff.

Nurse Office

Our Full-time Registered Nurse is on campus five days a week. We also have a Health Assistant who provides basic care and assessment to students. In addition our school nurse helps to support student medical plans and serves on our safety team.

Counseling & Mental Health

East Mountain is fortunate to have a full-time Mental Health team with both a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Mental Health counselor who support student social and emotional health while at school, access to resources including local counseling agencies, support in applying for Medicaid, food assistance and other financial support. Our social worker provides services for students with IEPs, 504s and other educational plans. The mental health team also serves on the safety team.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Overview: Restorative practices is the science of relationships and community. When applied in schools, restorative practices proactively improves climate and culture. Restorative practices also provide responses to wrongdoing that focus on repairing harm. Through proactive and responsive practices the aim of a restorative approach is to support communication, resolution, and growth in students. This shift helps create a more equitable, inclusive, and supportive school culture where students feel safe, respected, and empowered.

Restorative Strategies

- Advisory
 - Communication & accountability practice
 - Restorative Conversations
 - Peer Mentorship and Mediation
 - Circles
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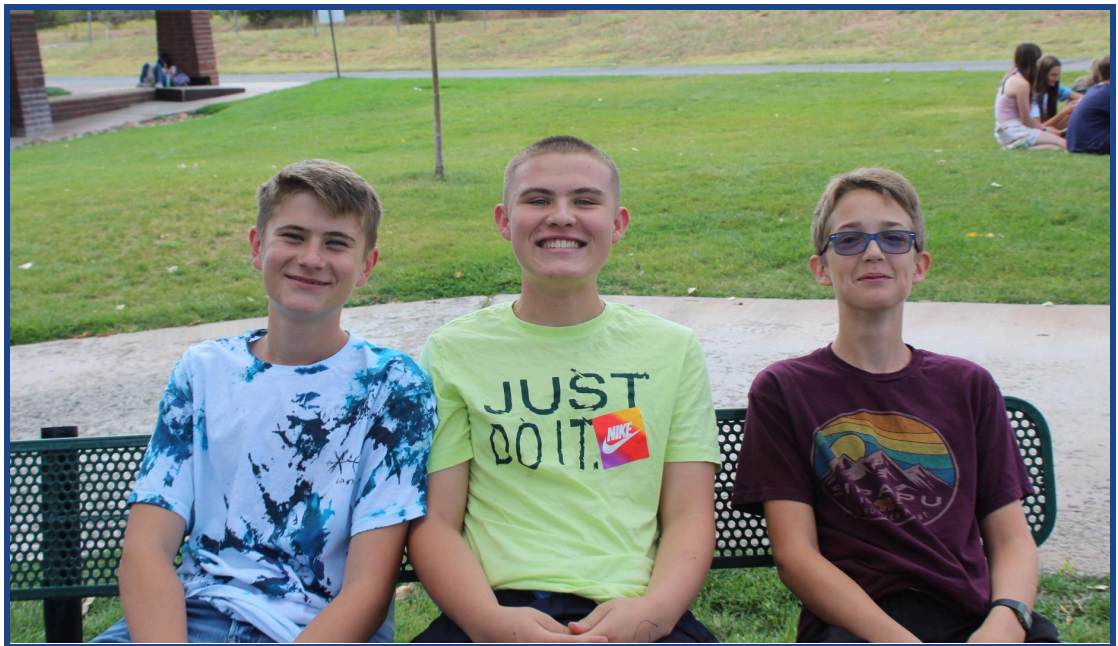
Impactful Outcomes

While we will still adhere to our code of conduct as relevant, focusing on restorative practices aims to limit the need for punitive consequences that result in time away from learning or out of the classroom, by teaching students communication, regulation and reflection that develops into limiting typical behaviors that result in consequences like suspension. Restorative practices does not completely eliminate the reality of punitive consequences, but does teach and build skills to limit that need. If you have any specific questions about restorative practices please reach out directly to Principal, Margi Miranda.



SECTION 3

- Academic Program



CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, & ASSESSMENT

Curriculum at East Mountain

East Mountain will have a 6-12 aligned curriculum to support success in all grade levels and in their pursuits after graduation. The foundation for our curriculum is rooted in inquiry, critical thinking, and problem solving for a changing world. We do not shy away from new technology and instead embrace the opportunity to be on the forefront of innovation in teaching and learning.

Math

Guiding Principles:

- MidSchool Math Approach: Story-driven lessons, real-world problem-solving, and mastery-based assessments. <https://www.midschoolmath.com/>
- Thinking Classrooms: Encourages problem-solving, collaboration, and student autonomy through vertical non-permanent surfaces and randomized groups. <https://www.buildingthinkingclassrooms.com/>

Key Themes and Scope & Sequence		
Grade 6: Math Foundations	Grade 7: Pre-Algebra	Grade 8: Algebra Readiness
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Numerical fluency with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals- Ratios, rates, and proportional reasoning- Expressions, equations, and inequalities- Geometry: Area, surface area, and volume- Data and statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deepening proportional reasoning- Algebraic expressions and equations- Integer operations and rational numbers- Probability and statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Functions and linear equations- Systems of equations- Transformations and geometry- Data analysis
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Numbers & Operations (Place value, operations, fractions, decimals)2. Ratios & Proportions (Concepts of unit rate, percent problems)3. Algebraic Thinking (Introduction to expressions and one-step equations)4. Geometry (Measurement, area, volume, coordinate plane)5. Statistics & Probability (Mean, median, mode, range, data displays)6. Problem-Based Review (Real-world applications using BTC methods)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Number Sense & Integer Operations2. Ratios & Proportional Relationships3. Expressions & Equations (Expanding, factoring, solving 2-step equations)4. Geometry (Angles, area, volume, and scale drawings)5. Statistics & Probability (Compound probability, data analysis)6. Problem-Based Review & BTC Challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Number System & Exponents (Rational and irrational numbers)2. Expressions, Equations & Inequalities (Solving multi-step equations)3. Linear Equations & Functions (Slope, y-intercept, graphing)4. Systems of Equations (Solving by graphing, substitution, elimination)5. Geometry & Transformations6. Statistics & Probability7. Culminating BTC Project

6-12 STEM Experiences

East Mountain will implement a progressive STEM program that embeds a variety of STEM topics and student interest. The curriculum will align to Next Generation Science Standards rooted in inquiry and student interest. Middle school students will have the opportunity to engage in science & technology programs and projects including:

- **Robotics:** VEX IQ for middle school, VEX V5 for high school
 - **MESA** (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement): a 6th-12th grade mentorship-based program
 - **Science Olympiad**
 - **Electric Car Challenge**
 - **Technology & Engineering Courses:** Photoshop, CAD, 3D Printing, Computer Science
 - **Robotics 1 & Robotics 2**
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Humanities

East Mountain humanities courses will focus on middle school reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in order to prepare students for intentional and advanced research and analysis in the upper grades of high schools. Students will engage in relevant topics and content to best support their voices, ideas, and interests.

Assessment

East Mountain ensures a balanced approach to measuring student progress in middle school (grades 6-8) using iMSSA (Interim Measures of Student Success & Achievement) and NWEA MAP Growth while incorporating formative, summative, and performance-based assessments.

Please see our assessment overview on the next page.

Overview of Assessments

Assessment	Purpose	Frequency	Subjects	Instructional Use
iMSSA (Interim Measures of Student Success & Achievement)	State-aligned interim assessment to predict proficiency on NM-MSSA	Fall, Winter, Spring	ELA, Math, Science (grade 8)	Monitors standards-based progress, informs instructional adjustments, and predicts state test performance
NWEA MAP Growth	Measures academic growth and readiness in core subjects	Fall, Winter, Spring	ELA, Math	Provides personalized learning data, identifies gaps, and sets individual growth goals
Benchmark Assessments	School-created assessments aligned with standards and curriculum	Every 6-8 weeks	ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies	Tracks short-term progress and mastery of specific units
Formative Assessments	Ongoing checks for understanding	Daily / Weekly	All subjects	Guides real-time instructional decisions
Summative Assessments	Evaluates overall student proficiency at the end of a unit or term	End of Units, Quarters, and Year	All subjects	Determines mastery of learning objectives
Performance-Based Assessments	Hands-on or project-based evaluations	Per unit or semester	ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies	Assesses real-world application and higher-order thinking skills
Student Self-Assessment & Goal Setting	Encourages student reflection and accountability	Quarterly	All subjects	Helps students track their own progress and set goals

College & Career Education

Overview: A middle school college and career program is all about early exploration rather than hard decision-making. The goal is to help students begin to see the connections between what they're learning in school and their future opportunities — academic, personal, and professional.

College and Career Purpose and Goals for Middle School:

- Build awareness of a wide range of careers and educational paths.
- Foster a growth mindset — emphasizing effort, learning, and curiosity.
- Develop skills for success like communication, collaboration, and self-management.
- Encourage students to set goals and reflect on their strengths and interests.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Overview: East Mountain has a deep culture of support for all students. Embedded into each classroom, for each student, are multiple opportunities for reteaching, learning in varying modalities, and interventions to support academic & social-emotional success. Students will be closely monitored, and teachers will refer students for support plans as needed.

Special Education

Special Education Overview: East Mountain approaches special education differently – we work with families to learn about each student as an individual. We are driven by a desire to help each student succeed, not by a set of checkboxes. Our approach is about communication and support for our community of diverse learners.

Services Available Through IEPs:

East Mountain is committed to providing services in students' regular classes, limiting pull-out services. For those students who qualify some of our service options include:

- Social Work & Social Skills groups
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech/Language Therapy
- Self-contained program for students with profound needs
- Wide range of academic supports

What Supports Look Like:

- Middle School Educator Teams provide flexibility to meet the needs of students to learn with more adult support
- Special Educators embedded into the classroom, reducing pull-out from classes as much as possible
- Opportunities for reteaching and for acceleration per the student's individual profile

Student Evaluations:

East Mountain is committed to providing full evaluations to students who meet criteria for a further look:

- Educational Diagnostics (Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Intellectual Disability, and more)
- Speech/Language Diagnostics
- School Psychology evaluation (Attention Deficit, Anxiety, Autism, and more)

Gifted Education

What is Gifted Education? Gifted education in New Mexico is a state-regulated program designed to identify and serve students who demonstrate exceptional intellectual ability and academic performance. East Mountain follows specific procedures for referral, evaluation, identification, and services to ensure equitable access to appropriate educational opportunities for gifted learners.

Services Available through Gifted IEPs:

- Case Management
- Student-driven annual meetings
- Access to interesting and engaging activities, clubs, and programming

What Supports Looks Like:

- Middle School Educator Teams provide a variety of activities at accelerated academic levels
- Gifted Educators embedded into the classroom,
- Opportunities for students to take high school level classes in 7th and 8th grade

Student Evaluations:

East Mountain is committed to providing full evaluations to students who meet criteria for a further look:

- Educational Diagnostics in gifted education

504s

What is an academic 504? 504 plans support students with various special needs who do not require special education or an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). This could include diagnoses like diabetes, anxiety, wheelchair-bound, etc.

- East Mountain has a thorough 504 program for students who need accommodations but not modified content
- East Mountain monitors progress of all students and identifies students who may need support proactively

Contact Information for Student Support, 504s, Special Education & Gifted Education

Hannah Flake

Director of Student Support & Special Education

hflake@eastmountain.org / 505-819-3592

DISCOVERY & OUTDOOR BASED LEARNING

Overview: Part of the East Mountain mission is to offer transformative experiences, which include outdoor and experiential education. We are currently designing experiences tailored for each grade level, including camping and overnight trips.

Discovery Learning

- East Mountain embraces the importance of experiential learning as a key to achieving excellence. Students become more engaged in their learning when they have opportunities to apply classroom skills to real-world situations. Discovery Projects, units of in-depth experiential learning that take place throughout the school year, are a cornerstone of this principle. Discovery Projects are completed in class cohort teams.
 - In previous years, students have worked with the local Habitat for Humanity chapter to rehabilitate a home in the East Mountains, built a peace garden on the East Mountain campus, studied human physiology while earning their scuba diving certification, designed their own video games, and have written & illustrated their own children's books. Recent graduates cite Discovery Projects as among the most valuable and challenging components of their East Mountain education.
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Outdoor Based Learning

- Located next to Cibola National Forest, East Mountain is uniquely situated to take advantage of our outdoor learning environment. Connecting students with natural spaces has been shown to benefit their physical and mental health. Frequently, our classes are taught outside in our numerous outdoor learning spaces
 - In conjunction with Discovery-based learning, many of our curricular experiences are directly related to outdoor leadership and learning. Camping, mountain biking, trail maintenance, and many more experiences are available to our students.
 - All 6th grade students will take part in one local overnight camping experience.
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SECTION 4

- **Extracurricular Program**



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Overview: East Mountain believes that extracurriculars are critical elements of the student experience. These opportunities provide students social connection and a strong sense of belonging; provide opportunities to engage with their community and build their identities; and develop leadership and responsibility. 8th graders can participate in extracurriculars at the high school level where NMAA rules permit, such as student council, speech & debate, and chess.

Extracurriculars and Clubs

- Student Council – Leadership opportunities through planning events, representing peers, and leading service initiatives.
- Speech & Debate – Build public speaking, argumentation, and critical thinking skills.
- Robotics Club – Hands-on problem solving with coding, engineering, and design challenges.
- Arts Experiences – Explore different mediums of creative expression.
- Music – Ensemble practice, performances, and creative collaboration.
- Drama-theater and speaking experiences
- Chess Club – Strategy, competition, and critical thinking.
- Outdoor Adventure Club – Hiking, environmental projects, and outdoor leadership.

After School Program

- After school, families have many options:
 - Student rides the bus at 3:15
 - Parent/car-pool pick-up between 3:05–3:15
 - Athletic participation
 - Homework center
 - Rotating Clubs (*eg Speech & Debate on Monday, Robotics on Tuesday, Violin Ensemble on Weds*)
- East Mountain will continue developing after school programming options as staffing allows

Special Interest Clubs

- East Mountain is always thrilled by student passion. We respond to student requests to develop new clubs and activities with encouragement and support. We are excited to see what new clubs will be added to the above list throughout the school year.
 - As the middle school grows to three grade levels over the next few years, East Mountain plans to develop extracurricular offerings in leadership, arts, performance, STEM, and humanities.
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ATHLETICS

NMAA

With a mission grounded in leadership, East Mountain believes that sports participation offers one of the best ways to build leadership skills. East Mountain High School competes in the New Mexico Activities Association at a 3A level. 8th grade students are eligible to compete for our high school level teams (Volleyball, Cross Country, Soccer, Basketball, Track & Field, Baseball, Softball).

Middle School Sports

At the 6th and 7th grade levels, East Mountain plans to offer:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Golf
- Track & Field
- Flag Football
- Baseball & Softball

WEDNESDAY ENRICHMENT

Early Release Wednesdays

On Wednesday afternoons, East Mountain teaching faculty have professional development, but students are still able to stay on campus for a wide variety of learning opportunities.

- Leadership Seminars – Workshops on communication, teamwork, and responsibility.
- Outdoor Learning – Nature-based experiences, gardening, and sustainability projects.
- Career Speakers – Working with Junior Achievement of New Mexico, a wide variety of speakers in various career fields will be available to our students.
- Tutoring & Homework Support – A quiet place to work on homework



MIDDLE SCHOOL AT EAST MOUNTAIN

Contact Us

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