DISTINCTIVE HONORS

- The Wall Street Journal named IMSA among the top 45 public and private college preparatory institutions in the world for placing graduates in the U.S. Ivy League and highly selective colleges and universities.

- IMSA students received numerous academic, research, and leadership awards including Fulbright, Marshall, National Science Foundation, Rhodes, Truman, and Siebel Scholarships.


- IMSA was the winner of the Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator Award in 2009.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- An IMSA team of students was selected as finalists in the NASA Exploration Design Challenge (ECD) where they were asked to design and build a radiation detector for the upcoming Orion un-crewed mission.

- An IMSA team won the highest ranking possible in the 15th Annual International High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling (HiMCM).

- An IMSA senior was named a semifinalist in the Annual Intel Science Talent Search.

- The IMSA Scholastic Bowl Team won their third straight Illinois IHSA State Championship.

HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

IMSA was established in 1986 by the Illinois General Assembly as part of the State’s comprehensive educational reform package to address the critical need for a citizenry highly skilled in STEM fields. The Academy opened in 1986. IMSA is governed by an appointed Board of Trustees and is funded by the Illinois legislature under the Illinois Board of Higher Education appropriation.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

IMSA conducts national searches for many members of its exemplary professional staff, which includes presidential award winners and published authors. All faculty members are leaders in their field and have advanced degrees, with 47% holding doctorates in their disciplines. In addition, 31% of faculty members are certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

FUNDING

IMSA’s operating budget is funded largely by the State of Illinois, which provides support for most on-campus and many statewide programs and services. Co-curricular activities for residential students and most of IMSA’s non-residential programs are partially funded by fees from program participants. IMSA also receives additional program support from local, state and federal government grants, as well as private donations and grants through the IMSA Fund for Advancement of Education (IMSA Fund).

CALL US AT

- IMSA Aurora Campus at 630-907-5650
- IMSA Chicago Field Office at 630-723-8096 or 630-657-5550
- IMSA Metro-East Field Office at 618-791-3855
- IMSA Rock Island Region Field Office at 309-079-7715
- IMSA Three-Year Residential College Preparatory Program and PROMISE at 630-907-9239 or 800-500-IMSA

CONNECT WITH US

Visit www.imsa.edu
For more information

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Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy®
1500 Sullivan Road
Aurora, IL 60506-1000
630-907-5000
www.imsa.edu

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Quick Facts
ABOUT IMSA
Established by the State of Illinois to develop talent and leadership in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) has become an internationally recognized, world-class powerhouse for inspiring, challenging and nurturing talented students who use their exceptional abilities to improve people’s lives. IMSA’s advanced residential college preparatory program enables academically talented Illinois students in grades 10 through 12 to reach extraordinary levels of achievement.

IMSA is tuition free; an annual student fee is assessed based on family size and income. No student is ever refused enrollment because of inability to pay. Applicants are required to submit grade reports, SAT test scores, teacher evaluations and essay/personal essays. Selection criteria include a demonstrated interest in STEM, a history of academic achievement, and involvement in leadership and extracurricular activities.

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

PERSONALIZED LEARNING
Personalized learning helps students chart a learning program that matches their interests, skills, rates, and current levels of expertise, addressing unique needs, accelerating learning opportunities when appropriate, and engaging students in a self-directed learning process.

STUDENT INQUIRY AND RESEARCH (SIR) PROGRAM
The SIR program enables students to pursue compelling questions of interest, present and conduct original research, engage in entrepreneurial applied science and technology activities, and collaborate with other students, mentors, scholars, researchers, and inventors throughout the world. SIR projects, a student showcase of investigations, provides a forum where all students conducting investigations share their work with the IMSA community for review and discussion.

ASSESSMENT
Multiple assessment tools provide evidence of deep understanding of knowledge within and across disciplines. Assessments also measure a student’s increased levels of expertise through performance and complex problem solving. To promote collaboration, IMSA does not calculate grade point averages or class rankings.

DIVERSITY AT IMSA
IMSA is committed to serving historically underrepresented and underserved students who have talent and interest in mathematics and science. To accomplish this goal, we actively recruit prospective students from all regions of Illinois. In addition, through the PROMISE program, we provide academic opportunities for underserved students who express an interest in attending the Academy.

INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Planning is underway for IMSA’s exciting Innovation Hub, seeded by a $1 million gift from Steve Chen. IMSA alumni and co-founder of YouTube. The newly renovated 6,400 square foot space on IMSA’s campus is expected to open in 2016.

TOTAL APPLIED LEARNING FOR ENTREPRENEURS (TALENT)
IMSA’s TALENT program focuses on student entrepreneurship in a STEM context. TALENT provides on- and off-campus learning experiences to stimulate entrepreneurial student business ideas.

Programs
The Power Pitch annual contest invites students to develop their ideas and present them to entrepreneurial leaders in a final round held at 1871 in Chicago.

COOLHUB IS THE MENTOR MATCHING ENGINE (SIR)
CoolHub is IMSA’s tool to scale collaborative innovation networks and projects to transform STEM teaching and learning. Unique virtual meeting spaces enable learners of all ages to explore questions, develop ideas and innovate together, outside and inside formal educational structures. The Mentor Matching Engine (MME) is an in-school-based platform to bring together mentors, students and teachers for personalized student research/STEM projects.

ENERGY CENTER
The IMSA Energy Center is a collaborative engineering initiative to spark innovative student inquiry focused on energy sources, solutions, usage and policy. Students gain engineering and research teams work on projects of energy issues of their own interest.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS
The IMSA Office of Institutional Research (OIR) is a team of researchers who collect and analyze data, generate reports, and provide advice and counsel to help IMSA evaluate its programs, always working toward continuous improvement.

IMSA’s 651 students are from urban, suburban and rural communities throughout Illinois and the current gender/ethnic breakdown is as follows:

- 51% Male
- 49% Female

Percentage of students identifying as:
- 40.6% Asian
- 9.8% Hispanic / Latino
- 33.9% White
- 7.7% Black

Mean SAT scores for IMSA’s Class of 2013 include:
- 683 for critical reading
- 677 for writing
- 724 for math

Mean ACT composite score for IMSA’s Class of 2013 was 31.9

STUDENT AND EDUCATOR OUTREACH PROGRAMS
In the past decade, IMSA has served more than 90,000 students in its statewide student programs and more than 20,000 educators in its educator programs. IMSAs award-winning statewide programs include teacher professional development in research-based and practice-proven instruction in mathematics, science and technology. The Academy’s statewide programs ensure that young people, particularly the underserved, have access to excellence in math and sciences.

IMSA FOCUS
Offers an award-winning enrichment and teacher professional development program throughout Illinois serving students in grades 4–12 and talented and interested in mathematics and sciences. Recognized by Change the Equation as one of the nation’s top STEM programs, PowerPitch focuses historically underserved and underrepresented students. IMSA Focus serves 124 programs, reaching more than 3,000 students and 300 teachers statewide. Schools must apply to participate in the IMSA Fulfillment.

IMSA STUDENT ENROLLMENT
Offers engaging student enrichment activities for students in grades 3–12 on the IMSA Aurora campus and throughout Illinois. Programs are designed and delivered by staff, students, and partners.

SUMMER@IMSA
Provides a wide array of day and residential STEM learning experiences for students in grades 9–12 in a variety of disciplines. Integration and hands on, IMSA’s summer program enables students to apply mathematics and science to build rockets, investigate simulated crimes, confront local environmental issues, diagnose diseases, and much more.

RISE (RESEARCH, INQUIRY SKILLS & EXPERIMENTATION)
For grades 3–10, RISE is a year-long in-depth online course based on each student’s interest. Students participate in the community of scientific research and scholarship, teaching them to do independent research, collaborate with fellow students and an eminent university, and present their work at regional and state.

PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATORS
Through seminars, professional learning days, and single-day or extended workshops, teachers learn about IMSA’s inquiry-based instructional methods and activities that they can readily use in their classrooms.

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING (PBL)
Customizes professional development for K–12 teachers in problem-based learning (PBL), which engages students in a deep understanding of STEM concepts through relevant problems.

PROGRAMS FOR PRACTICE TEACHERS
ImSA partners with Coastal Carolina, Illinois State University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and universities to offer professional development to students preparing to become mathematics or science teachers. These preservice teachers participate in IMSA programs to receive training in curriculum planning and inquiry-based instruction.

ALUMNI
IMSA alumni continue to demonstrate the enterprising spirit they developed on campus while living and learning here. Many of our alum turn their ideas into new companies. They also remain devoted to their alma mater—whether it’s by mentoring current students, connecting with each other through IMSA’s social media outlets, supporting current student programs and services, or acting campus during Alumni Weekend.

Alumni Statistics
- 5,457 alumni
- 99.8% graduate worked in college
- 70.1% indicate intending majors in either science or mathematics

Colleges and universities that enrolled the largest number of IMSA graduates (Classes of 2010–2014)

IN-IL
1. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2. University of Illinois at Chicago
3. Illinois Institute of Technology
4. Northeastern University
5. University of Chicago

OUT-OF-STATE
1. Case Western Reserve University
2. Saint Louis University
3. Vanderbilt University
4. California Institute of Technology
5. Carnegie Mellon University

Alumni are fully engaged in IMSA’s Promise to Illinois—using their talents and compassion to advance the human condition. Many IMSA alumni are making strong contributions to their fields and society.

- Conducting research in ecology, evolutionary biology, infectious diseases and astronomy, working for multinational Fortune 500 companies as consultants in a commences and as design engineers.
- Flying jets for the United States Air Force and Navy.
- Improving detection devices for the diagnosis of cancer and leading breakthroughs in neurological disorders.
- Becoming medical doctors, engineers, physicists, chemists, research scientists at national laboratories and leaders in education at Harvard, MIT, and other universities.
- As entrepreneurs they are improving the way we live, learn, and work. IMSA alumni were part of the start-up teams that created Netscape, PayPal and YouTube.