SEE YOU @ IMSA

IMSA

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY®
INVENT YOUR IMSA

Founded:
1985 by the Illinois General Assembly

Enrollment:
IMSA enrolls 650 academically talented Illinois students in grades 10 – 12. Admission is competitive. All students live on campus.

Tuition, Room and Board Charges:
None – provided by the generous support of the Illinois General Assembly. Student fees are charged based on family income and size.

Academic Experience:
All courses are advanced. Class sizes are small. Students are engaged in many rich opportunities to conduct original investigations.

Outcomes:
IMSA students earn numerous awards and recognition from national and global competitions including Intel Science Talent Search, Siemens Westinghouse Competition, High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling (HiMCM), the International Physics Olympiad and more.

The Wall Street Journal named IMSA among the top 40 public and private college preparatory institutions in the world for placing graduates in U.S. Ivy League and highly selective colleges and universities. Newsweek named IMSA among the best in nation in its annual Best High Schools in America report.

Other Programs:
IMSA delivers school year and summer mathematics and science programs to students, educators and school systems throughout Illinois and beyond.

IMSA is the 2009 Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator winner, taking the top honor nationwide for science excellence. Each year, only one school in the nation is the recipient of this prestigious recognition.
The internationally recognized Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) develops creative, ethical leaders in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As a teaching and learning laboratory created by the State of Illinois, IMSA enrolls academically talented Illinois students (grades 10 – 12).

The Education
An education at IMSA offers you far more than conventional honors courses. The educational experience fosters a collaborative learning environment that develops students as bold inquirers, problem solvers and ethical leaders. Our talented faculty members, who are among the nation’s best, guide students to engage in exploration, think critically and creatively and apply their cross-disciplinary knowledge to address significant, real-world issues.

The Curriculum
The curriculum includes the major disciplines of mathematics, science, English, history and social sciences, world languages, fine arts and wellness. IMSA fosters a collaborative learning environment that is problem-centered, inquiry-based and integrative. IMSA students are engaged in rich opportunities to work with prominent scholars and researchers, explore questions of their own, champion their ideas for product development and make significant leadership contributions.

The Courses
IMSA offers more than 100 advanced learning experiences in mathematics, science, humanities and the arts, with an emphasis on meaningful connections and integration.

The Learning Opportunities
Participate in:
- Student Inquiry and Research (SIR)
- TALENT (Total Applied Learning for Entrepreneurs)
- Independent Study

Take Advantage of:
- Great Minds Speaker Programs
- Interdisciplinary Seminars

Pursue Your Passions During:
- Intersession Week
- Leadership Education
- Service Learning

All of these learning experiences are driven by the four attributes of our Core Competency: competency-driven, inquiry-based, problem-centered and integrative. These attributes serve as design principles for the development, implementation and assessment of IMSA’s overall curriculum.

During Intersession week in January, you can explore interesting and fun learning opportunities, such as computer image editing, swing dancing, baseball statistics, ethnic cooking, veterinary medicine, karate and many more!

IMSA BY THE #S
Work With:
- 60 teachers, all of whom have advanced degrees with more than 50% holding doctorate degrees
- 650 peers who have similar passions and goals
- 4000 + alumni who are researchers, inventors, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, teachers and more

handsON:
IMMERSE YOURSELF

An Engaging, Living-Learning Environment...
Where you will live with 24 fellow students, learn about yourself, discover your place in a community, develop a sense of independence and gain an appreciation for other cultures and traditions.

Learn About Yourself
Become the person you want to be through interactions with others, participation in hall activities and personal conversations with your resident counselor (RC). Set goals for yourself and take positive risks to discover your strengths and challenges. With the support of the IMSA community, your personal development will flourish!

Discover Community
Find your place in a community where you will be surrounded by peers sharing similar social and educational values. The residence halls become your second home, and your resident counselor (RC) and wingmates are always there for support.

Develop Independence
Cultivate your independence by learning to make ethical decisions, manage your time, care for yourself and take responsibility for your learning. Organizing your daily schedule increases self-sufficiency and leads to a more successful IMSA experience.

Gain Appreciation for Others
Experience other cultures and traditions by attending campus diversity activities, talking with your wingmates and listening to the thoughts and experiences of others. Residential life provides an opportunity to understand the importance of living in a unique and diverse community.
"The friends that I have lived and learned with have truly made me a better, more well-rounded person. The residence life experience has also taught me how to live communally with 23 other people. We clean, complain and compromise with each other, day in and day out, and I wouldn’t have it any other way."

— Andrew from Galva

“My wingmates are like a family because we’ve grown to accept each other and to appreciate each other’s talents and interests. They always encourage me and give me advice to succeed in classes.”

— Megan from Naperville
Do you want to dig deeper and explore a topic you are passionate about with real-world experts who share your passion? Do you want to stand out from the thousands of other college applicants across the country when you are ready to apply your senior year? Do you want to make substantial contributions to fields such as biochemistry, economics, mathematics, neurobiology, psychology or space science before you even enter college?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above questions, then IMSA is the place to accomplish your goals, set you on the path to college success and achieve your dreams.

**Student Inquiry and Research (SIR): Igniting Minds, Shaping Futures**

IMSA's Student Inquiry and Research (SIR) Program enables you to conduct original investigations on your compelling questions of interest, collaborating with other students and with on-campus or off-campus professionals such as educators, researchers and scholars.

Samples of recent student investigations reflect some of the problems facing society today, including:

- Homer Protein Mediation of Abeta-Derived Diffusible Ligand Binding in Alzheimer's Disease
- Sociology of the Internet
- An Analysis of Illinois Public Schools: An Examination of Factors that Contribute to the Narrowing of the Socioeconomic Achievement Gaps
- BA-D1: A Novel Treatment for Type 2 Diabetes

“Through IMSA’s Student Inquiry and Research Program, students are already making **significant contributions** to their respective fields which may someday lead them to **discoveries that will impact humankind.**”

- Dr. Eric McLaren, IMSA vice president for academic programs and principal

**hands ON:**

On Wednesdays, students conduct investigations with educators, researchers, scholars and scientists on campus and at prominent institutions including Brookfield Zoo, Fermilab, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and many more throughout Chicagoland and beyond.
SIR Showcased Worldwide

Student research contributions are regularly recognized through publication in professional journals, presentation at research conferences and other forums.

- The American Chemical Society, the American Society of Cell Biology, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Association of Biology Teachers are just some of the professional associations where IMSA students have presented research.
- IMSA students involved in SIR have won awards in prestigious national competitions including the Intel Science Talent Search; Siemens Competition; National Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics; Society for American Baseball Research; and the Junior Sciences and Humanities Symposium.

Be the Innovator

IMSA has exciting ways to nurture the “innovator” in you. For example:

- **Total Applied Learning for Entrepreneurs (TALENT)** helps you experience the excitement of developing your ideas for a business, product or service.
- As a member of IMSA’s **Robotics Team**, you can build robots for entry in local, regional and national competitions.
- You can be part of IMSA’s **Energy Center** to develop biofuels, conduct energy audits and build an Energy House.

footN0TE:

IMSA students present their investigations at forums in China, India, Japan, Russia, the United States and more.
“I have learned a lot about my decision-making abilities since my sophomore year... Thus, I know when it is appropriate to ask for help and when to keep struggling onwards. I always try my best to conduct myself with integrity and honesty, as I believe those are core tenets to developing into a responsible leader.”

~ Vidya from Schaumburg

“IMSA’s mission ‘to ignite and nurture creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition’ influences your entire IMSA experience.”

~ Dr. Glenn W. “Max” McGee, IMSA President

Taking charge of your life starts the moment you arrive at IMSA. As a sophomore, you will be part of special weekly programs that help you to make good decisions based on community ethical standards. You will:

- Build strong friendships that will last a lifetime
- Develop self reliance, resilience, confidence and character
- Appreciate, celebrate and promote cultural differences
- Identify your dreams, aspirations and interests to help you choose a career path

Make a Difference Now

You don’t have to wait until adulthood to create a better world, you can do that now. That’s why IMSA has a student leadership development program created by students for students. With guidance from adult staff members and student leaders, you will:

- Understand group dynamics and social justice
- Enhance your critical thinking and communications skills
- Experience the challenge of leading others and creating change
- Appreciate the rewards of volunteer service and being part of a caring community
Impact Your World, Your Way

Every student has a unique set of interests and skills. At IMSA, there are unlimited opportunities for you to apply your skills to improve people’s lives. Whether it’s building houses and hope throughout the country with Habitat for Humanity, or helping local libraries, schools, social service agencies and other organizations, you can impact and change the lives of children and families forever. Here are just a few examples of how IMSA students make a difference:

• IMSA students provide support to organizations throughout the Fox Valley and beyond by tutoring area residents in various subjects, mentoring elementary school students, conducting blood drives twice a year (in conjunction with Heartland Blood Centers), volunteering with the Marie Wilkinson Child Development Center in Aurora and volunteering with the Aurora and Naperville public libraries.

• IMSA’s Habitat for Humanity chapter has donated countless hours by building homes for families in places such as Jonestown, Mississippi; New Orleans, Louisiana; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina; St. Marys, Georgia; Huntsville, Alabama; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Eagle Butte, South Dakota.

• IMSA volunteers provided hands-on science and mathematics demonstrations to children in several Memphis, Tennessee public elementary and middle schools, and also provided tutoring and meals to children from low-income families.

• IMSA students shared their time, talents and hearts with nearly 500 orphaned and abandoned boys and girls at Rancho Santa Fe in Honduras, supported by Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos (“Our Little Brothers and Sisters”), a charitable organization serving children in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I have learned a lot about my decision-making abilities since my sophomore year…Thus, I know when it is appropriate to ask for help and when to keep struggling onwards. I always try my best to conduct myself with integrity and honesty, as I believe those are core tenets to developing into a responsible leader.”

~ Vidya from Schaumburg
“Today, I hold that attending the Academy was among the best decisions I have ever made in life. It was at IMSA that I learned to appreciate the beauty of diversity from classmates with various backgrounds and cultures.

It was at IMSA that I was able to explore my interests and become more than just the ‘smart, quiet kid.’ I was accepted as a talented dancer, singer and performing artist. It was at IMSA that I formed lifelong friendships.”

~ IMSA Alumna

IMSA participated in the first EVER IHSA bass fishing tournament—and has team shirts to prove it!
From placing at a national chess competition, to performing in the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, to being in the state finals for the high hurdles and the 400-meter dash, to dancing prom night away at the Shedd Aquarium, to serving as a Chicago radio station DJ, IMSA students have **Big Opportunities to Play.**

**It’s About Access**

Musicians can continue to develop their talents on a number of different instruments through on-campus lessons. Athletes can stay active in their sport of choice as IMSA competes against other area schools as part of the Northeastern Athletic Conference. Student leaders can get involved in any one—or likely, more—of Student Council’s sponsored clubs, or better yet, start a new one of their own!
“There are actually quite a number of ways to have fun at IMSA. If I’m not just hanging out with someone, goofing off, or talking about random things, I’ll be playing tennis, football, basketball, or whatever people have the time to play. Don’t believe people who say IMSA is purely academic.”

~ Gary from Aurora

“There are likely to be those few [IMSA graduates] who create new intellectual worlds, cure a dreaded human ailment or in some way significantly influence life on our planet. Our philosophy will be to treat our charges as if each one is capable of this extraordinary achievement.”

~ Nobel Laureate Dr. Leon Lederman, IMSA resident scholar

“My biggest motivation to apply was the focus on my interests in math and science. I wanted to use my skills in these areas to the greatest extent, and I knew that this is the place to do that...Growing up in a suburb whose population was almost completely white, I had never experienced such diversity in my life. The great amount of diversity at IMSA and the multitude of perspectives on life are a wonderful experience.”

~ Jake from Oswego
“One of my favorite parts of the year was Intersession, the week after Winter Break where everyone takes two sessions of something that interests them. I enrolled in Photoshop and Hillary and the Hockey Moms, a look at the influential women in the Presidential election. Now, I can crop any picture and blend it anywhere, and I am more knowledgeable about the candidates.”

~ Kimberly from Spring Grove

“I have lived on the same street on the south side of Chicago for all of my life. If I hadn’t decided to come here, I wouldn’t have learned so much about math and science or simply about life in general. Coming to IMSA has allowed me to meet many new people, some of whom I consider almost family now.”

~ Aaron from Chicago

“IMSA students have a drive to learn and a maturity beyond their years! They look to the teachers for guidance and support and I learn from them as much as they learn from me.”

~ Dr. Aracelys Rios, IMSA science faculty member
3rd – 9th Graders: Are You Ready?

Be a part of student programs that get you on the fast track to cool programs in the hot subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and IMSA for All, all year long.

Get Set at www.imsa.edu/studentprograms or call (630) 907-5950

The IMSA program schedule for students in grades 3 – 9 is available in January.
Who is eligible?

8th and 9th grade students who:
• Are residents of Illinois
• Are enrolled in an Illinois school
• Have had Algebra I
• Have had a high school-level science
• Have a strong interest in math and science

How do you apply?

• Complete the online application at www.imsa.edu
• Have your English, math and science teachers, in addition to your current guidance counselor/principal complete and submit the evaluation forms
• Have your school send your grade reports for the past 2 ½ years
• Submit your SAT scores from tests taken between September and March of the year you are applying
• All materials must be submitted electronically or postmarked by March 1
ALUMNI ACHIEVE

• The five Illinois colleges or universities that enrolled the highest number of IMSA graduates (Classes of 2006 – 2008) were: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, The University of Chicago, Northwestern University and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

• The five out-of-state colleges or universities that enrolled the highest number of IMSA graduates (Classes of 2006 – 2008) were: Case Western Reserve University, Duke University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), California Institute of Technology and Washington University in St. Louis.

• As undergraduate and graduate students, IMSA alumni receive numerous academic, research and leadership accolades including Fulbright, Marshall, National Science Foundation, Rhodes, Siebel and Truman Scholarships.

• IMSA’s highly accomplished graduates are forging new frontiers as nationally recognized scientists, entrepreneurs, engineers, information technology specialists, educators and leaders in other fields. IMSA alumni were part of the start-up teams that created Netscape, PayPal and YouTube.

Alumni Achievement Highlights Include:

• Internationally acclaimed astronomer Dr. Scott Gaudi ’91 received worldwide media attention for leading a team of 69 international astronomers in discovering a solar system similar to our own. He also was recently awarded the Helen B. Warner Prize for “significant contribution to observational or theoretical astronomy” by the American Astronomical Society.

• Dr. Mia Markey ’94 is recognized as one of the world’s leaders of the young generation of biomedical computing. Her research contributions focus on computer-based clinical decision-making and support. Her mission of designing cost-effective, computational medical decision aids will help physicians better diagnose, treat and manage cancer.

• Russel Simmons ’95 is co-founder and chief technology officer of Yelp, Inc. (www.yelp.com), the growing online community enabling people to write and share reviews of local businesses with others. Prior to Yelp, Simmons was one of the six founding members of PayPal, an eBay company.

Write Your Story Here:

IMSA graduate ___________________ is an internationally renowned __________________
whose contributions include _________________________________.

IMSA Office of Admissions:
(630) 907-5028 or (800) 500-IMSA
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