

## **ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE ACADEMY**

*Igniting and nurturing creative, ethical scientific minds that advance the human condition*

### **Frequently Asked Questions from previous Orientations (answered by current students & staff)**

- **How to change roommates if a match is not working?**  
All roommate conflicts are negotiated with the Resident Counselor (RC). The problems are worked through with both roommates and their RC. If the problem persists, the Hall Coordinator is called.
- **Is there room house cleaning?**  
All cleaning responsibilities are left to the students and will be monitored by the RC's of that hall. The responsibility for cleaning the wing and hall is delegated to students on a weekly basis.
- **Do IMSA students get enough sleep?**  
If the students do not procrastinate, have good study habits, and are responsible they should get plenty of sleep to lead a healthy everyday life.
- **When can I pick up my child for off-campus/weekend activities?**  
During the week students need to get approval from the Student Life staff if classes or academic activities will be missed. During free time (during the week) parents need to sign their child out at the Student Life Office until 3pm and in the Residence Hall after 3pm. For the weekends, parents can sign their children out at the RC office.
- **Does IMSA support athletes?**  
Yes, 70% of IMSA students are involved in co-curriculars and athletics. IMSA is very supportive of its athletes. It takes athletics seriously, but considers the students' academic workload first and foremost.
- **What causes general anxiety as an incoming sophomore?**  
Most students are apprehensive because of the new environment. However, soon they will meet all of the other people in their class that are in the exact same situation.
- **How does an RC help the student adapt to the emotional changes?**  
RC's regularly check up on students, get to know them, and assist them in any way possible to help them adjust. If these RCs sense a problem in student lifestyles, they will confront the student about it in a professional manner.
- **What is the retention rate of IMSA students?**  
86%
- **What are some of the reasons students choose to leave IMSA?**  
Homesickness, trouble adjusting to the academic schedule, time management, stress, can't do as well here and feel they can do better at their home school, emotional issues.
- **What are options for church attendance on Sundays?**  
Students have the opportunity to attend local churches on Sundays with other students and their chaperone. RCs will provide shuttles to local churches.
- **How are the students helped if they are experiencing academic problems?**  
There are a number of resources on campus that can be utilized. Paula Altekruze is the Coordinator of Academic Support, who can help the students manage their time and improve study and test skills. There is also a peer tutoring program that each student can take advantage of if they need help. Teachers are very open and willing to help out.
- **How often do incoming sophomores go home the first few months?**  
It depends how far away from IMSA the student lives. Students that live closer tend to go home more often and those that live farther away tend to go home less often. All students are required to stay on campus the first two weekends. After that, they can choose to leave on any weekend.
- **Under what type of medical conditions would my student have to be taken home?**  
If a student has a communicable disease, a "true" fever, defined as greater than 100.4 Fahrenheit, closed head injury/concussion, vomiting or diarrhea more than two times, or under the recommendation of health office personnel.

- **Does Sodexo have vegetarian options?**  
Yes, they have vegetarian options at every meal.
- **What are the rules of having a friend stay on campus with a student?**  
Students are allowed to have a friend stay over only on the weekends (excluding finals week), a permission form must be attained and returned to the RC two days before the overnight guest will be on campus, guest must check in with the RC on duty, and the guest must abide by all school policies while at IMSA.
- **Do shy students survive?**  
Yes, at IMSA they are given opportunities to open up to there surroundings. Asking questions may seem nerve wrecking, but students soon realize that others have the same questions and open up.
- **How can the student attain cash?**  
There is an ATM at the nearby Walgreen and a few local gas stations and grocery stores. IMSA does not cash personal checks for the students. It is suggested that parents open an account for the students where money can be attained.
- **What are the rules for students leaving campus for social activities/grocery shopping?**  
If destination is within walking distance, students are allowed to sign out with one other student and must be back before sundown. If the activity is RC/IMSA organized, the student must sign out, leave and return on designated vehicles, and with designated chaperone. With parents' permission, students are allowed to take public transportation to destination. There are daily food trips to Woodmans and other locations.
- **What is the average class size?**  
Most classrooms have about 15 to 20 people. Sophomore classes may be as large as 24.
- **How is the food at IMSA?**  
The quality of the food is good. The cafeteria provides for the students dietary needs and nutritious options. At least once a month the cafeteria prepares a new meal that is not on the regular menu. Sodexo is the contracted food provider. Please contact them for more specific questions.
- **How does IMSA compare to a traditional high school honors programs?**  
IMSA is a place that promotes self-motivation. The school and faculty provide numerous resources; however the choice to learn and grow is the student's.
- **What do students do on Wednesdays?**  
All sophomores are expected to attend Navigation along with presentations, study sessions, and teacher meetings throughout the day. Juniors and Seniors have the option of participating in research opportunities such as Uwf gpv'kps vkt { 'Tgugctej .
- **How much money is necessary for a student to have on campus?**  
The amount of money a student should have will vary based on the means of the family as well as activities they choose to be involved in. Depending on how many times they go home, most students can survive on about \$10-\$20 a week.
- **What kind of community service activities are available?**  
All community service activities are organized by the Student Life Office and will vary throughout the year. These include visits to retirement homes, literacy projects, Key Club, Habitat for Humanity, etc.
- **What is the best way to communicate with my student on a daily basis?**  
Most students on campus own personal cell phones and use those to communicate with parents. However, all rooms have phones provided for the students. The school provides a local phone service; to dial out of the area code students need to have a calling card or a cell phone. Email is also a preferred method.
- **How are roommates assigned?**  
The students may choose roommates or the student will be place with a match from the surveys fill out. These surveys were filled out at placement testing by the students, and IMSA determines who may form good roommate pairs. They also have the option of choosing roommates at orientation.

- **What type of grading system is used at IMSA?**  
The grading system varies with each professor. Also, there is no gpa.
- **How does IMSA help students with special needs?**  
IMSA will provide a student with any needs they may have to achieve academic success, i.e. hearing impairment. Handicapped rooms are provided in each wing, and various rooms across campus attend to needs such as allergies (rooms without carpeting), etc.
- **What are study hours?**  
Study hours are designated times from 7-9 PM in which sophomores are required to stay in their room and study. If they maintain decent grades, along with the consent of the RC and parents, these hours can be eliminated at the beginning of 2nd semester. However, if the student is doing poorly academically, the RC may choose to reinstate these study hours until he/she deems fit.
- **Is there a large drug problem at IMSA?**  
While drugs will exist at any place, the persistence of drugs at the academy is less than at an average high school. (IMSA conducts an external survey every other year involving drug and alcohol use. The standards are based on national figures.) If an RC senses that a student may be using drugs, then he will confront the student directly and his parents will be notified. A room may be searched after the parents are informed of the situation, and if any contraband is found the student will be disciplined according to the chemical use policy.
- **How do you start a club?**  
Petition forms are available in Student Life but you must have an adult sponsor and proof of interest level. Information will be available after the second week of classes.
- **Are students allowed to have pets?**  
No, pets are not allowed. Fish, however, are allowed in a room. See student/parent handbook for details.
- **What about Drivers Ed?**  
IMSA does not provide drivers education, but it is available through an independent company. Please contact the Principal's office for details.
- **How much notice is required to sign a student out for the night or weekend?**  
A parent can sign out a student any time while the RC office is open. The parent is required to come to the RC office to sign the student out. If during the week and a student will be missing classes the attendance office must be notified as well.
- **How do students/parents request an accommodation due to religious obligations?**  
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- **Are bikes allowed on campus? If so, where are they kept?**  
Yes, bikes are allowed. They must be registered with security. Bikes are kept in bike lock-up on the exterior of the building by the main gym. All bikes must have proper registration and locks.
- **Is there a junior prom? What about Homecoming?**  
No, there is not a Junior prom and yes, there is a Homecoming. Since we don't have football, Homecoming is associated with the IMSA TITAN Soccer team. There is a week of homecoming activities, with a dance on Saturday. Most of the student body attends this dance (over 500 attend each year).
- **What are the opportunities to travel abroad and when will students be notified of these opportunities?**  
There are many opportunities to travel abroad. A few examples are during Intersession, over the summer, and through the Inquiry and Research office. Intersession occurs during the week beginning spring semester. Students will receive information about Intersession options in October. Opportunities through the Inquiry and Mentorship office occur throughout the year and students are notified via email of these opportunities.
- **When is Parent Day?**  
September : , 2034.

- **If you do sports do you have to stay at IMSA on the weekends?**  
You would only be required to stay on the weekends if there is a weekend game or weekend practices. You will need to check with your coach at the beginning of the season for specific expectations.
- **What's the deal with Big Sister/Big Brother?**  
All incoming sophomores are assigned a Big Sibling. On the upperclassmen move in day there is an all campus social. The Big Siblings will pick you up and take you to the social. It is really your first chance to meet upperclassmen that do not live in your wing. As far as continuing the big sibling relationship, that is up to the two of you after this point.
- **Can parents attend Convocation?**  
No. Convocation is a special occasion specifically for the current IMSA community, students, faculty, and staff.
- **How can I add an additional person to my permission list?**  
Parents must contact your student's RC.
- **Are we allowed to go out on weekdays?**  
Yes. If an RC gives you permission to leave campus and you sign out.
- **If we don't go home on the weekends are there any activities?**  
RCs take trips to malls, movie theatres, etc. IMSA also has an organization called CAB (Campus Activities Board) which organizes weekend activities.
- **How many grading periods are there per semester?**  
There are 2 quarter grades per one semester.
- **If we have taken and passed a previous class at our previous school, do we need to retake it here?**  
Students participate in placement exams the summer before their sophomore year. Such placement exams dictate a student's class load and assignment for the fall. All sophomores participate in core curriculum classes ie: History, English, Moving and Learning.
- **When do you find out about language placement? Can you take an additional language course sophomore year?**  
Language placement is received with your schedule for the school year. You cannot take two language courses during your sophomore year.
- **What happens when you don't turn in your homework?**  
Participation and completion of homework is essential to understanding the curriculum of individual and integrated classes. Failure to turn in or complete homework will jeopardize your academic status in that particular class.
- **Roommate request: if there is a mutual request, is it guaranteed to be honored.**  
Roommate and hall requests are taken into consideration by the Assistant Director of Student Life: Residence Life. Most roommate requests are granted.
- **Is the homework load difficult to manage?**  
The homework load is generally manageable if the student manages their time well.
- **How much free time do you have everyday?**  
Free time depends on the involvement of the student. A student who is apart of many clubs may have less free time than one who has only a few. Also course placement may affect how much time a student has. It all depends on the individual.
- **Do graduates of IMSA have an advantage of getting accepted to an Ivy League?**  
Yes, but it depends of your performance. A student who comes to IMSA and excels has a better chance than if they went to a normal public school.
- **How do you get onto the IMSA math team?**  
Tryouts are held at the beginning of the year
- **Can IMSA students leave campus?**  
IMSA students can sign out to go to anyplace that a sidewalk leads to. Students can go to the stores along Orchard Road and Tinsel Town, the local theater. Also, the Residence Counselors often take trips to the places that cannot be walked to.