

WELCOME!

Welcome, soon-to-be 6th graders and families, and congratulations on joining the **SOF** family! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. Manhattan Youth is honored to partner with **SOF** to provide fun, engaging extracurricular activities to complement and support your academic experience. These programs are generously funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) as part of its Comprehensive After-School System (COMPASS) *School's Out NYC* (SONYC) initiative and are completely free to you.

Learning doesn't stop when our students leave homeroom at the end of the day! In keeping with DYCD's model, our programs offer targeted enrichment in **literacy, STEM** (science, technology, engineering, and math), and **leadership development**. What does this mean? Here are the basics:

DAILY HOMEWORK HELP: We provide a safe place to work, where staff can help you complete your assignments and offer extra support.

SPORTS: Our teams compete in league play against teams from other middle schools across the city. We also offer some developmental and recreational sport options for students who are new to organized sports and/or just want to have fun.

CREATIVE ARTS AND PERFORMANCES: Depending on the interests of students Manhattan Youth offers many classes in creative arts and performance. Our filmmakers produce documentaries and narrative short films for local film festivals. Other creative outlets include Theater, Jewelry Making, Dance, Comic Book Art, and Portfolio Preparation for visual arts high schools.

GENERAL ENRICHMENT AND STUDENT-INITIATED ACTIVITIES: We encourage student input to form clubs/activities with our staff based on their interests. At **SOF**, some of these include: DIY Club, Coding, Debate, and so much more. We look forward to hearing what YOU would like to do in afterschool!

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Activities are held every day school is in session, except half-days. The After School Director will notify in advance of any other program changes or closures.
- Free snack is provided in our cafeteria immediately following school day dismissal. Students transition to the first activity directly after snack.
- Activities are offered in **TWO** sessions: **3:00 – 4:30** and **4:30 – 6:00**. Students must register for a first session activity to participate in a second session activity.
- Activities are offered in **THREE** trimesters. Next year's afterschool program sessions are as follows:

FALL SESSION

September 13 – November 23

WINTER SESSION

November 26 – March 8

SPRING SESSION

March 11 – June 21

****REGISTRATION for afterschool will open ONLINE ONLY in August 2018****

If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to contact us!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Although we hear these a lot, we realize they're not comprehensive. If you don't find the answer to your question(s) below, please feel free to contact Jennifer at JTortora@manhattanyouth.org.

How do I sign my child up for afterschool?

Registration will be available, online only, in August on our Manhattan Youth Website. You can find this website by going to ManhattanYouth.org > Afterschool > Middle School Programs > SOF

When does afterschool begin and end for the year?

In 2018-2019 , afterschool activities will begin on **Monday, September 10** and run through **Friday, June 21**. We operate on all days the school is in session, except for half days. Any other days we are closed will be communicated to you.

Am I guaranteed to get the activity I sign up for?

Generally, yes. The only activities that are not guaranteed are our competitive sports teams. Please note that sports teams are assigned **only** after students try out; students are then placed on either the varsity (V), or junior varsity (JV) team if available. All students **must tryout** each year for the sport they are interested in.

When you register online your child's seat is **reserved** until we have received consent and medical forms from you. Your child will not be allowed to stay in our program until we have received them. These forms only need to be filled out once for the entire school year. So, if you register and fill out forms for fall, you only need to register for winter/spring.

What if my child wants to switch activities/clubs?

At the beginning of each trimester, there is a two week period where students can switch clubs. After this time, you can only drop/add clubs.

What if my child only wants to sign up for a late activity?

Unfortunately, for safety purposes, we cannot allow students to leave the building for half of the day and then come back for a late club. If your child is interested in a late activity, they must attend an early activity as well.

Is the Study Lab session offered tutoring?

No; our study lab sessions are usually led by our Manhattan Youth line staff. While some of our line staff may be able to offer support in certain subjects, our study lab sessions are just safe, controlled spaces where students can get their homework done before moving on to another activity or going home.

What if my child has to leave early from afterschool?

We ask that you email the director to let her know. This is true for any changes to your child's regularly scheduled activities.

How much does it cost?

Nothing! It's FREE! Thanks to the recent inception of the School's Out New York City (SONYC) initiative, afterschool programming for the middle school is generously funded by the Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and Manhattan Youth.

Who teaches afterschool activities?

Manhattan Youth employs experienced teachers, teaching artists, and coaches to lead activities. We also recruit young professionals and college students to serve as our teaching assistants. All employees are subject to extensive

background checks, including fingerprinting from both the Dept. of Health and Dept. of Education as well as clearance from the NY State Criminal Registry.