T.E.A.M. 74,

Soaring from Good to Great and Beyond!
Middle School 74 was named a “Respect for All” school 5 times since 2012. We go beyond the traditional “Respect for All Week”, as the theme of respect resonates through our hallways, classrooms and school activities all year long. Each official class has a “RFA” representative to support our school-wide initiatives.

**Team 74 Goes Beyond**

**Partnership with St. Francis College**

Our partnership with St. Francis College of Brooklyn continues. This will afford our students unique access to the resources of a college campus including:

- Use of a multi-million dollar science lab,
- Presentations by college professors,
- Tours of the college facilities,
- Connections with the St. Francis College Drama Department,
- In school tutoring by students in the Honors Program and
- The opportunity to apply to the St. Francis College Summer Science Program.

In addition, parents will be invited to hear guest speakers from the college that will discuss how to begin to prepare middle school students for college.

**Software Engineering Pilot Program (S.E.P.)**

Middle School 74 is one of only 20 middle schools across New York City to be awarded the Software Engineering Program. As part of our ongoing mission to bring S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs into our school, S.E.P. offers students a comprehensive computer science and software engineering curriculum. Topics include: computer programming, embedded electronics, web design and programming, e-textiles, robotics and mobile computing. This rigorous program gives students the necessary skills to enter high schools with similar programs and eventually technology based careers.

**Other Exciting Partnerships**

**Urban Advantage (U.A.)**

Urban Advantage is a standards-based partnership program designed to improve students’ understanding of scientific inquiry through collaborations between urban public schools and science cultural institutions. As an Urban Advantage school, our U.A. teachers get stipends to bring new science equipment into their classrooms and professional development aligned to local and national standards. They also receive free admission vouchers for their students to the Museum of Natural History, the Hall of Science, the Bronx Zoo, the Queens Botanical Gardens and other partner institutions. We also offer a free family trip each year to our students and their families through Urban Advantage!

**Arts Achieve**

Middle School 74 is proud to have been one of only 48 New York City schools involved in the federal Arts Achieve grant. The goal of the program is to create “standardized ways of assessing student achievement in visual arts, music, theater, and dance.” As a pilot school for dance, our students are involved in helping to improve classroom instruction and assessments for arts curriculum. Students regularly use IPAD and other digital technology in their daily class routines as a means of effective self and peer assessment.

**Child Center of New York (S.O.N.Y.)**

Our affiliation with the Child Center of New York (C.C.N.Y.) continues to allow Middle School 74 to offer an after school program for our students. This program offers academic help to students, in addition to classes such as leadership, dance, arts and crafts and robotics. Our students have also been involved in social awareness projects aimed at preventing bullying and raising money for a cure for cancer. Our after school program also runs our boy’s basketball and flag football teams. Our flag football team was crowned CCNY Flag Football Champions in 2012! This year C.C.N.Y. will continue to offer a summer program for Middle School 74 students.
What we offer YOU...

**School Wellness Council:** The School Wellness Council consists of students, teachers, parents and other staff members. The Council meets once a month and discusses issues related to maintaining a healthy school community. Programs and initiatives are developed in order to ensure efforts are being made to lead healthy lifestyles. Our school has been recognized as a “Mentor School” by the Office of School Wellness due to our initiative of promoting a healthy lifestyle a priority.

**National Junior Honor Society:**

The National Junior Honor Society at M.S. 74 recognizes outstanding 7th and 8th students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. Each year the 8th grade members develop and carry out a service project aimed at helping others.

**Saturday Title III (ENL) Program:** The Saturday Title III program focuses on language acquisition skills for our ENL students. Through reading and writing activities aligned with graphic arts, students study the theme of Cultures and Community. The program is supplemented with trips to various locations that fit with the program’s theme. A culminating celebration of students’ work concludes the program.

**Academic Intervention Services (A.I.S.):** A.I.S. is provided for those identified students that are in need of additional help, in preparation for New York State Assessments. Students selected will be notified in the fall.

**Peer Mediation:** Our Peer Mediation program trains students to effectively help their peers work through individual issues with one another. Selected students are trained in the sixth grade and make a commitment to stay in the program throughout their time at MS 74.

**Other Great Opportunities Include:**

- **C.H.A.M.P.S.:** Through Middle School C.H.A.M.P.S., our students have been able to participate in various athletic and fitness programs. Each year’s offerings vary. These programs are open to all of our students.

- **Music:** Chamber Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, Flute Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Modern Rock Band, Music Memory

- **Sports:** Boys and Girls Basketball, Girls Volleyball, Tennis, Baseball, Wrestling, Lacrosse, Mighty Milers, Soccer

And let’s not forget...

- Animation Club, Art Club, Dance Club, Financial Club, Gardening Club, Meditation Club, Spanish Club, Yoga Club

...and believe it or not there’s more!!

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**ENRICHMENT EVERYWHERE...**

**News for 74:** Middle School 74 has its very own newscast. Featuring stories about our students, in school activities and much more, “News for 74” is totally student written, directed and edited. Each episode is broadcast in the cafeteria and streams on our school website.

**Math Team:** Students meet weekly to prepare for regional and state competitions. Students utilize problem-solving strategies as quickly and accurately as possible to complete complex word problems. These problems include both middle school and high school concepts. The students on our school team compete both individually and as a team at a regional level first and work towards the state level competition in March.

**Jazz Band:** Select students meet regularly with our band teacher as part of our talent rich jazz band.

**3-D Printing:** Our 3-D printing program remains an M.S. 74 exclusive! Students are trained to create 3-D designs on Sketch-Up and then our state-of-the-art 3-D printer does the rest!

**Book Club:** A club for those avid readers who are interested in reading and critically discussing classic novels. Weekly meetings have revolved around books such as A Separate Peace and The Great Gatsby and involve comparisons to the books’ feature films.

**Green Team:** The M.S. 74 Green Team is comprised of students from 6th, 7th and 8th grade who are interested in helping the school become more environmentally friendly. The team meets to discuss ways to make the school more “green” through improving recycling efforts, reducing waste, and beautifying the school landscape. Students not only earn service credit, but also learn how to become better stewards of the Earth.

**Dance:** Students in this after school program work more deeply on the skills that they have learned in class. Students also collaborate with teachers in other arts disciplines and supplement Student Organization events, such as the Talent Show.

**Debate Club:** Students meet weekly to learn about the structure of formal debate, the construction and arrangement of arguments, methods of cross-examinations and other skills that are connected with public speaking and debate. Team members will work to conduct mock debates and engage in conversations relating to “hot topics” and current events.

**Science Olympiad:** Students meet weekly to prepare for the regional competition held in March. Science Olympiad involves 23 team events in the areas of anatomy, physics, geology, astronomy, mechanical engineering and technology. Events range from pure academic tests to pure technology events, which require student teams to build helicopters and mousetrap vehicles. Our team has made it to the State Competition the last two years!

**Senior Yearbook:** Select 8th graders are given the charge of creating each year’s Senior Yearbook. Using Photoshop and web based applications, students use feedback from the senior class to publish a themed yearbook that will be distributed in June.

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**The Middle School 74 Student Organization...**

M.S. 74 is host to an active Student Organization. With over 800 members, an executive board, and two officers representing each homeroom, the S.O. goes a long way in promoting engagement within T.E.A.M. 74 as students are always encouraged to bring new ideas to the table.

**In School Events:** The S.O. organizes, promotes, and carries out a wide array of activities. Our yearly Fall Dance takes place in October. Monthly spirit days inject into our culture a sense of excitement that is unique to our school. In past years, spirit days have included Twin Day, Music Appreciation Day, Jersey Day, Crazy Hat Day, and Crazy Sneaker Day. For many years, the S.O. has hosted a Walk-a-thon to raise money for various charities. We routinely raise in excess of $10,000 each year for these worthy causes. The past few years, the S.O. has expanded this event to include a Field Day known as: “the G.S. Challenge” for the American Cancer Society. Other activities have included “Door Decorating Contest” and toy, coat and food drives during the winter holiday season.

**Family Nights:** The S.O. also offers a number of family nights, where students and parents are engaged within the M.S. 74 community. We have sponsored excursions to Broadway shows such as “Wicked” and “Mary Poppins.” We have also attended Knicks, Nets, Islanders, Liberty and Mets games.
USER-GENERATED DOCUMENT

YEARLY EVENTS...

Family Fitness Night: The M.S. 74 Family Fitness Night is a celebration of movement, health and wellness. This fun and informative evening begins with a Zumba warm-up and then approximately 15 stations of physical events and activities. There is juggling, beach volleyball, cooperative games and kickboxing, just to name a few. After our movement activities, we proceed into our cafeteria for healthy snacks and raffles. School stations (our nurse and guidance counselors) along with community businesses and organizations have tables to share a wealth of health related information. This evening has been such a success that other schools have begun their own Family Fitness Night. This evening is of no cost to our families. The event is put together by volunteers and donations. At M.S. 74, “No Family is Left Unfit!”.

Family Science Night: A fun and educational night for all members of the family! Come and participate in hands on experiments and learn about many of the concepts that our students will be exposed to all year long. This night is meant to be enjoyable and help our students think of ideas for their Science Fair Projects. Representatives from our Urban Advantage partner institutions will be in attendance and will set up their own exhibits.

Science Innovation Fair: Each year we showcase Middle School 74’s budding scientists. All students participate in a Project Based Learning Activity with a focus on science innovation. Each grade focuses on a “driving question” and students worked collaboratively to address that question. All projects are presented in the science classrooms and our Science Innovation Fair features those projects chosen by our teachers.

Art Expo: Each spring our gymnasium is transformed into an art gallery. Students’ work from our studio and graphic art and design classes is displayed for “one night only”.

Winter and Spring Concerts and 6th Grade Showcase: Several times each year our band, chorus and dance students perform in front of a packed auditorium. Performances by the Hawthorne Concert Band and Chorus are featured our Winter Concert. In the Spring we feature our Concert Band and Chorus, as well as our 7th and 8th grade dance students and Jazz Band. Performances by our 6th graders in band, chorus and dance are featured at the Sixth Grade Showcase in May.

Hawthorne Players Drama Production: Broadway comes to M.S. 74 each spring, as the student led Hawthorne Players perform. You will be amazed by the talent, as our students’ acting and musical abilities are featured on stage. Additionally, costumes, scenery, sound and light cues are all student directed. Past productions have included 13, Fiddler on the Roof, High School Musical, the Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins and Into the Woods.

“Back to School” Night: Each September, all parents are invited to spend a night going “back to school” during which they follow their child’s class program for an abbreviated school day. Parents have this important opportunity to meet their child’s teachers and to learn of their expectations and policies.

Rachel’s Challenge: Rachel Scott was the first victim in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. She left behind an amazing legacy and a simple challenge to anyone who will accept it - treat others with kindness and compassion, and you just may change the world you live in. Each year we host in school activities foster a sense of camaraderie amongst the students and help them feel more comfortable in their new school setting.

6th Grade Mixer: Our 6th grade mixer is an opportunity for our newest students to get to know the rest of their grade. Each September, all 6th graders are invited to a dance with a D.J. during the school day. Activities foster a sense of camaraderie amongst the students and help them feel more comfortable in their new school setting.

We’re Open Early!! Each morning our gymnasium opens at 7:15 for “AM Fitness” and our library opens at 7:30 for “Library AM”. Whether our students need a morning workout or to use our extensive library resources, we’ve got them covered!

“8th Grade Access” to High School Credit

Various accelerated classes on track beginning in 6th grade to take courses that will allow them to enter high school with credits in Math, Science, Social Studies and/or Spanish:

⇒ Math: Students will take the Integrated Algebra Regents Exam at the end of 8th grade.
⇒ Science: Students will take the Living Environment Regents at the end of 8th grade.
⇒ Social Studies: Students will take the U.S. History Regents at the end of 8th grade.
⇒ Spanish: Students will take the Second Language Proficiency Exam at the end of 8th grade.

All Middle School 74 families receive a comprehensive handbook in September that explains many of the policies, rules and other program details of our school. The entire handbook is available online at www.ms74.com.

M.S. 74 IS ON THE WEB!

Middle School 74 has a comprehensive website to keep students and parents informed. Our website features the following:

- Copies of all notices sent home with students,
- A photo album for in-school events,
- A calendar of all school happenings that you can sync to your SMART phone,
- E-mail links for all staff members,
- Important information such as bell schedules, our Student Handbook, certain school requirements, etc.
- A link to the school’s library catalog,
- Parent resources, including P.T.A. information,
- Streaming episodes of “News for 74”,
- News and Announcements, which you can subscribe to through email,
- The full Student Activities Schedule,
- And much, much more!

www.MS74.com

@MiddleSchool74 @Team74q

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