What is IMSA?
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) in its advanced, residential college preparatory program, and it serves thousands of educators and students in Illinois and beyond through innovative instructional programs that foster imagination and inquiry. IMSA also advances education through research, groundbreaking ventures and strategic partnerships. (www.imsa.edu)

Motivating students in math and science in schools across Illinois

IMSA FUSION is publicly funded by the State of Illinois with private sector support by corporate, foundation and individual donors to the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education.

For more information contact:
IMSA FUSION
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 Sullivan Road
Aurora, IL 60506-1000
Telephone: 630-907-5892
Fax: 630-907-5893
www3.imsa.edu/programs/fusion

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WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

IMSA FUSION is designed for academically talented students who have a high interest in math and science. Students must be invited to apply for the FUSION program and are selected for participation based on academic performance and achievement in math and science.

Accepted students attend IMSA FUSION sessions at their school. Sessions are typically held once per week for two hours after school throughout the school year. By design, IMSA FUSION curriculum engages students in fun and exciting “hands-on, minds-on” activities.

WHAT EDUCATORS NEED TO KNOW

Teacher professional development is a primary area of focus for IMSA FUSION. Two FUSION teachers, one math specialist and one science specialist, are selected by their school or district to run a 4-5th grade or 6-8th grade after-school enrichment program. These teachers participate in up to six days of IMSA professional development each year. Specialized training incorporates inquiry-based teaching strategies for the successful implementation of two units of study per year.

Curricular activities used in IMSA FUSION are designed to intrigue and motivate students to work collaboratively to solve relevant problems and to apply concepts to enrich and deepen their understanding.

Schools, or a consortia of schools, must apply online at www3.imsa.edu/programs/fusion to participate in the IMSA FUSION program.