



ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

...igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition

2009 APPLICATION PROCESS

Academic Program

IMSA is a three-year (10-12) residential college preparatory program for Illinois students. IMSA offers more than 100 advanced courses in mathematics, science, the arts and humanities, with an emphasis on meaningful connections and integration. Personalized Learning Plans increase opportunities for students to deepen and strengthen their three-year academic experience. These plans also enable students to engage in learning unique to their interests, passions and future goals. The innovative Student Inquiry and Research Program enables students to pursue compelling questions of interest, conduct and present findings of original research, engage in entrepreneurial applied science and technology activities, and collaborate with other students, mentors, scholars, researchers and inventors throughout the world. IMSA's unique schedule allows for special seminars led by world "masters", academic consultation with expert faculty, leadership, community and workservice opportunities. Dr. Leon Lederman, a Nobel Prize winning physicist, serves as IMSA's resident scholar; our entire faculty hold advanced degrees with 47% holding a Ph.D. To promote collaboration, IMSA does not calculate grade point averages or class rankings. Tuition and most room and board expenses are provided by state funds. Some fees are charged, based on family income.

Eligibility

Illinois residents (residency is required by application deadline) who have completed the equivalent of nine years of education, excluding preschool and kindergarten, and are not currently enrolled beyond the ninth grade are invited to apply to the Academy.

Illinois residency must be able to be documented no later than March 1, 2009. Students who have not yet enrolled in the 9th grade must submit documentation of having completed an academic program comparable to high school level work in mathematics, science and English. This must include a minimum of one year of algebra and one year of a high school level science.

Students enrolled in homeschool programs will need to provide documentation explaining their curriculum, evaluation process, and text books. Recommendations must be completed by non-family members who know the student's work well.

Admission

Students will be selected for admission from among all eligible and qualified applicants. Eligibility is described above. Qualified applicants will meet the following criteria:

- History of consistently high academic achievement.
- Demonstrated interest and talent in mathematics and/or science.
- Expectation for success within the IMSA academic and residential environment.
- Potential for significant contributions in mathematics, science and/or technology.

Factors such as demonstration of exceptional talent in mathematics, science and/or technology, course work completed, potential for leadership, demonstration of a pattern of ethical decision making, behaviors consistent with research on gifted mathematics and science students, expectations for success within the IMSA environment, relative academic standing in home school, home language, state and applicant pool demographics are considered when selecting students for admission. **Ninth (9th) grade applicants are given priority over eighth (8th) grade applicants.**

Students who are not invited to attend the Academy or who are waitlisted may request a review of the decision. This request must be submitted in writing to the Office of Admissions within two weeks of the receipt of the decision. The decision will be reviewed by an Appeals Committee.

Waitlist

The number of students invited to attend IMSA each year is determined by institutional capacity. An additional group of students are identified for a waitlist. Invitations are extended to students on the waitlist as spaces open.

Conditional Admission (EXCEL)

Some students may be invited to attend IMSA contingent upon successful completion of a prescribed program. Each year approximately 50 students are **required** to attend EXCEL, a three-week summer preparation program on the IMSA campus. Students are identified for EXCEL through proficiency testing and supporting documents. EXCEL is scheduled within July, 2009. All applicants should reserve the month of July in the event they are required to attend. Self selection to EXCEL is not permitted.

Placement/Proficiency Testing

All students invited to attend the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy are **required** to complete a series of proficiency tests in mathematics, science, and world languages prior to registration. Tests for students entering in the Fall of 2009 are scheduled for May 29 and May 30, 2009. Site and time information will be provided with decision letters.

Summer Orientation

All students invited to attend IMSA in the Fall of 2009, along with their parents, will be **required** to attend one of two on-campus orientation sessions during the summer. Summer Orientation dates will be offered in July, 2009. Since attendance is mandatory, please keep this in mind as you make summer travel plans.

Application Procedures

Students seeking admission to IMSA must complete this application form, or its on-line version, and submit it **along with a nonrefundable application processing fee of \$50.00 to IMSA, postmarked by March 1, 2009.**

Additionally, students must request that the appropriate supporting evaluation forms be completed by a current counselor or principal, a mathematics teacher, a science teacher and an English teacher. One additional student selected recommendation, that addresses the student's mathematics/science/technology background, may also be submitted on the student's behalf (i.e. mentor, 4H Leader, etc.). **We recommend that students ask individuals who know the student's work well in mathematics, science and technology and who have had direct academic experience with them in either the 07-08 or 08-09 school year to complete the teacher evaluations.** Student identification information and appropriate releases should be completed before students distribute the forms to their teachers and counselors.

All applicants must take the SAT Reasoning Test. Only scores for exams dated during the 2008-2009 academic year (after September 2008, but prior to March 15, 2009) will be considered in the IMSA selection process. When you register to take the SAT Reasoning Test through the national testing program, the **IMSA code number, 3027**, should be designated at the time of the test registration for prompt release of the scores by the Educational Testing Service to IMSA.

The Academy reserves the right to request an interview with the applicant.

Your completed application file must include the following items:

1. Application form (or its on-line version)
2. \$50.00 nonrefundable application processing fee. *If not paid on-line, make checks payable to IMSA. (please put applicant's name on check)*
3. Student short answer and essay responses (with appropriate signatures)
4. One Mathematics teacher evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
5. One Science teacher evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
6. One English teacher evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
7. Current counselor or Principal evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
8. 2006-2007 official grade report sent from school
9. 2007-2008 official grade report sent from school
10. 2008-2009 official grade report (at completion of 1st semester) sent from school
11. Current academic year SAT scores - must be taken after September, 2008, but prior to March 15, 2009
12. One optional student selected recommendation, that addresses the student's mathematics/science/technology interest and involvement. Can be in letter format or using the evaluation form.

IMSA APPLICATION DEADLINE: POSTMARKED OR SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY MARCH 1, 2009.

Office of Admissions
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 West Sullivan Road
Aurora, Illinois 60506-1000

How to Improve Your IMSA Application

Your decision to apply to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy may prove to be the single most significant event in your lifelong educational and professional career. Completion of this application could set in motion a process that will culminate next fall with your arrival on the IMSA campus where you will meet new friends, explore your talents, engage in new ways of learning, interact with students from diverse cultural backgrounds, and perhaps most importantly, expand your options for the future.

Generally, students who complete the application process to IMSA represent a very select group of students from throughout the state of Illinois. In most cases, these students have consistently experienced academic success and have demonstrated their interest, task commitment, and creativity in a variety of settings in mathematics, science and/or technology. We expect that during the 2008-2009 admission cycle there will be three to four strong applicants for each space available in the class scheduled to arrive in August of 2009. Because of our limited capacity we are forced to disappoint many highly qualified and motivated students each year. **Some of the questions we will ask during our review of each applicant include:**

To what extent did this student take advantage of local resources?

To what extent did this student clearly demonstrate talent, interest, and motivation in mathematics and/or science beyond the bounds of the classroom when available?

Is this student enrolled in the most challenging curriculum available to them in mathematics and/or science within their home school setting?

Will this student complete all mathematics and science courses at the local school prior to senior year?

We encourage you to consider the following suggestions as you complete your application:

1. **Your application file represents you to the IMSA review committee members.** The care and thought with which you complete your application is revealed by things such as correct spelling and punctuation, legible handwriting, and attention to the intent of the question. Lack of care and thought causes reviewers to question your commitment to the task, and in turn, your probable commitment to the IMSA academic program. If possible, we recommend that you type your responses. Please do not use font size smaller than 10 .
2. **Reviewers will be looking for evidence of potential and motivation in several areas.** These include:
 - a. Mathematical reasoning and curiosity demonstrated by specific achievement or activities.
 - b. Scientific reasoning and curiosity demonstrated by specific achievement or activities.
 - c. Communication skills demonstrated by your written responses to questions.
 - d. Interpersonal skills demonstrated by evidence of understanding viewpoints other than your own, acceptance of both leader and follower roles, and promotion of cooperative behaviors among peers.
 - e. Skill application demonstrated by activities such as computer programming, musical performance, construction of models, etc.
 - f. Leadership based on reports from teachers of observed behavior and/or specific accomplishments.
3. **Reviewers will look for evidence of your desire and eagerness to accept challenges, demonstrate motivation and task commitment, and engage in and resolve problems creatively.**
4. **Your application is supported by the evaluation forms completed by your current counselor and teachers, as well as your optional recommendation,** that addresses your mathematics/science/technology background, may also be submitted on your behalf (i.e. mentor, 4H Leader, etc.). Remember that these people are very busy. Please allow them sufficient time to complete the forms carefully.
5. **Your application cannot be reviewed if it is not complete.** Check back with your references to make sure the forms have been sent to IMSA on time. **Also, be sure to take the SAT Reasoning Test no later than March 15, 2009.** *We will conduct a file audit and notify you mid March if any information is missing.*
6. **Let your passion and personality emerge from your file.** Let the reviewers “see” your sensitivity, sense of humor, love of learning, and insight. Remember, this is an important way they can learn about you.

Good luck as you complete the IMSA application. Call us at (630) 907-5028 or within Illinois 1-800-500-IMSA (4672) if you have any questions that your teachers or counselor cannot answer.

We hope you will take the opportunity to experience the excitement of IMSA by attending one of the IMSA campus visitation opportunities. These dates are chances to learn more about life at IMSA. We also encourage you to attend an information meeting in your region to talk with an admission staff member personally. Regardless of the outcome of your application, we hope the process of applying to IMSA will be a positive experience for you. Use this time to think carefully about your own educational goals and to examine and celebrate your talents.

SAT REASONING TEST REGISTRATION AND TESTING – NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

The SAT Reasoning Test is used by the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for the admission process. **An admission decision on your application will not be made unless a current SAT score is submitted.** Because this test is required for admission, all applicants to IMSA for Fall 2009 must take the SAT Reasoning during the 2008-2009 academic year (after September 2008, but prior to March 15, 2009).

You must choose one of the dates below for taking the SAT:

National SAT Reasoning Administration

College Board administers the SAT Reasoning test to prospective college students on multiple dates at many sites throughout the year. To register for the National program, obtain the “College Board Registration Bulletin” from a high school counselor, complete and mail in their registration form with payment.

You may also check dates, locations and register for the test through the College Board website at www.collegeboard.com. **Students choosing the National testing option will need to take the test no later than March 15, 2009 to guarantee that IMSA will receive test scores in time for processing this spring. You will receive a copy of your test scores directly from College Board.**

The available dates and registration deadlines for the National program are listed below. Please refer to the College Board Registration Bulletin or website for the location of available sites on these dates:

| Testing Date | Deadline |
|------------------|--------------------|
| October 4, 2008 | September 9, 2008 |
| November 1, 2008 | September 26, 2008 |
| December 6, 2008 | November 5, 2008 |
| January 24, 2009 | December 26, 2008 |
| March 14, 2009 | February 10, 2009 |

Important: To ensure that IMSA receives an **Official Score Report**, please use the **IMSA school code #3027** when registering for the National program. SAT Reasoning scores for admission to IMSA should not impact future test scores for college application.

* For 8th graders: If you are a participant in the **Midwest Academic Talent Search** program, an Official SAT Reasoning Test Score Report from the current academic year program is acceptable for submission.

11. Write in the **full name** of parent/legal guardian with whom you live:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|-----------------------------|
| (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.) | First Name | Last Name | relationship |
| (Mr., Ms., Mrs., Dr.) | First Name | Last Name | relationship |
| () | Parent/legal guardian contact phone number | | Parent/legal guardian Email |

12. Write in the **full name** and address of your current school in the spaces below:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--|
| Official Name of School | | School Code | |
| Street # | Street | | |
| City | State | Zip | |
| () | | | |
| School Phone Number | | School Web Site (if applicable) | |

13. Names of individuals completing your evaluation forms and full name of their affiliations:

- a. Mathematics Teacher: _____ School _____
- b. Science Teacher: _____ School _____
- c. English Teacher: _____ School _____
- d. Principal/Counselor: _____ School _____
- e. One optional student selected recommendation, that addresses your mathematics/science/technology involvement and interest, may also be submitted on your behalf (i.e. mentor, 4H Leader, etc.).
-

14. Have you registered for the SAT Reasoning Test? _____ Yes _____ No

Reminder: You can register for the SAT on-line at www.collegeboard.com

**The SAT must be taken during the 2008-2009 academic year
(after September 2008, but prior to March 15, 2009).**

SECTION II. To be completed by Student.

Please respond on separate pages to the following questions.

15. *(Word Guideline - In 250 words or less)* If you are invited to attend the Academy, you will be asked to live, study, and work with many people from different backgrounds from throughout Illinois. How would you describe yourself to these people? How would living with these people be different?
16. *(Word Guideline - In 500 words or less)* It is your task to develop a working equation/formula for learning mathematics and science, that will mathematically portray the relationship of factors in being successful in advanced study in mathematics, science and technology.
Here are some factors from which you can choose: (You may add any variables of your own)
- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| C = Change | K = Knowledge | Q = Questioning |
| CO = Collaboration | L = Love | T = Time |
| IM = Imagination | P = Play | TE = Technology |

Describe in your own words the formula you have just created.

SECTION II. To be completed by Student. (continued)

17. *(Word Guideline - In 250 words or less)* If you were to initiate an endeavor that would have an impact on the world of mathematics, science and technology for future generations, what would its nature be and how would you go about starting it?
18. *(Word Guideline - In 250 words or less)* Select one of *IMSA's* Belief Statements on the back side of the application. Discuss its relevance to one of your *own* beliefs and how sharing that belief with the *IMSA* Community will impact your learning while at the Academy.

SECTION III.

19. Please list *in bulleted form* any *IMSA* sponsored activities/programs (Informational Meeting, campus visitation event, PROMISE, SEAMS, EIP, Summer Sleuths, E2K+, Kids Institute programs, *IMSA-ComEd* CyberQuiz, etc.) in which you have participated. List full name of activity, date(s), and location if known.
20. Please list **and describe** *in bulleted form* your most meaningful extracurricular activities, organized or individual, during the past three years. Also indicate any leadership positions, as well as time involved per week, in these activities. *IMSA reserves the right to verify participation in activities listed.* (Do not use acronyms - please use full name for all activities)
- a. Mathematics, Science and Technology related activities:
(i.e. Activity Your Age at time of Involvement Office/Position Hours per week)
- b. Prioritize and describe your top three other areas of involvement: (ie: specific sports, clubs, and/or organizations)
(i.e. Activity Your Age at time of Involvement Office/Position Hours per week)
21. Please list **and describe** *in bulleted form* the most meaningful awards you have received *in or out of school* during the past three years. Include full name of award(s), year the award was received, and whether won at the local, state, national or international level. *IMSA reserves the right to verify awards received* (Do not use acronyms - please use full name for all awards).

PLEASE DO NOT SEND COPIES OF AWARDS.

- a. Mathematics, Science and Technology related awards:
(i.e. Award Year Local, State, National or International Level)
- b. Prioritize your top three awards won in areas other than mathematics & science:
(i.e. Award Year Local, State, National or International Level)
22. **Optional Statement**

We attempt to identify those applicants whose previous school grades or admission test scores may underpredict academic success. Among the factors we consider in making admission decisions are whether the applicant (1) is from an economically disadvantaged environment; (2) had a health problem which significantly affected, for a period of time, an otherwise exceptionally good academic record; (3) has a permanent physical disability, learning or attentional difference; (4) has completed an exceptionally rigorous academic program; (5) does not speak English at home; or (6) has other exceptional circumstances. This information is considered with your academic credentials. It is particularly relevant if your qualifications place you slightly below the competitive applicants. *Describe any factors like those listed above that you believe the selection committee should consider as they review your credentials.*

SECTION IV. To be completed by parent/legal guardian.

23. *(Word Guideline - In 200 words or less)* Please describe your child's passion/interests/motivation in mathematics, science and technology. Also, please provide any additional information that the Student Selection Committee should consider when evaluating your child's application to IMSA.

SECTION V. To be completed by student and parent/legal guardian.

The attached responses are samples of my own work and have not been edited by others.

We understand that withholding pertinent information requested on this application or giving false information will make me ineligible for admission to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) or subject to cancellation of registration if admission has occurred. The information given herein is true and accurate. Furthermore, we understand information contained within the applicant file will be shared with the Admissions Review and Selection Committees and by submitting application to IMSA, we consent to disclose this information to these committees, waiving our rights to review notes, reports, and recommendations of the Committees. If the applicant is accepted for admission to IMSA, we agree to adhere to rules and regulation now in existence and those that may be established in the future by IMSA. We agree to permit information in this application, and other records resulting from applying to and attending the school to be made available on a confidential basis to the applicant's home school, other educational institutions, and for IMSA-approved research purposes. All application documents are retained by the Academy. I understand that if admitted, this student may be assigned to specific courses or sections as part of the research and development work of the laboratory. Students must comply with the entire IMSA curriculum, which includes the study of evolution. Further, we understand that admission decisions are based on multiple criteria including subjective judgments regarding academic and leadership potential and motivation and demographic representation along with grades and test scores. **Students identified for EXCEL must successfully complete the 3-week program to be eligible for attendance in the Fall.**

| | | |
|--|---|------|
| Parent/Legal Guardian Signature (required) | / | Date |
| Applicant Signature (required) | / | Date |

**Reminder that the application must be postmarked or submitted electronically by
March 1, 2009.**

Please retain a photocopy of completed application for your records.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION: State Government policy prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, color, creed, religion, national origin, age and ancestry, sexual orientation, political affiliation or disability. The sole purpose of gathering this information is to ascertain the effectiveness of recruitment efforts in reaching all segments of the population. IMSA's programs, services and activities are accessible to disabled individuals.

Student: Please detach, cut and attach one of these “requests for evaluation completion” letters to each of the evaluation forms for your mathematics, science, English, school Principal or Counselor and optional evaluator.

Dear _____;

I am applying for admission to the **Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA)**, and I would like your evaluation of my preparedness for entrance into the Academy.

IMSA is a three-year (10-12) residential college preparatory program for Illinois students. IMSA offers more than 100 advanced courses in mathematics, science, the arts and humanities, with an emphasis on meaningful connections and integration. Personalized Learning Plans increase opportunities for students to deepen and strengthen their three-year academic experience. These plans also enable students to engage in learning unique to their interests, passions and future goals. The innovative Student Inquiry and Research Program enables students to pursue compelling questions of interest, conduct and present findings of original research, engage in entrepreneurial applied science and technology activities, and collaborate with other students, mentors, scholars, researchers and inventors throughout the world. IMSA’s unique schedule allows for special seminars led by world “masters”, academic consultation with expert faculty, leadership, community and workservice opportunities. Dr. Leon Lederman, a Nobel Prize winning physicist, serves as IMSA’s resident scholar; our entire faculty hold advanced degrees with 47% holding a Ph.D. To promote collaboration, IMSA does not calculate grade point averages or class rankings. Tuition and most room and board expenses are provided by state funds. Some fees are charged, based on family income.

It is highly selective, with admission determined by grades, SAT scores and qualitative factors, such as communication skills, demonstrated passion for math and/or science, and evaluations from teachers, counselors and others familiar with the applicant. Your assessment is critical to my application, and I thank you in advance for the time and thoughtful attention given to this evaluation. All application materials (including your evaluation) are to be postmarked by March 1st, 2009.

Sincerely,

Student signature

Date



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Student signature

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In your opinion, does this candidate have a **serious interest** in studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

In your opinion, does this candidate have an **aptitude** for studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

Comments: Please use this space to provide any additional information that the Student Review Committee should consider when evaluating this candidate's application to IMSA, including your involvement with him/her outside the traditional classroom, his/her ability to meet personal responsibilities such as taking care of self, meeting deadlines, personal initiative, etc. Please also include any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Do you think that this candidate's grades are a valid reflection of his/her academic abilities? Yes No

If no, please explain:

| PERSONAL QUALITIES | Outstanding | Good | Average | Below Average | No Basis for Judgment |
|--|-------------|-------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| General intelligence _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reasoning ability _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Motivation and task commitment _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Self sufficiency _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Leadership _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Maturity _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Seeking of challenges _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Social adaptability and responsibility _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Academic risk taking _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Among the students I have encountered in my teaching career, this student ranks in the (check one):

upper 1-2% top 5% top 10% top 25% top 50% bottom 50%

Number of years teaching _____ How long have you known this candidate _____
 Which year(s) did you teach this candidate _____
 Course(s) of instruction with this candidate _____

Print Name of Person Completing this Form (Last, First): _____ Title: _____ Office Phone: _____
 ()

Institution: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ email: _____

IMSA's programs, services, and activities are accessible to disabled individuals.

Please retain a photocopy of this form for your records and mail original directly to:

Office of Admissions

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

1500 W Sullivan Road

Aurora, Illinois 60506-1000

Phone: (630)907-5028

Within Illinois: 1-800-500-IMSA (4672)

Return form postmarked by March 1, 2009.

Thank You!

In your opinion, does this candidate have a **serious interest** in studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

In your opinion, does this candidate have an **aptitude** for studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

Comments: Please use this space to provide any additional information that the Student Review Committee should consider when evaluating this candidate's application to IMSA, including your involvement with him/her outside the traditional classroom, his/her ability to meet personal responsibilities such as taking care of self, meeting deadlines, personal initiative, etc. Please also include any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Do you think that this candidate's grades are a valid reflection of his/her academic abilities? Yes No

If no, please explain:

| PERSONAL QUALITIES | Outstanding | Good | Average | Below Average | No Basis for Judgment |
|--|-------------|-------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| General intelligence _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reasoning ability _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Motivation and task commitment _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Self sufficiency _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Leadership _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Maturity _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Seeking of challenges _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Social adaptability and responsibility _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Academic risk taking _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Among the students I have encountered in my teaching career, this student ranks in the (check one):
 upper 1-2% top 5% top 10% top 25% top 50% bottom 50%

Number of years teaching _____ How long have you known this candidate _____
 Which year(s) did you teach this candidate _____
 Course(s) of instruction with this candidate _____

| | | |
|--|------------|----------------------|
| Print Name of Person Completing this Form (Last, First): | Title: | Office Phone: () |
| Institution: | Signature: | Date: |
| Address: | | email: |

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Return form postmarked by March 1, 2009.
Thank You!

In your opinion, does this candidate have a **serious interest** in studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

In your opinion, does this candidate have an **aptitude** for studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

Comments: Please use this space to provide any additional information that the Student Review Committee should consider when evaluating this candidate's application to IMSA, including your involvement with him/her outside the traditional classroom, his/her ability to meet personal responsibilities such as taking care of self, meeting deadlines, personal initiative, etc. Please also include any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Do you think that this candidate's grades are a valid reflection of his/her academic abilities? Yes No

If no, please explain:

| PERSONAL QUALITIES | Outstanding | Good | Average | Below Average | No Basis for Judgment |
|--|-------------|-------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| General intelligence _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reasoning ability _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Motivation and task commitment _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Self sufficiency _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Leadership _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Maturity _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Seeking of challenges _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Social adaptability and responsibility _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Academic risk taking _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Among the students I have encountered in my teaching career, this student ranks in the (check one):
 ___ upper 1-2% ___ top 5% ___ top 10% ___ top 25% ___ top 50% ___ bottom 50%

Number of years teaching _____ How long have you known this candidate _____
 Which year(s) did you teach this candidate _____
 Course(s) of instruction with this candidate _____

| | | |
|--|------------|----------------------|
| Print Name of Person Completing this Form (Last, First): | Title: | Office Phone: () |
| Institution: | Signature: | Date: |

Address: _____ email: _____

IMSA's programs, services, and activities are accessible to disabled individuals.
Please retain a photocopy of this form for your records and mail original directly to:

Office of Admissions
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
 1500 W Sullivan Road
 Aurora, Illinois 60506-1000
 Phone: (630)907-5028
 Within Illinois: 1-800-500-IMSA (4672)
Return form postmarked by March 1, 2009.
Thank You!

In your opinion, does this candidate have a **serious interest** in studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No
 In your opinion, does this candidate have an **aptitude** for studying mathematics, science and/or technology? Yes No

Comments: Please use this space to provide any additional information that the Student Review Committee should consider when evaluating this candidate's application to IMSA, including your involvement with him/her outside the traditional classroom, his/her ability to meet personal responsibilities such as taking care of self, meeting deadlines, personal initiative, etc. Please also include any obstacles this student has had to overcome in pursuing his or her educational goals, if appropriate.

Do you think that this candidate's grades are a valid reflection of his/her academic abilities? Yes No
 If no, please explain:

| PERSONAL QUALITIES | Outstanding | Good | Average | Below Average | No Basis for Judgment |
|--|-------------|-------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| General intelligence _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Reasoning ability _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Motivation and task commitment _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Self sufficiency _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Leadership _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Maturity _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Seeking of challenges _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Social adaptability and responsibility _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Academic risk taking _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Among the students I have encountered in my teaching career, this student ranks in the (check one):
 ___ upper 1-2% ___ top 5% ___ top 10% ___ top 25% ___ top 50% ___ bottom 50%

Number of years teaching _____ How long have you known this candidate _____
 Which year(s) did you teach this candidate _____
 Course(s) of instruction with this candidate _____

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Thank You!

COUNSELOR/PRINCIPAL EVALUATION OF APPLICANT



Legal Name of Applicant _____
(Please Print) Last Name First Name MI

To The Applicant: Please print your legal name, school name and address below and complete the release section. Give the signed form to your current counselor or principal, allowing enough time for thoughtful completion, and ask them to return it to IMSA postmarked by **March 1, 2009**.

INFORMATION RELEASE -- Complete this section before giving to the teacher.

I, the undersigned, hereby request that all data in support of my application to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy to be available to IMSA officials.

 Applicant Signature / Date

I, the undersigned, hereby waive my right to review any comments or information included in this evaluation form or their supporting documents. (optional)

 Applicant Signature / Date

As parent/legal guardian of the named student, I grant permission to release all school data in support of my son/daughter's application to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

 Parent/Legal Guardian Signature / Date

As parent/legal guardian of the named student, I waive my right to review any comments or information included in this evaluation form or their supporting documents.

 Parent/Legal Guardian Signature / Date

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|---|
| Legal Name of Applicant (Last, First, Middle) | | Current Grade Level | |
| School Name | | | |
| School Address (Street, City, Zip Code) | | | |
| School Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Parochial <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Home | | | |
| Superintendent's Name _____ | | | |
| District type and number _____ | | | |
| Total number of students enrolled in your school _____ . Please indicate which grades are taught at your school _____ . | | | |
| This candidate ranks _____ in a class of _____. No rank available <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please check here if candidate has completed registration process for the SAT which must be taken prior to March 15, 2009. <i>Please confirm with your student that he/she has completed the registration process for SAT.</i> | | | |
| List English, Mathematics, and Science course titles in spaces below. | | | |
| If 8th Grader | If 9th Grader | English Course(s) <i>(Do not list grades here)</i> | Mathematics Course(s) <i>(Do not list grades here)</i> |
| 6th | 7th | | |
| 7th | 8th | | |
| 8th | 9th | | |

Please complete reverse side

Does your school offer honors or accelerated courses or programs? Yes No

If *limited availability*, honors/accelerated courses or program, please explain _____

If yes, how are students identified for participation in these courses or programs?
(Please indicate if self-selection is permitted)

Is this candidate enrolled in honors courses and/or AP courses? Yes No

Will this candidate run out of science courses prior to the senior year at your area high school? Yes No

Will this candidate run out of mathematics courses prior to the senior year at your area high school? Yes No

Does your school follow a block scheduling format? Yes No

Has this candidate been subjected to any disciplinary action from school? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Does this student currently qualify for Federal & State Subsidized Free & Reduced Meal Programs? Yes No Unknown

Has this candidate had any excessive absences from school in the last two years? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Please confirm that the following information is included with this completed form (*We ask that you notify 9th grade students that they need to contact their jr. high/middle school counselor for 7th & 8th grade reports if not available at current high school*).

- 2006-2007 Official Grade Report
- 2007-2008 Official Grade Report
- 2008-2009 Official Grade Report (1st Semester)
- School Profile (if available)
- Explanation of school's grading system

- 8th Grade Applicants**
- Science course description
 - English course description
 - Mathematics course description

**Please do not send general standardized test scores as they are not a necessary part of our selection process.
(ie: Terra Nova, Explore, ISAT)**

| | | |
|--|--------|----------------------|
| Print Name of Person Completing this Form (Last, First): | Title: | Office Phone: () |
|--|--------|----------------------|

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Address: | Email: |
|----------|--------|

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Signature: | Date: |
|------------|-------|

How many times have you met with this candidate _____

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Aurora, Illinois 60506-1000
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Within Illinois: 1-800-500-IMSA (4672)

Return form and transcripts/grade reports postmarked by March 1, 2009.

Thank You!



Get to Know IMSA

IMSA Preview Day

Students, their parents and teachers who are interested in learning more about the Academy’s academic and residential life programs are invited to attend an IMSA Preview Day. Come meet with current IMSA students, their parents, IMSA staff, and get a first hand look at what our programs are about! Several discussion panels, tours of our facilities, as well as mock classes will be held on these afternoons.

Please arrive on time. No reservations are necessary.

Program Dates

Program Time

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2008.....10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009.....10:30 A.M.

IMSA Two-Hour Tour

IMSA also opens its doors one Saturday a month beginning October, 2008 through May, 2009. During these small scale sessions, IMSA staff will be available to answer questions about the admission process. Tours and a screening of the IMSA admission video also will be available.

SPACE IS LIMITED AND ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Visit the Office of Admissions website at

www.imsa.edu/admissions for information on how to schedule your visit.

October 25, 2008

March 21, 2009

December 6, 2008

April 18, 2009 (For students grades 3-7 only)

February 7, 2009

IMSA Website

For academy-wide information along with a downloadable and on-line version of our entire application, please visit us at www.imsa.edu.

Students are encouraged to *apply on-line*.

“Kid On Call”

Starting November, 2008 through May, 2009 the admissions office Student Ambassadors will be available to speak with prospective students and parents on an individual basis via telephone. IMSA Student Ambassadors are able to offer a student perspective on life at IMSA. Students will be available Monday-Friday. If a student is not available at the time you are calling, one will be happy to return your call as soon as possible. Locally, dial 630-907-5028 or toll free, 1-800-500-IMSA (4672)

Ask IMSA!

IMSA community members have volunteered to help prospective students learn more about activities and opportunities at IMSA. Visit our website at www.imsa.edu to access individuals at the academy, as well as their e-mail address. Take this opportunity to find out more about our students, academics and residential life. We’re waiting to hear from you!

IMSA BELIEVES THAT...

- Everyone is a mystery with unknown and unknowable limits.
- All people have equal intrinsic worth.
- Personal success is internally defined.
- A person's potential is most fully actualized through physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual harmony.
- No one's path in life is predetermined.
- All people have choices and are responsible for their actions.
- Human progress depends on personal growth.
- Everyone can lead.
- Meaning is constructed by the learner.
- Learning never ends.
- The ability to discern and create connections is the essence of knowing.
- Belonging to a community requires commitment to the common good.
- Indifference diminishes individuals and communities.
- Trust and respect are vital for any relationship to thrive.
- Diversity in community inspires discovery and creativity.
- Diverse perspectives enrich understanding.
- We are all stewards of our planet.
- Great leaps forward require bold ideas and actions.
- Change is natural and necessary for greatness.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of IMSA, the world's leading teaching and learning laboratory for imagination and inquiry, is to ignite and nurture creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition, through a system distinguished by profound questions, collaborative relationships, personalized experiential learning, global networking, generative use of technology and pioneering outreach.



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