

EAST MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

A college-preparatory charter school in Sandia Park, New Mexico



CEEB CODE: 320-588

SCHOOL PROFILE 2018 – 2019

MONIQUE SIEDSCHLAG • PRINCIPAL

msiedschlag@eastmountainhigh.net • 505.281.7400 x. 112

AMANDA FORKASDI MILLEA • ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

amillea@eastmountainhigh.net • 505.281.7400 x. 167

TREY SMITH • DEV. DIR./ASST. GIFTED COORD.

tsmith@eastmountainhigh.net • 505.281.7400 x. 168

CAROL WIRTH • REGISTRAR

cwirth@eastmountainhigh.net • 505.281.7400 x. 165

VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION ~ *East Mountain High School is a model college-preparatory school that provides outstanding learning experiences which engage, challenge, and inspire each individual to achieve excellence.*

OUR MISSION ~ *As a small regional school, East Mountain High School uses best practices to engage students in curricular programs, involve students in the community, and prepare students for success after graduation, including college, career, and citizenship.*

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1999 as one of the first charter schools in New Mexico, East Mountain High School is currently one of the state's leading public charter schools. EMHS received an "A" grade from the New Mexico Public Education Department for the past seven years and met Adequate Yearly Progress for seven years prior. EMHS has developed a statewide reputation for educational excellence. Although EMHS celebrates its students' academic achievement as reflected in its test scores, the school is primarily dedicated to the growth in learning of **each** student as it prepares that student to succeed in college. ***East Mountain High School is proud to be named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for exemplary achievement in closing the achievement gap.***

EMHS serves 360 students in grades nine through twelve. The school opened its doors in the fall of 2000 and graduated its first senior class in the spring of 2004. As a school of choice, EMHS is an alternative to the two large traditional high schools in the geographical area. Students are admitted through a lottery process, with an automatic acceptance of siblings of currently attending students.

In order to realize the *Vision, Mission* and *Goals*, the school is committed to creating a culture of effective teaching and learning, ensuring each student's excellence, college preparation, progressive skill development, exposure to a rigorous curriculum and connection to the community. EMHS seeks to provide its students with an inquiry-based curriculum that is college-preparatory and based on a liberal arts model. EMHS is on a 4x4 Block Schedule. The Assistant Principal and Gifted Coordinators provide students and families with academic and college guidance.

From the beginning, the founders of EMHS had big dreams and high ambitions. They saw no reason to accept the mediocrity and apathy that seemed to invade traditional public schools, and envisioned a school that would truly challenge students to excel to their highest potential. In order to achieve that goal, EMHS was established as a small school with small class sizes, so that each student is recognized as an individual. Teachers design real-world learning experiences for students to engage them in hands-on opportunities while covering a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum. Parents and community members partner with the school and get involved in students' education. Everyone – students, teachers, parents and community members – is encouraged to put **inquiry** at the heart of learning and to think independently and creatively.

THE COMMUNITY

EMHS is located in Sandia Park approximately 30 minutes east of Albuquerque in a rural, mountainous community. The school, on the Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway, is situated on a 26-acre campus and is home to breathtaking views of the Sandia Mountains. The majority of students travel from a large geographic region that includes the East Mountain communities of the Village of Tijeras, Escobosa, Chilili, Cedar Crest, Sandia Park, Golden, Edgewood, Moriarty, Estancia, Tajiique, Torreon and Stanley. With no traditional boundary lines, students also travel to EMHS from Albuquerque. The school is 68% Anglo, 24% Hispanic, 4% Asian, 3% Native American and 1% African American.

• PO Box 340 • 25 La Madera Road • Sandia Park, New Mexico 87047 • 505.281.7400 • Fax: 505.281.4173 •
• info@eastmountainhigh.net • www.eastmountainhigh.net •

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

❖ CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed within the 4x4 Block Schedule to help each student master a pool of knowledge and competencies embracing the humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, social sciences, arts and foreign language. Students learn to think critically and articulate thoughts clearly through inquiry and discovery based learning.

❖ INQUIRY LEARNING

EMHS uses an inquiry-based model to drive many core projects in our curriculum. Students learn to conduct independent research following their own lines of thinking to form a cohesive understanding of a topic. Their findings are adapted into written, verbal, and visual formats to maximize understanding.

❖ HONORS PROGRAM

English 10 and English 11 were Honors courses prior to the addition of Pre-AP and AP in 16-17. ENG 1102/English 12 Seminar, although also a dual credit class, is also designated as Honors. Honors mathematics courses are offered in Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, and Trigonometry [in 15-16]. Calculus was an Honors course prior to the addition of AP in 16-17. Most juniors enroll in a 2-credit Environmental Science Honors course unless they received a waiver to complete dual credit Physics and Chemistry in lieu of Environmental Science. Spanish 5 Honors Literature & Culture was added in 16-17. Honors courses are weighted with one additional GPA point for final grades of 80% and above.

❖ NEW ADDITION OF AP AND PRE-AP COURSES

EMHS offered AP courses in Calculus AB and English Language & Composition for the first time ever in 16-17. AP offerings were expanded in 17-18 with the addition of US History and US Government & Politics. Additionally, Pre-AP World History and Pre-AP English 10 were added in 16-17 and 17-18, respectively. In 18-19, AP World History replaced the Pre-AP course. The AP Exam is required for students enrolled in AP courses.

❖ DUAL CREDIT/EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

- EMHS partners with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) to offer English 1101 College Writing or English 1102 Analytic and Argumentative Writing and English 1150 Study of Literature in place of English 12. About 90% of the senior class will enroll in ENG 1101 or 1102 and ENG 1150. EMHS began offering the English courses as a pilot program nine years ago and wrote the curriculum the state department uses as a template.
- In addition to the dual credit courses students can take on college campuses or online, EMHS provides opportunities for students to enroll in dual credit courses on our high school campus. The courses are taught by CNM instructors or EMHS teachers as CNM adjunct instructors and include Chemistry, Physics, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra and Philosophy. Beginning in the 13-14 school year, all sophomores enroll in CSE 1101 College Success.
- EMHS has dual credit agreements with CNM, Eastern New Mexico University and the University of New Mexico.

❖ FOREIGN LANGUAGE

EMHS offers Spanish as its primary foreign language, with a curriculum through Level 5. Students may also complete their foreign language requirements through dual credit for other languages.

❖ ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE HONORS

Juniors enroll in a two-credit, full-year Environmental Science Honors course. Students work in collaborative groups to conduct extensive research and engage in field experience opportunities. Using 21st century skills, students create a culminating Junior Research Project, a multi-media project and presentation to peers and the community.

❖ SENIOR EXHIBITION

All seniors organize and present a Senior Exhibition as a component of English 12 Seminar. Seniors conduct extensive research and are encouraged to include a service learning component to share their talents in making a difference.

❖ DISCOVERY PROJECTS

Discovery Projects are experiential learning projects that take place the last two weeks of the school year in a particular area of study for students through their junior year. Past projects have included the art of recycling, college explorations, wilderness experiences and the physics of roller coasters. Students earn 0.5 elective credit.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
HUMANITIES 9 CREDITS (5 ENGLISH CREDITS AND 4 HISTORY CREDITS)	Humanities 9: 1 credit = English 9 1 credit = New Mexico History/ Geography & Research Skills
	Humanities 10: 1 credit = English 10 1 credit = Modern World History and Geography
	Humanities 11: 1 credit = English 11 1 credit = United States History and Geography
	Senior English & History: 2 credits = English 12 Seminar (ENG 1101 or ENG 1102 <u>and</u> ENG 1150)
	½ credit = Economics
	½ credit = US Government
MATHEMATICS 4 CREDITS	1 credit = Algebra 2 or higher
SCIENCE 4 CREDITS	1 credit = Physical Science 1 credit = Biology 2 credits = Environmental Science Honors (or CHEM & PHYS w/ waiver)
FINE ARTS 1 CREDIT	
FOREIGN LANGUAGE 2 CREDITS	<i>In the same language Must be taken in consecutive terms</i>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 CREDIT	
HEALTH 0.5 CREDIT	<i>Required course for all sophomores</i>
COLLEGE SUCCESS 1 CREDIT	<i>Required course for all sophomores</i>
DISCOVERY PROJECTS 1.5 CREDITS	<i>Required courses for all freshmen, sophomores and juniors</i>
ELECTIVES 4 CREDITS	<i>Including the Timberwolf Diploma of Excellence requirement of two credits in a subject area of the student's choice</i>
COMMUNITY SERVICE	<i>Minimum of 80 hours of documented Community Service</i>
SENIOR EXHIBITION	<i>Presented in late April of senior year</i>
TOTAL:	28 credits

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIP

EMHS is accredited by the New Mexico Public Education Department. It is a member of the New Mexico Activities Association, New Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools, National Association for College Admission Counseling and Rocky Mountain Association for College Admission Counseling.

RECOGNITION

EMHS has been recognized six times as a Bronze Star School by *U.S. News & World Report*, which recognizes schools at which student academic achievement outpaces predictive models. The school also was selected by the New Mexico Public Education Department for its New Mexico Best program based on its best practices. In 2014, *Newsweek* announced its list of 500 of America's Top High Schools, and EMHS was one of five schools in New Mexico to be recognized. EMHS is currently one of eight schools in the state of New Mexico to receive an "A" rating all seven years. EMHS is proud to be named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for exemplary achievement in closing the achievement gap.

FACULTY

Of the 29 certified faculty & staff members, 9 hold a Bachelor's Degree, 19 hold a Master's Degree and one holds a PhD. Four teachers hold National Board Certification. EMHS teachers have received some of the highest honors in the profession, including the American Stars of Teaching Award, the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching State Finalist, the Presidential Award for Innovation in Environmental Education, and the 2015 Runner-Up National Speech and Debate Coach of the Year. New Mexico Business Weekly named a faculty member a 2011 Top Forty Under 40. One teacher was recently named the 2018 New Mexico History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and was selected as one of the top 10 history teachers in the running for the National History Teacher of the Year award.

SCHEDULE

EMHS is on a 4 x 4 block schedule, in which students enroll in a maximum of four classes each term for a total of eight classes each year. Each class meets for 90 minutes each day, allowing students to focus on a limited number of subjects on any given day which supports the EMHS philosophy of in-depth study and mastery learning. On a 4 x 4 schedule, students earn a maximum of 1.0 credit for each course in the fall and 1.0 credit for each course in the spring. Students in grades 9 – 11 earn an additional 0.5 credit each year for Discovery Projects. Summer dual credit courses are included with Fall in-progress courses. As such, grades and credit for Summer courses are awarded in January when Fall grades post to the transcript.

GRADING SYSTEM

EMHS supports the policy of mastery learning, therefore, students must earn a grade of 70% or higher in a class in order to receive credit. EMHS uses percentages to report final grades. The grading scale is followed: 90% - 100% = A (4 GPA points); 80% - 89% = B (3 GPA points); 70% - 79% = C (2 GPA points). No credit and no GPA points are awarded for final grades of 69% or below. Students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may receive a passing grade with 60% or higher. Dual credit courses that meet the University of New Mexico's Core Curriculum are weighted with one additional GPA point for final grades of 80% and above, similar to an Honors, Pre-AP, or AP course.

CLASS RANK

Class Rank is based on the cumulative weighted GPA and is determined by final term grades which carry credit. All grades earned while at EMHS are included in the ranking, as are grades earned through correspondence courses, summer school or transfer school(s). Grades earned by dual credit are included on the transcript and included in a student's GPA and class rank. A cumulative weighted GPA is included on each student's transcript. Honors, Pre-AP, AP and UNM Core Curriculum dual credit courses are weighted.

TIMBERWOLF DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE

Students in the Class of 2019 are eligible to receive the Timberwolf Diploma of Excellence by earning two credits in a subject area of their choice. Furthermore, one of the student's four math credits must be Algebra 2 or higher, the student must receive a passing score on the NM Graduation Assessment or equivalent and have experience taking a career, distance learning, honors or college (dual credit) course.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

The Speech & Debate program is ranked in the top five percent of programs in the nation, qualifying many students every year to the National Speech & Debate Tournament. The program has won dozens of state championships and has won top awards at the National Tournament each year over the past decade. EMHS is consistently ranked among the top eight debate teams in the world by the International Public Policy Forum. EMHS Youth and Government is the most dominant program in the state, qualifying more students than any other to the Conference on National Affairs every year. Our National Honor Society logs thousands of hours in service projects each year, and the Model UN team has represented EMHS at the UC Berkeley National Conference. Three students were chosen by the New Mexico Human Rights Project to participate in the Model International Criminal Court Mock Trials in Krzywowa, Poland. The New Mexico Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (NM MESA) program has finished near the top of several robotics and engineering competitions, as well as participating in an international robotics exchange in the Czech Republic. EMHS started its chapter of the National Honor Society in January 2009. Students are also recognized for their academic achievements through the Dean's List.

Team sports include dance, boys/girls soccer, volleyball, cross country, bowling, boys/girls basketball, baseball, softball, boys/girls golf, and track & field. The Bowling Team is an eight-time A – AAAA State Bowling Champion. The Baseball Team won the 2012 AA State Championship, leading EMHS to be the first charter school in New Mexico to win a state athletic title. The Girls Cross Country Team earned the 2013 AA State Championship.

RECENT TEST SCORES

In spring 2010, the EMHS Foundation began paying for ALL juniors to sit for the April ACT. In the Class of 2018, the highest ACT Composite Score was 34 and the lowest Composite Scores was 11 .	Average ACT Scores												
	Grad Year	No. of Students Tested		English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
		EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM
	2018	90	13,749	22.0	18.3	20.9	19.1	21.7	20.1	20.8	19.7	21.4	19.4
	2017	85	13,523	22.5	18.6	21.0	19.4	22.6	20.4	22.4	20.0	22.2	19.7
	2016	89	13,435	24.1	18.9	22.2	19.5	23.8	20.5	22.2	20.1	23.1	19.9
	2015	100	13,393	23.0	19.1	21.3	19.8	23.4	20.6	22.1	20.3	22.6	20.1
	2014	90	12,945	23.9	18.9	21.7	19.7	24.0	20.5	22.6	20.1	23.2	19.9

The percentage of EMHS students in the Class of 2018 meeting all four of ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks was 30%, compared to 17% in the state of New Mexico and 27% nationwide.

In spring 2016, the EMHS Foundation began paying for ALL juniors to sit for the March SAT. In the Class of 2018, the highest SAT Total Score was 1430 and the lowest SAT Total Score was 780 .	Average SAT Scores										
	Grad Year	No. of Students Tested		Critical Reading OR Evidence Based Reading & Writing		Mathematics		Writing		TOTAL	
		EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM	EMHS	NM
	2018	87	3,225	571	552	542	540	N/A	N/A	1113	1093
	2017	83	2,342	561	577	531	561	N/A	N/A	1092	1138
	2016	11	1,842	632	553	577	545	580	525	1209	1098
	2015	5	2,292	582	551	572	544	617	528	1154	1095
	2014	12	2,316	591	548	563	543	572	526	1154	1091

The percentage of EMHS students in the Class of 2018 meeting both of SAT's College & Career Readiness Benchmarks was 51%, compared to 24% in the state of New Mexico and 27% nationwide.

* In 16-17, we added AP Calculus AB and AP English Language & Composition. In 17-18, we added Pre-AP World History, AP US History and AP US Government. All students enrolled in AP courses are required to sit for the AP Exam. Prior to 16-17, Calculus was offered as an Honors course and the AP Exam was optional. In 13-14, a grant was provided for students to take the AP Exam, even if their coursework was not AP, accounting for the larger number of test takers that year and the decrease the next two years.	Average AP Scores						
	Grad Year	EMHS			New Mexico		
		Total AP Students	Number of Exams	AP Students w/Scores 3+	Total AP Students	Number of Exams	AP Students w/Scores 3+
	2018*	73	97	44 (60%)	10,718	17,483	4,618 (43%)
	2017*	46	51	35 (76%)	11,373	18,505	4,697 (41%)
	2016	4	4	4 (100%)	10,883	17,115	4,409 (41%)
	2015	13	13	6 (46%)	9,417	15,087	4,081 (43%)
	2014	30	33	9 (30%)	9,100	14,309	4,070 (45%)

In 2018, 7 students earned an AP Scholar Award for receiving scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. An additional 3 students earned an AP Scholar with Honor Award for receiving an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

CLASS OF 2018 ACADEMIC PROFILE

Number of Graduates: 85

65 graduates (76%) had a final cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0 or higher, 20 (24%) of whom had a final cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher.

1,591 college credits earned (an average of approximately 18 college credits per senior), with two students earning their Associate's Degrees – one in Liberal Arts and one in Biology

One student planned to participate in collegiate athletics (cross country and track & field)

Postsecondary Plans	# of Students	Institution and Number of Students
Four-year Colleges and Universities (New Mexico)	44	Eastern New Mexico University (2), New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (7), New Mexico State University (4), St. John's College (1), University of New Mexico (30)
Four-year Colleges and Universities (Out-of-State)	16	Arizona State University (1), Brigham Young University (1), Colorado Mountain College (1), Colorado State University (1), Fort Lewis College (1), Gallaudet University (1), Mercy College (1), Northern Arizona University (2), Soka University of America (1), Southwestern University (1), Stanford University (1), University of Texas at Austin (1), University of Vermont (1), University of Wyoming (1), Washington State University (1)
Community Colleges	17	Central New Mexico Community College (15), Coastal Carolina Community College (1), Quinsigamond Community College (1)
Other	8	Military Service (4), Workforce (4)

CLASS OF 2019 ACADEMIC PROFILE

Number Enrolled: 74

46 students (62%) have a current cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0 or higher, 17 (23%) of whom have a current cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher.