

September, 2008

Dear Gifted Student:

As you may be aware, the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA), located in Aurora, Illinois, is an internationally-recognized pioneering educational institution created by the State of Illinois to develop talent and leadership in mathematics, science and technology.

Introducing Problem Based Learning to academically gifted students in mathematics, science and technology, who may not have extensive access to opportunities in these fields, is a priority for IMSA. To that end, we offer the **Early Involvement Program (EIP)**. Held at **Loyola University's Water Tower Campus, 25 E. Pearson Chicago**. This program is designed for **African-American, Latino and economically disadvantaged ninth grade students with a passion for mathematics, science and technology**. The program is conducted for 12 Saturdays, November 8, 2008 through February 21, 2009. The 12 meeting dates, includes taking the SAT on March 14. During this time, students will have the opportunity to:

- **Improve their mathematics, science and communication skills**
- **Prepare for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)**
- **Increase their competitiveness if they choose to apply to IMSA**

Since EIP is supported by donors to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education, including a lead grant from The Polk Brothers Foundation, there is *no charge* to students and families for participation. However, families will need to provide transportation to and from Loyola. I am enclosing an application for you to complete and postmark by **October 20, 2008**. Admission to EIP is selective, based upon grades, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations. Each year we receive many more applications than spaces available. Applications are also available online at www.imsa.edu. Decisions will be sent via mail by October 28, 2008.

Please feel free to contact IMSA's Office of Admissions if you have questions about the application, EIP or other IMSA programs. Our office is open Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and I can be reached at 630-907-5028 and 800-500-4672 (IMSA), or by email at diversity@imsa.edu.

Mail completed applications to:

**Office of Admissions
Attn: Early Involvement Program
1500 West Sullivan Road
Aurora, IL 60506**

I look forward to reviewing your application.

Best Regards,



Quintin Backstrom
Admissions Counselor