

# Math and Science Academy

2020-2021 School Profile  
CEEB: 242739

## The MSA Experience:

The Math and Science Academy (MSA) opened in the fall of 1999 and serves students in grades six through twelve. MSA has continuously been among Minnesota's top-ranked high schools. MSA has a tradition of offering intense math and science experiences with the added distinction of providing creative and challenging opportunities in the arts and humanities. The MSA standard requires that students achieve beyond the MN state requirements and students are expected to self-advocate to achieve these expectations.

## Admission:

MSA is a public charter school. It is open to any Minnesota student as a free public education. Registration is required and an application must be completed and submitted online. MSA has waiting lists for most grades. MSA's current student population is at 526 students.

## No Rank Policy:

MSA does not officially recognize student class rank or Valedictorian status. Due to small class sizes and the academic rigor of our course work, we believe that class rank does not depict an accurate assessment of a student's potential.

## School Day:

MSA runs on a seven period schedule including modified block days on Thursdays and Fridays. Additionally, all students participate in a school-wide study hall on Friday afternoons.

## Graduation Requirements:

In order to graduate, MSA students must complete the required MSA subject specific requirements as well as a minimum of 21.5 total credits to meet Minnesota state requirements.

English → 4 years  
Social Studies → 4 years  
Science → 3 years of Science which must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics  
Math → Progression through Calculus  
Spanish → Spanish V or progression through Spanish flowchart  
Fine Arts → 1 year  
Health/Physical Education → 1 year

## Advanced Placement:

MSA offers a variety of rigorous courses and encourages students to challenge themselves academically. MSA does have a registration process that students must participate in when seeking to enroll in Advanced Placement courses. Many of our AP courses require prerequisite classes and grade requirements to enroll in the course. The following are AP courses currently offered at MSA:

AP Biology · AP Chemistry · AP Physics · AP Statistics  
AP Calculus AB · AP Calculus BC · AP Studio Art · AP Psychology  
AP US History · AP Literature and Composition

## Transcripts and Grading:

Each year-long course at MSA is worth 1.0 credit for passing and each semester-long course is worth .50 credit for passing. A failing grade will receive no credit and the class must be repeated to pass.

Courses assigned a grade mark scale of A-F will receive credit for the class upon a passing grade of at least a minimum of a D- or better.

Grade marks, I, W, R, and P are used for grading outside of the A-F scale: I (incomplete), W (withdrawal), R (repeat), P (pass).

Grades are calculated on a maximum 4.0 scale and are recorded on a semester basis. MSA does not weight classes or grades.

If 25% or more of the assigned curricular content of a course in a given semester is modified for the student, the course will be designated as modified on the transcript for that given semester.

## Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO):

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college-level courses.

Students must meet the PSEO eligibility requirements and abide by participation limits.

Many MSA students enroll at the following institutions to attend their PSEO program:

- Century College
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of Northwestern, St. Paul

- Athletics and Clubs:**
- Cross Country
  - Football (co-op)
  - Volleyball
  - Badminton
  - Basketball
  - Clay Target League
  - Nordic Skiing
  - Soccer (co-op)
  - Track and Field
  - Academic Triathlon
  - Africa Club
  - Asia Club
  - Astronomy Club
  - Battle of the Books
  - Business Club
  - Cheers to Volunteers
  - Chess Club
  - Computer Club
  - Earth Club
  - FIRST Robotics
  - GSA
  - Link Crew
  - Student Council
  - Science Club
  - Yarn Society
  - Newspaper
  - National Honor Society
  - Science Club
  - Spanish Club
  - Theater
  - Trap Team
  - Tri-M Music Society
- College Enrollment for the Class of 2020:**
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
  - Colorado State University
  - Colorado School of Mines
  - University of San Diego
  - Century College
  - Montana State University
  - University of Minnesota, Rochester
  - Gustavus Adolphus College
  - University of Wisconsin, River Falls
  - Georgia State University
  - Liberty University
  - University of Northwestern, St. Paul
  - Michigan Technological University
  - University of St. Thomas
  - North Carolina State University
  - Milwaukee School of Engineering
  - North Dakota State University
  - Purdue University
  - University of Chicago
  - Valparaiso University
  - Saint Paul College
  - Dunwoody College of Technology
  - Iowa State University
  - Drake University

**Extracurricular Involvement:**  
 MSA provides a wide variety of extracurricular activities for its students from basketball and cross country to FIRST robotics and National Honor Society. MSA athletic teams compete in Division A Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) sports. Students are encouraged to participate and a large percentage of students are actively involved in extracurricular activities at MSA. Students do have the opportunity to letter in a variety of activities based on leadership roles and active participation.

**Standardized Testing:**

ACT	2018	2019
MSA Average Composite	28.4	27.7
MN State Average Composite	21.4	21.4

PSAT	2018	2019
MSA 10th Grade Average	1134	1099
MSA 11th Grade Average	1217	1188
MN 11th Grade Average	1124	1117

Advanced Placement (AP)	2019	2020
Total Number of AP Students	107	99
Total number of Exams	162	184
AP Students with Scores 3+	97	81
% of Student with Score of 3+	90.7%	81.8%

**MSA Staff:**  
 MSA has about 60 staff members with 100% of the MSA teaching staff recognized as highly qualified and fully licensed. Unlike many other public schools, MSA teachers are able to implement a program that they can control and for which they are accountable.

**High School Counselor:**  
 Emily Graveen  
 egraveen@mnmsa.org

**COVID-19:**  
 Grades that are documented during the time period of March 16 through June 5 of 2020 reflect the distance learning period resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Future use of these grades for academic placement, admission, acceleration, or remediation is discouraged and should only be used with caution after balancing the information against students performance in other grading periods. MSA has decided to begin the 20-21 school year with distance learning.

**MSA Vision:**

To be an innovative, sustainable model of academic excellence that creates well-rounded, lifelong learners and global citizens.