



EAST MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL

COLLABORATION | CURIOSITY | EMPATHY | INTEGRITY | REFLECTION

• PO Box 340 • 25 La Madera Road • Sandia Park, New Mexico 87047 •
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2023 – 2024 SCHOOL PROFILE

MISSION

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

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1999 as one of the first charter schools in New Mexico, East Mountain High School is one of the state's leading public charter schools and has developed a reputation for educational excellence. EMHS is designated as a Spotlight School by the NMPED, scoring above the 75th percentile of schools in NM. Although EMHS celebrates its students' academic achievement as reflected in its test scores and graduation rates, the school is primarily dedicated to the growth in learning of **each** student as it prepares students to succeed in college and in life.

The school opened in the fall of 2000 and graduated its first senior class in May 2004. As a school of choice, EMHS is an alternative to the two large traditional high schools in the geographical area. In accordance with the NM Charter School Law, students are admitted through a lottery process.

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. 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 so students engage in hands-on opportunities while covering a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum. Everyone – students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians and community members – is encouraged to put **inquiry** at the heart of learning and to think independently and creatively.

A few specifics:

- EMHS serves **406** students in grades nine through twelve, with **77 seniors**.
- The **Free and Reduced Lunch rate is 25%**, up from an average of 19% in previous years.
- **32%** of students are **first-generation** students.
- The **4-year graduation rate is about 90%**, compared to about 77% in the state.
- Bus service is not available, so students and families **provide their own transportation**.
- All students are required to earn 20 hours of community service annually, for a total of at least 80 hours.
- All families are asked to volunteer 60 hours each year in service to the school.

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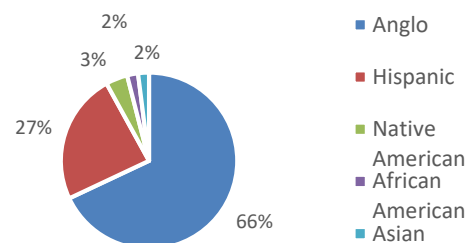
Member of the New Mexico
Activities Association (NMAA), New
Mexico Coalition for Charter Schools,
National Association for College
Admission Counseling and Rocky
Mountain Association for College
Admission Counseling

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.

As a charter school with no traditional boundary lines, the majority of students travel from a large geographic region. The following rural east mountain communities are represented: Village of Tijeras, Escobosa, Chilili, Cedar Crest, Sandia Park, Golden, Edgewood, Moriarty, Estancia, Tajique, Torreon and Stanley. Students also travel to EMHS from Albuquerque.

ETHNICITY



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

❖ COVID-19 IMPACT

Remote learning was held from March 2020 through March 2021 and a grading scale with a 60% pass rate was implemented for SY 20-21. The school returned to a 70% pass rate for SY 21-22 and beyond.

❖ CURRICULUM & INQUIRY LEARNING

The curriculum is designed within a 4 x 4 block schedule so each student masters a pool of knowledge and competencies. EMHS provides an inquiry-based curriculum that is college-preparatory and based on a liberal arts model. Students learn to think critically and articulate thoughts clearly through inquiry-based learning.

The school is committed to creating a culture of effective teaching and learning, ensuring each student's academic knowledge, college and career preparation, progressive skill development, exposure to a rigorous curriculum and connection to the community.

Students learn to conduct independent research to form a cohesive understanding of a topic. Their findings are adapted into written, verbal and visual formats to demonstrate their understanding.

❖ DUAL CREDIT/EARLY COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

- EMHS has dual credit agreements with Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), Eastern New Mexico University, the University of New Mexico – Main and Gallup.
- EMHS primarily partners with CNM to offer dual credit courses, both online and in person. Prior to the COVID-19 school closures, CNM instructors taught science and math courses on the EMHS campus. All courses have since moved online due to the pandemic and its aftermath. Students are allowed to enroll in courses not typically offered at EMHS.
- All core curriculum dual credit courses are weighted with one additional GPA point for final grades of 80% and above.

❖ HONORS PROGRAM

- Honors humanities courses include: English 10 Honors/World Literature, English 11 Honors/American Literature, English 12 Honors/ Research: Art of Inquiry & Discussion, World History Honors and US History Honors.
- Honors mathematics courses include: Algebra 1 Honors, Geometry Honors, Algebra 2 Honors and Pre-Calculus Honors.
- Environmental Science Honors is the only honors science course offered and all students take the class either junior or senior year.
- Spanish 5 Honors Literature & Culture was added in SY 16-17.
- All honors courses are weighted with one additional GPA point for final grades of 80% and above.

❖ ADVANCED PLACEMENT CHANGES

- In SY 20-21, EMHS no longer offered Advanced Placement classes, except in AP Calculus AB. In SY 23-24, AP Calculus AB was also eliminated. Through a grant with the National Math & Science Initiative, EMHS is able to offer online AP Computer Science Principles.

❖ WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish is offered as the primary world language offering, with a curriculum through Level 5 Honors. In SY 22-23, we were excited to add French 1 & 2! Students may also complete their world language requirements through dual credit for other languages.

❖ FRESHMAN SEMINAR & SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE

- All students start their high school experience in Freshman Seminar, where they learn more about themselves and how to be a successful EMHS student.
- In the spring of their senior year, all students organize and present a Senior Exhibition portfolio as a component of their Senior Seminar Capstone. Through a series of reflective conversations and projects, students explore the connections between who they are and who they want to become.

❖ DISCOVERY PROJECTS

Discovery Projects are experiential learning projects for all freshmen, sophomores and juniors that take place during the last two weeks of the school year. The projects were cancelled in May 2020 and May 2021 due to the pandemic; graduation credit requirements were adjusted to account for the cancellation. Discovery Projects have since been redesigned to include a Junior Leadership Project where they mentor freshmen. Sophomores participate in a 5-day, out-of-town Leadership Retreat.

CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS 28.5 CREDITS (4.5 Credits OVER the New Mexico Minimum)

HUMANITIES 10 CREDITS	Humanities 9: 1 credit = English 9 1 credit = New Mexico History/ Geography & Research
	Humanities 10: 1 credit = English 10/World Literature 1 credit = Modern World History/ Geography
	Humanities 11: 1 credit = English 11/American Studies 1 credit = United States History/ Geography
	Senior English, Social Studies & Capstone: 1 credit = English 12/Research: Art of Inquiry OR English 12 Honors/Research: Art of Inquiry & Discussion 1 credit = English 12/Creative Writing, Fiction, Philosophy OR Reading the Classics 1 credit = US Government 0.5 credit = Economics 0.5 credit = Senior Seminar Capstone
ENGLISH 5 CREDITS	
SOCIAL STUDIES 4.5 CREDITS	
SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE 0.5 CREDIT	
MATHEMATICS 4 CREDITS	1 credit = Algebra 2 or higher
SCIENCE 4 CREDITS	1 credit = Integrated Physics & Chemistry
	1 credit = Biology
	1 credit = Environmental Science Honors
	1 credit = Additional Science Credit
FINE ARTS 1 CREDIT	<i>Required credit from various elective offerings</i>
WORLD LANGUAGE 2 CREDITS	<i>In the same language Must be taken in consecutive terms</i>
PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 CREDIT	<i>May use the Athletics for PE Waiver with completion of an NMAA sport</i>
HEALTH & FRESHMAN SEMINAR 0.5 CREDIT EACH	<i>Required courses for all freshmen</i>
COLLEGE/CAREER EXPLORATION 1 CREDIT	<i>Required credit from various elective offerings focused on an aspect of a student's college or career interests</i>
DISCOVERY PROJECTS 0.5 CREDIT	<i>Required elective credits focused on experiential learning for all freshmen, sophomores and juniors</i>
ELECTIVES 4 CREDITS	<i>Various elective offerings are available, including dual credit courses</i>
COMMUNITY SERVICE	<i>Minimum of 80 hours of documented community service</i>

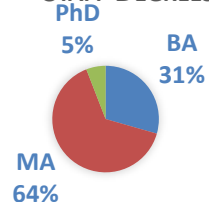
RECOGNITION

In 2023, EMHS was designated by the New Mexico Public Education Department as a Spotlight School, scoring above the 75th percentile of schools in NM. EMHS is one of eight schools (and one of only three high schools) to receive an “A” rating all eight years the NM PED School Grading System was implemented. The school has also been recognized consistently as a best high school in the *U.S. News & World Report*. **EMHS is also very proud to be the only New Mexico high school in 2018 to be named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education for exemplary achievement in closing the achievement gap.**

FACULTY & STAFF

CERTIFIED FACULTY &

STAFF DEGREES



Two teachers hold National Board Certification. EMHS teachers have received some of the highest honors in the profession, including: the 2023 Speech & Debate Coach of the Year, 2023 NMAA Coach of the Year, 2022 AFRL NM High School Excellence in STEM Awards STEM Educator of the Year, ABQ the Magazine’s “2022 Above & Beyond Teacher,” 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 & Debate Coach of the Year. New Mexico Business Weekly named a faculty member a 2011 & 2023 Top Forty Under 40.

Teacher and staff longevity has also contributed to the school’s success: seven employees have 16+ years, five employees have 11 – 15 years, nine employees have 6 – 10 years and 25 employees have 0 – 5 years. **EMHS is very pleased to have five alumni on staff as teachers or educational assistants.**

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 85 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 experiential Discovery Projects. Discovery Projects were not offered during the Spring of 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Summer dual credit courses are included with Fall in-progress courses, so final grades and credit for Summer dual credit courses are awarded in January when Fall grades post to the transcript.

GRADING SYSTEM & COVID-19 IMPACT

EMHS supports the policy of mastery learning, therefore, students must earn a grade of 70% or higher in order to receive credit. EMHS uses percentages to report final grades. No credit and no GPA points are awarded for final grades of 69% or below. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the grading scale was adjusted to award credit for final grades of 60% – 69% for SY 20-21 only.

All honors, AP and core dual credit courses are weighted with one additional GPA point for final grades of 80% and above. Elective dual credit courses do not receive extra weighting. Students are recognized for their academic achievements through the Dean’s List.

Grading Scale		
Final Grade %	GPA points	Honors, AP and Core Dual Credit GPA Points
90% - 100% (A)	4 GPA points	5 GPA points
80% - 89% (B)	3 GPA points	4 GPA points
70% - 79% (C)	2 GPA points	2 GPA points
<= 69% (F)	0 GPA points	0 GPA points

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 and unweighted GPA are included on each student’s transcript. Honors, AP and UNM Core Curriculum dual credit courses are weighted. In order to receive the honor of Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must have been enrolled at EMHS for a minimum of six consecutive terms, including their full senior year.

TIMBERWOLF DIPLOMA OF EXCELLENCE

Students in the Class of 2024 are eligible to receive the Timberwolf Diploma of Excellence by earning two additional credits in a subject area of their choice. Additionally, one of the student’s four math credits must be Algebra 2 or higher and the student must 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 over a dozen state championships, as well as 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.
- The Youth and Government program is the most dominant program in the state, qualifying more students than any other to the Conference on National Affairs every year.
- EMHS started its chapter of the National Honor Society in January 2009 and students log thousands of hours in service projects each year.
- The Model United Nations team has represented EMHS at the UC Berkeley National Conference.
- The New Mexico Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (NM MESA) program has finished near the top of several robotics and engineering competitions, as well as having participated in an international robotics exchange in the Czech Republic. MESA students won the NM Governor’s STEM Challenge in 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022.
- Team sports include boys/girls soccer, volleyball, cross country, bowling, boys/girls basketball, baseball, softball, golf and track & field. The Bowling Team is a 12-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

Average ACT Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In SY 09-10, the EMHS Foundation began paying for ALL juniors to sit for the April ACT. Class of 2024 ACT Composite Score: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest = 34 Lowest = 12 <p>* Testing was optional for the Class of 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	Class of	No. of Students Tested	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
		2024	74	21.1	19.8	22.0	20.9	21.0
		2023	74	20.6	20.3	22.9	20.7	21.2
		2022*	41	23.2	21.3	23.6	23.0	22.9
		2021	73	22.5	21.4	23.9	22.1	22.7
		2020	81	24.0	22.6	25.1	22.8	23.7

The percentage of EMHS students in the Class of 2024 meeting all four of ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks was 27%, compared to 20% in New Mexico and 22% nationwide.

Average SAT Scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In SY 15-16, the EMHS Foundation began paying for ALL juniors to sit for the March SAT. In 2020, the NM PED began paying for ALL juniors in NM to take the SAT as their demonstration of competency for graduation. Class of 2024 SAT Total Score: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest = 1470 Lowest = 650 <p>* Testing was optional for the Class of 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	Class of	No. of Students Tested	Evidence Based Reading & Writing	Math	TOTAL
		2024	77	523	499	1022
		2023	69	539	535	1074
		2022*	62	590	555	1145
		2021	67	561	528	1089
		2020	77	587	548	1135

The percentage of EMHS students in the Class of 2024 meeting both of SAT's College & Career Readiness Benchmarks was 35%, compared to 28% in the state of New Mexico and 43% nationwide.

Advanced Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning in SY 16-17, all students enrolled in AP courses were required to sit for the AP Exam. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AP Exam was optional in Spring 2021. Beginning in SY 21-22, AP courses were no longer offered, except in Calculus AB. A grant with the National Math & Science Initiative allowed us to offer online AP Computer Science Principles. In SY 23-24, zero students are enrolled in AP classes. 	Year	Total AP Students	Number of Exams	AP Students w/ Scores 3+
		2023	8	9	8 (89%)
		2022	5	5	3 (60%)
		2021	44	47	27 (61%)
		2020	68	100	44 (65%)
		2019	64	88	50 (60%)

CLASS OF 2024 ACADEMIC PROFILE

GPA Distributions for the 77 Students in the Class of 2024				
>= 4.0 GPA	3.5 – 3.9999 GPA	3.0 – 3.4999 GPA	2.5 – 2.9999 GPA	<2.5 GPA
18 students (23%)	15 students (20%)	16 students (21%)	16 students (21%)	12 students (15%)

CLASS OF 2023 ACADEMIC PROFILE

Number of Graduates: 77

51 graduates (66%) had a final cumulative weighted GPA of 3.0 or higher, 20 (26%) of whom had a final cumulative weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher.

540 college credits earned through dual credit and Advanced Placement, with one student earning over 40 credits and two students earning over 30 college credits.

Three students received the National Hispanic Recognition Award and 14 students received the National Rural and Small Town Award in the College Board National Recognition Program.

Three students are playing college athletics: 2-soccer, 1-volleyball.

Postsecondary Plans	# of Students	Institution and Number of Students
Four-year Colleges and Universities (New Mexico)	35	Eastern New Mexico University (2), New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (2), New Mexico State University (6), St. John's College (1), University of New Mexico (24)
Four-year Colleges and Universities (Out-of-State)	18	University of Alabama, University of Arkansas, Brigham Young University Idaho, Earlham College, Fort Lewis College (3), McMurry University, Marquette University, Norwich University, Montana State University, Missouri State University, Northern Arizona University, Regis University, Texas Tech University (2), Grand Canyon University, Oregon State University
Community or Technical Colleges	11	Central New Mexico Community College (9), Dodge City Community College (1), Tacoma Community College (1)
Other	13	Apprenticeship (3), Gap Year (5), Mission (1), Workforce (4)