



2014 APPLICATION

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY®

As a three-year (grades 10-12), residential, college preparatory program for Illinois students, IMSA offers more than 100 advanced courses in mathematics, science, the arts, and humanities with an emphasis on meaningful connections and integration.

Personalized learning increases opportunities for students to deepen and strengthen their three-year academic experience. This also enables students to engage in learning unique to their interests, passions, and future goals.

The innovative Student Inquiry and Research Program enables students to pursue compelling questions of interest and present findings of their original work. Through collaboration with other students, mentors, scholars, researchers,

and inventors worldwide, IMSA students are able to conduct research and engage in entrepreneurial applied science and technology activities.

IMSA's unique schedule allows for special seminars led by world "masters", academic consultation with expert faculty, and opportunities for academic work in leadership, community, and work service. Our entire faculty holds advanced degrees with over 50% holding a Ph.D.

To promote collaboration, IMSA does not calculate grade point averages or class rankings. Tuition and most room and board expenses are provided by state funds. Student fees are charged based on family income and size.



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Application for Admission

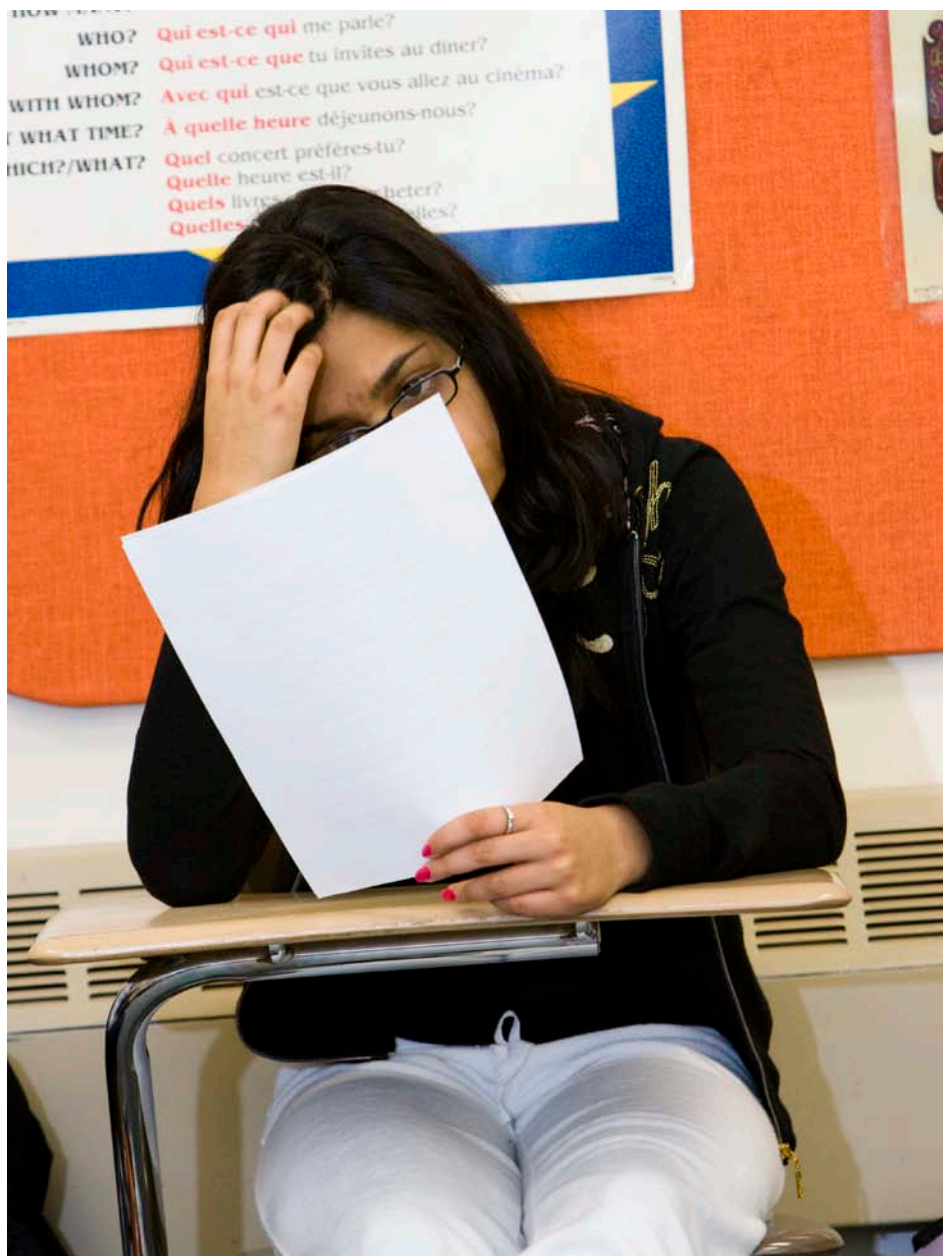
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+ 2014 Application Process

Eligibility

Illinois residents who have completed the equivalent of nine years of education, excluding preschool and kindergarten, and are not currently enrolled beyond the ninth grade are invited to apply to the Academy.

Illinois residency must be established by the application deadline. The student must be enrolled in an Illinois school by the first day of second semester or the first day of the second trimester. The student must also be enrolled in an Illinois school at the time of application. Exceptions to these policies may be made by the Director of Student Affairs (ex. military families, home-schooled students and extenuating circumstances.)

Students who have not yet enrolled in the 9th grade **must submit documentation** of having completed or are currently working to complete an academic program comparable to high school level work in mathematics and science. This **must** include a minimum of one year of algebra and a course equivalent to one year of high school level science. The granting institution where the course is taken determines equivalency. The course must be completed with a grade report received by the Academy by April 1st.

Students enrolled in homeschool programs will need to provide documentation explaining their curriculum, evaluation process, and textbooks. Evaluations must be completed by non-family members who know the student's work well.

Admission Application Review

Students will be selected for admission from among all eligible and qualified applicants. Characteristics considered during the review and selection process are related to the following criteria:

- History of consistently high academic achievement.
- Demonstrated interest and talent in mathematics and/or science.
- Evidence of readiness for IMSA's academic and residential environment.
- Potential for significant contributions in mathematics, science and/or technology.

Factors such as demonstration of exceptional talent in mathematics, science and/or technology, course work completed, potential for leadership, demonstration of a pattern of ethical decision making, behaviors consistent with research on gifted mathematics and science students, expectations for success within the IMSA environment, relative academic standing in home school, home language, and state and applicant pool demographics are considered when selecting students for admission. **Ninth (9th) grade applicants are given priority over eighth (8th) grade applicants.**

+ IMSA:

igniting and nurturing creative, ethical minds...



Admission Decisions

Notification of admission decisions are mailed to the address listed on the student's application in mid-May.

The number of students invited to attend IMSA each year is determined by institutional capacity. An additional group of students are identified for a waitlist. Invitations are extended to students on the waitlist as spaces become available.

Students not invited to the Academy or who are placed on the waitlist may submit a written request for a review of the decision to the Office of Admissions within two weeks of the date of admission notification. **This appeals process is intended only for those who feel their application was not fairly reviewed.** Requests will be reviewed by an Appeals Committee.

Placement Testing

All invited and waitlisted students are **required** to complete a series of proficiency tests in mathematics, science, and world languages. Tests for students entering in the fall of 2014 will be schedule for **summer 2014**. Test date, time and location information will be provided with the admissions decision notification.

Attendance is mandatory; please keep this in mind as you make summer travel plans.

Summer Orientation

All invited and waitlisted students (and their parents) are **required** to attend an orientation session during the **summer**. Orientation dates will be provided with the admissions decision notification. **Attendance is mandatory; please keep this in mind as you make summer travel plans.**

Conditional Admission (Excel)

Some students invited to the Academy are done so on a conditional basis. Each year approximately 50 students are **required to attend and successfully complete Excel**, a three-week, residential summer program on the IMSA campus. Identification for conditional admission is based on performance results from placement testing and supporting documents.

Excel takes place during the month of July and all applicants should reserve this time in the event that they are required to attend; notification of conditional admission is mailed after placement testing. Self-selection to Excel is not permitted.



Completing the Application

We STRONGLY encourage students to participate in our “Go Green” initiative by submitting applications on-line.

Completing the Application

1. Students completing the on-line application will be charged a **non-refundable application-processing fee of \$75.00**. *We STRONGLY encourage students be a part of our IMSA “Go Green” initiative by submitting applications on-line.*

Students who must complete a paper application will be charged a **non-refundable application-processing fee of \$100.00**.

2. A Mathematics, a Science, and an English **teacher** must submit the teacher evaluation forms included in the application. These teachers should have taught the student in either the current school year or the previous year. **One** additional student-selected evaluation form may also be submitted on the student’s behalf. **This optional evaluator must be able to address the student’s achievement in math, science, technology or leadership.**

3. A principal or school counselor from the student’s current academic year must submit the school principal/counselor evaluation form included in this application.

Student identification information and appropriate releases should be completed before students distribute the forms to their teachers and principal/counselors.

4. Applicants must take the SAT Reasoning Test. Only scores for exams taken September 1, 2013 through March 8, 2014 will be considered in the application review and selection process. When registering, use **IMSA’s school code #3027** for prompt release of score reports by the Educational Testing Service to IMSA. Per the CollegeBoard’s policy, IMSA will only receive the scores that students request to be sent. **This includes students taking the SAT at IMSA (those scores must also be requested to be sent to IMSA and will not automatically arrive).**

5. Request and submit transcripts from 2011-2012, 2012-2013 and the 1st semester of 2013-2014. If you wish, use the transcript request form included in this packet to submit to school administrators.



Submitting the Application

THE IMSA APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 1, 2014.

Submitting the Application

While we strongly encourage the submission of application and evaluation forms online, students and evaluators may elect to use the paper version of these items found in this packet or on the admissions website.

All application materials must be submitted electronically or postmarked by MARCH 1st. If students do not submit all of the application materials by the admissions deadline, their application will not receive a full review.

If an applicant must submit paper materials they should be placed in one package before submitting to the Office of Admissions at the following address:

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
Office of Admissions
1500 Sullivan Road
Aurora, IL 60506-1000

The Office of Admissions does not provide proof of delivery of any application materials. These requests should be directed to the mail service of choice (ex. United States Postal Service, FedEx, etc.).

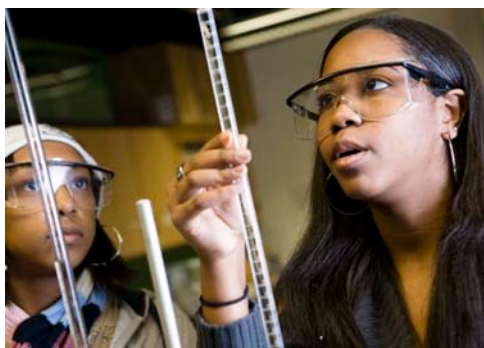
Note: We are concerned that all students, regardless of their financial resources, have the opportunity to attend the Academy. If the student applicant qualifies for reduced or free lunch, please request a school staff member to submit a written request for a fee waiver on official school letterhead and forward it to the Office of Admissions. Students submitting their applications online will be able to select the fee waiver option when submitting the completed application; the Principal/School Counselor will be able to do so as well when submitting their evaluation form.

All students are strongly encouraged to regularly visit the online checklist (which is a feature of the online application) to confirm which application documents have been submitted and which we are still waiting for. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that their application is complete.



Application Checklist

All completed application files must include the following items:



- Application for admission, including essay responses
- Application fee
 - Applications will be charged a **non-refundable application-processing fee of \$75.00** (If paying by check, make payable to *IMSA*; include the student's name and birthday on the memo line.)
 - Paper applications will be charged a **non-refundable application-processing fee of \$100.00**



- One Math teacher evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
- One Science teacher evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
- One English teacher evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
- One optional student selected evaluation form that addresses the student's achievement in mathematics, science, technology or leadership (with appropriate signatures)
- Current Principal or School Counselor evaluation form (with appropriate signatures)
- 2011-2012 official grade report sent from school directly or collected by student (in a sealed envelope)
- 2012-2013 official grade report sent from school directly or collected by student (in a sealed envelope)
- 2013-2014 official grade report (at completion of 1st semester) sent from school directly or collected by student (in a sealed envelope)
- SAT scores for exams taken during the current academic year (September 1, 2013 through March 8, 2014)



+ How to Improve Your IMSA Application

Students who complete the application process to IMSA represent a very select group of students from throughout the state of Illinois. These students have typically experienced academic success on a consistent basis and have demonstrated their interest, commitment, and creativity in a variety of settings in mathematics, science and/or technology.

Because of our limited capacity, many highly qualified students are turned away each year. We expect to have three to four strong applicants for each space available in the class scheduled to arrive in August of 2014. Regardless of the outcome of your application, we hope the process of applying to IMSA will be a positive experience for you. Use this time to think carefully about your own educational goals and to examine and celebrate your talents.

Some of the questions we will ask during our review of each application include:

- **To what extent did this student take advantage of local resources?**
- **To what extent did this student clearly demonstrate talent, interest, and motivation in mathematics and/or science beyond the bounds of the classroom when available?**
- **Is this student enrolled in the most challenging curriculum available to them in mathematics and/or science within their home school setting?**
- **Will this student complete all mathematics and science courses at the local school prior to senior year?**
- **Does this student have a love of learning and a true passion for mathematics and/or science?**

We encourage you to consider the following suggestions as you complete your application:

1. Your application file represents you to the IMSA review committee members. The care and thought with which you complete your application is revealed by things such as correct spelling and punctuation, legible handwriting, and attention to the intent of the question. Lack of care and thought causes reviewers to question your commitment to the task, and in turn, your probable commitment to the IMSA academic program. We recommend that you type your responses. Please do not use font size smaller than 10 or larger than 12.

2. Reviewers will look in several areas for evidence of your desire and eagerness to accept and seek out challenges, demonstrate motivation and task commitment, and engage in and resolve problems creatively.

These include:

- a. Mathematical reasoning and curiosity demonstrated by specific achievement or activities.
- b. Scientific reasoning and curiosity demonstrated by specific achievement or activities.
- c. Communication skills demonstrated by your written responses to questions.
- d. Interpersonal skills demonstrated by evidence of understanding viewpoints other than your own, acceptance of both leader and follower roles, self sufficiency and independence in daily living and learning skills, and promotion of cooperative behaviors among peers.
- e. Skill application demonstrated by involvement in activities such as computer programming, musical performance, construction of models, etc.
- f. Leadership based on reports from teachers of observed behaviors and/or specific accomplishments.

3. Your application cannot be reviewed if it is not complete. Check back with your references to make sure the forms have been sent to IMSA on time. Remember that these people are very busy. Please allow them sufficient time to complete the forms carefully.

4. Let your passion and personality emerge from your file. Let the reviewers “see” your sensitivity, sense of humor, love of learning, and insight. Remember, this is an important way they can learn about you.



SAT REASONING TEST

Register for the SAT Reasoning Test through the CollegeBoard website at www.collegeboard.org.

The SAT Reasoning Test is a required part of the application. All applicants for fall 2014 must take the exam during the 2013-2014 academic year (from September 1, 2013 through March 8, 2014) and submit scores to IMSA to be used during the application review and selection process. **An admission decision on your application will not be made unless a current SAT score is submitted.**

We accept SAT scores for students planning to take the March 8, 2014 exam as long as the student's application is submitted electronically or postmarked by the application deadline of March 1, 2014.

National SAT Reasoning Administration

College Board administers the SAT Reasoning Test to prospective college students on multiple dates at many sites throughout the year. To register for the test, obtain the "College Board Registration Bulletin" from a high school counselor and complete and mail in the registration form with payment, or register online at www.collegeboard.org. The SAT registration fee is \$50.00; the late registration fee is \$77.50.

Students will need to take the test no later than March 8, 2014 to guarantee that IMSA will receive test scores in time for processing. You will receive a copy of your test scores directly from College Board.

Listed below are the available dates and registration deadlines to meet eligibility for the 2013-2014 IMSA application process:



<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Testing Date</u>
September 6, 2013	October 5, 2013
October 3, 2013	November 2, 2013
November 8, 2013	December 7, 2013
December 27, 2013	January 25, 2014
February 7, 2014	March 8, 2014

Important: To ensure that IMSA receives an **Official Score Report**, please use the **IMSA school code #3027** when registering (*this is requested at the second prompt*). SAT Reasoning scores for admission to IMSA should not impact future test scores for college application.



* For 8th graders: If you are a participant in the Midwest Academic Talent Search program, an Official SAT Reasoning Test Score Report from the current academic year program is acceptable for submission. We will not receive these scores automatically. It is the responsibility of the applicant to send the original score report directly to IMSA.

Transcript / Grade Report Request Form

STUDENT: Complete and take this form to a school counselor or principal to request that an official copy of your grade report be sent to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.

DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM TO IMSA.

COUNSELOR AND/OR PRINCIPAL:

Please send an official copy of my grade reports to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy for the listed academic years:

- ☐ 2011-2012
- ☐ 2012-2013
- ☐ 1st semester of 2013-2014

Official grade reports should be mailed to the following address:

Office of Admissions
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
1500 Sullivan Road
Aurora, IL 60506-1000

Student Name

Date of birth ____/____/____

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE REC'D _____
 PGS 1 & 2 _____
 ESSAYS _____
 SIGNATURE PAGES _____
 FEE REC'D _____
 CK# _____



2014 IMSA Application

(Please type or print legibly in black ink)

WE STRONGLY PREFER THAT YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE

SECTION I. Paper applications should be completed by the student and sent in a single mailing with all supporting documents to the Academy, postmarked by March 1st.

NAME AND ADDRESS

Student Legal Last Name	Legal First	MI	Nickname (if different than first name)
Home Street Address			Apt #
Home City	State	Zip	County in Illinois in which you reside
Student Email (<i>the student email will be our primary method of communication</i>)			Home Phone (xxx-xxx-xxxx)
How did you hear about IMSA? _____			

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENT DETAILS

Your current year in school: (ex. 9th) _____

Are you a permanent resident of Illinois? ☐ Yes ☐ No (*Note: Residency is required by the application deadline*)

Are you attending an Illinois school? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are **not** a permanent resident of the state of Illinois or are **not** attending an Illinois school, please explain the circumstances that establish your eligibility: _____

Have you registered for the SAT Reasoning Test? ☐ Yes ☐ No (*You can register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.org*)

Date(s) SAT taken: _____
 (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY) (MM/YYYY)

(The SAT must be taken during the 2013-2014 academic year (taken September 1, 2013 through March 8, 2014))

If you are an 8th grade student, are you currently enrolled in an Algebra I or higher course? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you are an 8th grade student, are you currently enrolled in a high school level science course? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(Please note all students must meet application eligibility requirements to be considered for review. This includes a minimum of one year of algebra and a course equivalent to one year of high school level science.)



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Date of Birth: _____
 Month (MM) Day (DD) Year (YYYY)

Your **city, state and country** of birth: _____

Is English your first language? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, what other language(s) is spoken in your home? _____
 Primary Secondary Other

If English is not, your only language, how long have you spoken English? _____
 Years Months

OPTIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

☐ Yes ☐ No *Hispanic, Latino/a* - Are you a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race?

Select one or more races from the following five racial groups:

- ☐ *American Indian or Alaskan Native* - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains a tribal affiliation or community attachment.
- ☐ *Asian* - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- ☐ *Black or African American* - A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
- ☐ *Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander* - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
- ☐ *White* - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, Middle East, or North Africa.
(Ethnic information is requested so that IMSA may demonstrate compliance with federal requirements.)

CURRENT SCHOOL INFORMATION

Official Name of School *(No Abbreviations)*

Street Address	City	State	Zip
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School Phone Number (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

PREVIOUS SCHOOL INFORMATION

Official Name of School *(No Abbreviations)*

Street Address	City	State	Zip
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Student Last Name	First	MI
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FAMILY INFORMATION

Write the **full name** of parent/legal guardian with whom you live:

Parent/Legal Guardian 1

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

MI

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Relationship to Applicant:

☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Work

Parent/Legal Guardian Contact Phone Number

Parent/Legal Guardian Email

Parent/Legal Guardian 2

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

MI

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female Relationship to Applicant:

☐ Home ☐ Cell ☐ Work

Parent/Legal Guardian Contact Phone Number

Parent/Legal Guardian Email

APPLICATION SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Name the individuals completing your evaluation forms and the full name of their affiliations:

Mathematics Teacher

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

School/Organization

Science Teacher

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

School/Organization

English Teacher

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

School/Organization

Principal/School Counselor

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

School/Organization

Optional Evaluator (one optional evaluation form may be submitted)

☐ Dr. ☐ Miss ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Rev.

Last Name

First

School/Organization

**SECTION II. To be completed by the STUDENT.****ACTIVITIES, INVOLVEMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. Please attach a list (*in bulleted form*) of any IMSA sponsored activities/programs (Informational Meeting, On-Campus Visitation Event, PROMISE SEAMS, EIP, LS2S or Project School Visit, Fusion, Kids Institute Program, IMSA CyberQuiz, etc.) in which you have participated. List full name of activity, date(s), and location, if known.
2. Please attach a list (*in bulleted form*) and describe your most meaningful extracurricular activities, organized or individual, during the past three years. Also indicate any leadership positions, as well as time involved per week, in these activities. *IMSA reserves the right to verify participation in activities listed. (Do not use acronyms - please use full name for all activities.)*
 - a. Mathematics, Science and Technology related activities:
(*ex. Activity* *Your Age at time of Involvement* *Office/Position* *Hours per week*)
 - b. Prioritize and describe your top three other areas of involvement: (ex. sports, clubs or organizations)
(*ex. Activity* *Your Age at time of Involvement* *Office/Position* *Hours per week*)
3. Please attach a list (*in bulleted form*) and describe the most **meaningful awards** you have received in or out of school during the past three years. Include full name of award(s), year the award was received, and whether won at the local, state, national or international level. *IMSA reserves the right to verify awards received. (Do not use acronyms - please use full name for all awards). PLEASE DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS OR COPIES OF AWARDS/CERTIFICATES.*
 - a. Mathematics, Science and Technology related activities:
(*ex. Activity* *Your Age at time of Involvement* *Office/Position* *Hours per week*)
 - b. Prioritize and describe your top three other areas of involvement: (ex. sports, clubs or organizations)
(*ex. Activity* *Your Age at time of Involvement* *Office/Position* *Hours per week*)

OPTIONAL STATEMENT

We attempt to identify those applicants whose previous school grades or admission test scores may under predict academic success. Among the factors we consider in making admission decisions are whether the applicant (1) is from an economically disadvantaged environment; (2) had a health problem which significantly affected, for a period of time, an otherwise exceptionally good academic record; (3) has a permanent physical disability, learning or attentional difference; (4) has completed an exceptionally rigorous academic program; (5) does not speak English at home; or (6) has other exceptional circumstances. This information is considered with your academic credentials. It is particularly relevant if your qualifications place you slightly below the competitive applicants. **Describe any factors like those listed above that you believe the selection committee should consider as they review your credentials.**

**SECTION III. To be completed by the STUDENT.**

Please respond on separate pages to the following questions.

STUDENT ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. If you are invited to attend the Academy, you will be asked to live, study, and work with many people from different backgrounds from throughout Illinois. How would you describe yourself to these people? What are some changes you will need to make to thrive academically and socially? *(Word Guideline – In 500 words or less)*
2. Part of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy's mission is the "advance the human condition". Why do you want to attend a math and science academy, and how do you hope to apply your education in the future to further the Academy's mission? *(Word Guideline – In 500 words or less)*
3. What experiences (academic, extracurricular and/or personal) have sparked your passion for mathematics and science? *(Word Guideline – In 500 words or less)*
4. You have been awarded the resources required to initiate, design, and implement an innovative ideas that will have an impact on the world through mathematics, science, engineering and/or technology. Describe your innovative endeavor. How you would go about starting it and what is its potential effect today and for future generations? *(Word Guideline – In 250 words or less)*

SECTION IV . To be completed by the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN.**PARENT STATEMENT**

Please describe your child's passion/interests/motivation in mathematics, science and technology. Also, please provide any additional information that the Student Selection Committee should consider when evaluating your child's application to IMSA. *(Word Guideline – In 200 words or less)*



SECTION V. To be completed by the STUDENT and the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN.

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

The attached responses are samples of the applicant's work and have not been edited by others.

We understand that withholding pertinent information requested on this application or giving false information will make me ineligible for admission to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA) or subject to cancellation of registration if admission has occurred. The information given herein is true and accurate. Furthermore, we understand information contained within the applicant file will be shared with the Admissions Review and Selection Committees and by submitting application to IMSA, we consent to disclose this information to these committees, waiving our rights to review notes, reports, and recommendations of the Committees.

If the applicant is accepted for admission to IMSA, we agree to adhere to rules and regulation now in existence and those that may be established in the future by IMSA. We agree to permit information in this application, and other records resulting from applying to and attending the school to be made available on a confidential basis to the applicant's home school, other educational institutions, and for IMSA-approved research purposes. All application documents are retained by the Academy. I understand that if admitted, this student may be assigned to specific courses or sections as part of the research and development work of the laboratory. Students must comply with the entire IMSA curriculum, which includes the study of evolution.

Further, we understand that admission decisions are based on multiple criteria including subjective judgments regarding academic and leadership potential, demographic representation, grades and test scores. **Students identified for Excel must successfully complete the 3-week program to be eligible for attendance in the fall.**

Student Applicant Signature (required)	Date
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Parent/Legal Guardian Signature (required)	Date
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Reminder: the application must be submitted electronically or postmarked by March 1, 2014.
Please retain a photocopy of completed application for your records.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INFORMATION: State Government policy prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, color, creed, religion, national origin, age and ancestry, sexual orientation, political affiliation or disability. The sole purpose of gathering this information is to ascertain the effectiveness of recruitment efforts in reaching all segments of the population. IMSA's programs, services and activities are accessible to disabled individuals.