

2015

2015 Viewbook

Office of Admissions

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ABOUT IMSA

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

DISTINCTIVE HONORS

- 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
- IMSA has been profiled by *Wired.com*, *Education Week*, *CNN*, *Nature journal*, *NBC-TV's Dateline*, *The New York Times*, *Worth Magazine* and *Newsweek*
- IMSA was named the winner of the prestigious Intel Schools of Distinction Star Innovator Award in 2009

TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD

IMSA is tuition-free, with no charge for room and board. An annual student fee is assessed based on family size and income. No student is ever refused because of inability to pay.



A person wearing a grey hoodie is partially visible on the left side of the page, standing on a light-colored wooden floor. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a doorway or a wall.

Find your voice at IMSA

JOSÉ M. TORRES, Ph.D., PRESIDENT

“Attending IMSA is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for students. They begin to see and reach the potential they have been dreaming of and experience the opportunity to make the world a better place through collaborative action and inquiry-based learning to advance the human condition. Our students engage in high-level research under the guidance of world-class faculty and university partners, create entrepreneurial ventures for the public good from the ground up, and pitch them to start-up entrepreneurs and tech professionals. They grow with other talented IMSA students in an environment that is diverse, and they become deep-thinking, confident, socially conscious leaders.”



Discover the possibilities for yourself

RAVEN JACKSON, CLASS OF 2015

“IMSA has taught me to seek answers for myself, which is completely different from the way I was taught at my old school. The inquiry-based learning here at IMSA is not just about memorizing facts or preparing for the next test. I have found that IMSA teachers want me to have the experience of searching for answers and teaching myself so that I have a better understanding of what I'm learning.”





LEARNING AT IMSA

An education at IMSA offers far more than conventional honors courses. IMSA fosters a collaborative learning environment that develops students' problem-solving abilities.

Our talented faculty members, all of whom have advanced degrees, with 45% holding doctorate degrees, guide students to engage in exploration, think critically and creatively, and apply their cross-disciplinary knowledge to address significant, real-world issues. 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.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- An IMSA team of students was selected as finalists in the NASA Exploration Design Challenge where they were asked to design shielding to protect a radiation detector on the upcoming Orion mission
- An IMSA team received the highest ranking possible in the 15th annual international High School Mathematical Contest in Modeling
- An IMSA junior won the Virgin Galactic Pioneer Award at the 2015 Google Science Fair for astrophysics research
- An IMSA senior won National Gold at NAACP Convention for new process of producing bioethanol
- An IMSA senior was named a semifinalist in the Annual Intel Science Talent Search
- IMSA Scholastic Bowl Team won their third straight IHSA State Championship

STUDENT INQUIRY AND RESEARCH PROGRAM [SIR]

The SIR program enables students to pursue compelling questions of interest, conduct and present findings of original research and collaborate with other students, mentors, scholars, researchers and inventors throughout the world. On Wednesdays no classes are scheduled and instead students conduct investigations both on-campus and at prominent institutions including Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the Field Museum of Natural History.

INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Students utilize IMSA's innovation and social entrepreneurship learning opportunities to build the skills needed to turn their big ideas into solutions that impact the world.

IMSA's TALENT program focuses on student entrepreneurship in a STEM context. TALENT provides learning experiences to stimulate entrepreneurial student business ideas, including the annual Power Pitch contest invites students to develop their ideas and present them to entrepreneurial leaders at 1871 (the heart of Chicago's tech startup community).

Planning is underway for IMSA's exciting IN2, the Steve and Jamie Chen Center for Innovation & Inquiry, seeded by a \$1 million gift from Steve Chen, IMSA alumnus and co-founder of YouTube. The newly renovated 6,400 square foot space on IMSA's campus is expected to open in 2016.

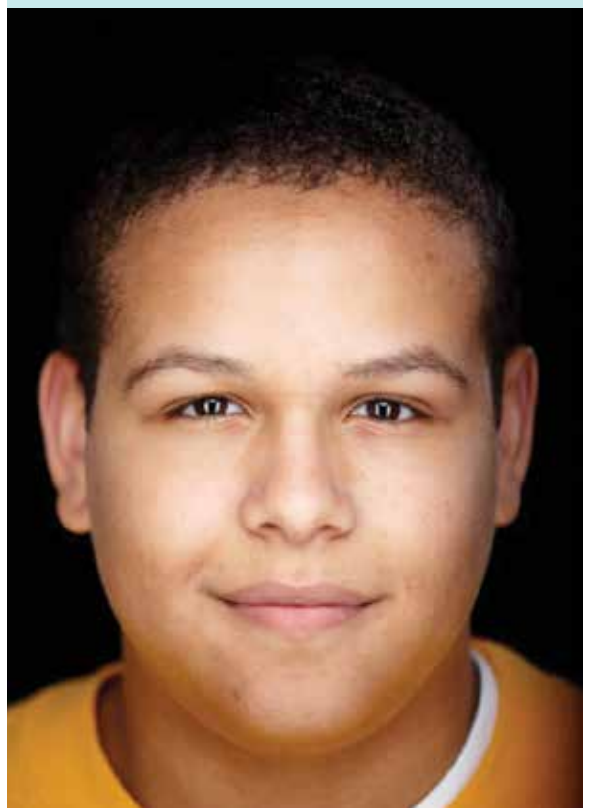




Choose your own path

MAX ACKERMAN, CLASS OF 2015

“Student Inquiry and Research is an amazing and extremely rewarding program that allows students real-world experience in a field of study in which they are interested. In my experience, SIR was an opportunity in which I was able to utilize problem solving skills and other techniques learned in the classroom in a professional work environment.”



Make friends for a lifetime

SAMEEKSHA MALHOTRA, CLASS OF 2015

“Some of my most cherished memories have come from the residential aspect of IMSA. Because each student has a wing and hall to call his or her own, a sense of community and belonging arises and brings all of us closer together. Even though some students have issues with homesickness in the beginning of the year, it typically fades as IMSA becomes their second home.”





LIVING AT IMSA

- 7 Residence Halls
- 3 Male
- 3 Female
- 1 Co-Ed
- 96 Students per Hall
- 4 Resident Counselors per Hall

At IMSA you'll find an engaging, living-learning environment where you will reside with 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.

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 and hall mates become a second family.

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Taking charge of your life starts the moment you arrive at IMSA. As a sophomore, you will participate in weekly programming that will help you to:

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

PLAY

Musicians continue to develop their musical talents, athletes stay active in their sport of choice, and student leaders get involved in any one—or likely, more—of Student Council's sponsored clubs.

Girls Athletics: Basketball, Co-Ed Golf, Cross Country, Dance Squad, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball


Boys Athletics: Baseball, Basketball, Co-Ed Golf, Cross Country, Dance Squad, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball

Campus Groups: African American Student Association, Alma Latina, Class Club, Drama Club, Habitat for Humanity, IMSA Student Productions, Math Team, Peer Multi-cultural Educators, Robotics, Scholastic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Solo/Ensemble Club, Student Newspaper, plus many, many more!

GIVE BACK

IMSA students are afforded a special learning opportunity. Service Learning allows students to give back while learning about community organizations, the working world, and the impact they have as contributing volunteers. To give back to the community, all IMSA students are required to complete 200 hours of service prior to graduation, including both on- and off-campus service opportunities.



A young man in a dark suit and white shirt is playing a golden saxophone on a stage. He is looking down at the instrument. In the foreground, the bell of a golden trumpet is visible, and a music stand with sheet music is partially seen on the left.

Develop your talents—both in and out of the classroom

YVETTE RAMIREZ, CLASS OF 2014

“IMSA has offered me amazing experiences that I would not have had if I had stayed at my home school. From research to community service to becoming a leader in extracurricular activities, I have learned just as much outside of the classroom as I have inside. Coming to IMSA has been one of the best decisions of my life.”



Distinguished Alumni



DR. THANDEKA CHAPMAN '89

Associate Professor, Department of Education Studies,
University of California, San Diego
Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, Madison

“My love affair with racially and culturally diverse living and learning spaces started at IMSA . . . IMSA gave us the opportunity to live and learn with culture swirling all around us. Today I use my scholarship to push for public schools to provide all children with the same amazing, lasting experiences that I had at IMSA.”

STEVE CRUTCHFIELD '93

EVP, Head of U.S. Options, NYSE Euronext
M.B.A., University of Chicago

“IMSA gave me my first taste of what it’s really like to learn and grow in a collaborative environment that encourages discovery and creative thinking. I completed my time at IMSA with a terrific foundation for future studies, an intense love of learning, and friendships that will last a lifetime.”





TIM MEYER '92

Chief Operating Officer, Fermilab
Ph.D., Stanford University

“My first weeks at IMSA as part of its fourth class are frozen in my mind as the start of something amazing. We attended a convocation at Fermilab with IMSA Founder and Nobel Laureate Dr. Leon Lederman, and I absorbed inspiration, possibility, and the pursuit of excellence. Those three years were transformative for a young mind looking for a place in the world and for the chance to make an essential difference. What I learned then still guides me now. And the people that influenced and supported me then, still do today.”

CLARA SHIH '00

Hearsay Social CEO and Co-Founder
M.S., Oxford University , Author of "the Facebook Era"
and Starbucks Board of Directors

“I thank IMSA for inspiring me to imagine a future that didn't exist before, and for providing me with the math, science and technology building blocks to make that future a reality.”



TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY YOU MUST

- Be an Illinois resident and enrolled in an Illinois school at the time of application
- Have completed Algebra 1 and a high school equivalent science course

Typical applicants are in the 9th grade, applying for entrance into the 10th grade at IMSA.

TO APPLY CANDIDATES NEED TO

- Complete the online application at www.imsa.edu, including student essays, activity list and parent statement
- Have a current or prior year English, math and science teacher complete the IMSA evaluation form
- Have a current guidance counselor or principal complete the Principal/Guidance Counselor Form
- Submit official grade reports for the past 2½ years
- Take the SAT test and submit an official score report

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 1

Selection criteria includes a demonstrated interest in STEM, a history of academic achievement and involvement in leadership and extracurricular activities.





Application Information

**MARIE DILLON DAHLEH, Ph.D.,
PRINCIPAL**

“IMSA welcomes applications from students across the State of Illinois who are passionate about mathematical and scientific ideas. IMSA students are immersed in a community of scholars where they grow academically with the guidance of our faculty and subject matter experts in all fields of inquiry. Our students are supported by a strong residential community. I hope that you will consider joining us for a transformative academic adventure.”





IMSA ALUMNI

As undergraduate and graduate students, IMSA alumni receive numerous academic, research and leadership accolades including Fulbright, Hearst, Marshall, Rhodes, Siebel and Truman scholarships.

Alumni are fulfilling 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 multi-national Fortune 500 companies as consultants in e-commerce and as design engineers
- Becoming business leaders, engineers, physicists, chemistry teachers, scientists at national laboratories and leaders in education at Harvard, MIT and other universities
- Improving detection devices for the diagnosis of cancer and leading breakthroughs in neurological disorders
- Improving the way we live, learn, and work as entrepreneurs, IMSA alumni were part of the start-up teams that created Netscape, PayPal and YouTube
- Flying jets for the United States Air Force and Navy

ALUMNI STATISTICS

- 5,600+** alumni
- 99.5%** graduating students have enrolled in college
- 59%*** of undergraduate degrees are in STEM, compared to the national average of 33%
- 44%*** work in a STEM industry or profession

*of reporting alumni

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VISIT

www.imsa.edu

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