

# Math and Science Academy School Profile

2019-2020

Woodbury, MN 55125  
mnmsa.org



Phone: 651-578-7507  
School Code: 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 is a tuition-free public charter school. We have 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.

Math and Science Academy was recently named the number one ranked high school in the State of Minnesota according to US World News and Report.



## Advanced Placement Courses

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 prerequisites classes and grade requirements to enroll in the course. The following are AP courses currently offered at MSA:

- AP Biology
- AP Physics
- AP Statistics
- AP Human Geography
- AP Chemistry
- AP Psychology
- AP Literature and Composition
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Studio Art
- AP Spanish Language and Culture
- AP Calculus AB

## 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. This diverse weekly schedule provides students the opportunity to participate in diverse classroom experiences including lab experiments, group projects, simulations and other proven teaching methods.

## 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 required including Biology Chemistry & Physics
Math	Progression through Calculus
Spanish	Spanish V or progression through flowchart
Fine Arts	1 year
Health/P.E.	1 year

## Admissions

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 with student enrollment numbers decreasing as students progress through the grades. In 2019, MSA had the largest graduating class with 54 students.

## Counseling Contact

Emily Graveen  
High School Counselor  
[egraveen@mnmsa.org](mailto:egraveen@mnmsa.org)  
651-578-7507 ext. 3508

## 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.



## Transcripts & 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.

## Post-secondary 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
- Inver Hills Community College
- St. Paul College

## Standardized Test Information

ACT	2017	2018	2019
MSA Average Composite	27.6	28.4	27.7
MN Average Composite	21.6	21.4	

PSAT	2017	2018
MSA 10th Grade Average	1162	1134
MSA 11th Grade Average	1209	1217
MN 11th Grade Average	1125	1124

MSA Advanced Placement (AP)	2017	2018	2019
Total AP Students	76	95	107
Number of Exams	134	151	162
AP Students with Scores 3+	71	86	97
% of AP Students with Scores 3+	93.4	90.5	90.7

## 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.

## 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.

## Modified Courses & Transcript

If 15% 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.

## MSA Vision

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

