



SCIENCE & ARTS ACADEMY



SCHOOL PROFILE 2019 - 2020

About SAA

Science & Arts Academy (SAA) is an independent, co-educational, not-for-profit day school serving gifted students in junior kindergarten through eighth grade.

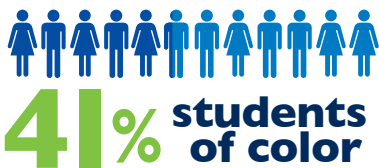
SAA is located in Des Plaines, a northern suburb of Chicago, directly off Interstate 294. SAA offers chaperoned Metra train service before and after school for students who commute from the city of Chicago. A school shuttle bus transports students between the Des Plaines Metra Station and SAA.



Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Science & Arts Academy values the representation and full engagement of individuals within our community whose differences include – but are not limited to – age, ethnicity, family makeup, gender identity and expression, physical ability, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. SAA welcomes and celebrates the diversity of our school and works to create and sustain a diverse, inclusive, equitable, and just community that is safe and welcoming for all; we recognize to do so requires commitment, reflection, deliberate planning and action, and ongoing accountability.

**Adapted from NAIS's Principles of Good Practice*



1825 Miner Street
Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-827-7880
scienceandartssacademy.org

Founded 1992

Timothy P. Costello
Head of School

Our Mission

Science & Arts Academy educates gifted children in an academically differentiated and enriched environment while recognizing the unique development of each child. SAA's supportive community encourages students to embrace their potential and cultivates their academic abilities, creative talents, and emotional growth.

WHERE GIFTED CHILDREN
THRIVE

SAA Distinguishing Characteristics

Academic Challenge

SAA maintains an unwavering commitment to the academic needs of the gifted student. Highly qualified instructors provide challenges appropriate to each student's ability and intellect. Differentiated instruction allows teachers to tailor learning to best meet the needs of the student. Depth, breadth, enrichment, and acceleration are incorporated in all academic areas.



Artistic Expression

SAA provides gifted students with unique opportunities for artistic expression and exploration, which foster creativity and broaden curiosity. Artistic expression is highly valued at SAA, as students at every grade level participate in year-round art, drama, and music. Students develop their talents and gain greater self-confidence through these immersive experiences, cultivating a fondness and appreciation for the visual and performing arts.

Personal and Social Development

SAA understands the most effective learning occurs within the context of supportive relationships. SAA provides the tools to help all gifted students acquire and apply the knowledge and skills to understand and manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Throughout the SAA experience, students gain the confidence to be successful at each stage of their development.

Community of Learners

SAA is a community of learners, all working together to advance the mission of the school. Intellectually and creatively talented students have the opportunity to be in the company of like-minded peers with similar abilities and interests. Small classes are led by skilled educators with expertise and knowledge in supporting gifted children. Parents work together to support the students, the school, and one another. A broad selection of extracurricular activities further develops a sense of community, as students interact outside of school hours with peers across multiple grade levels. The SAA community of learners provides an environment in which all students are known, valued, and understood.

Accreditation and Memberships

Science & Arts Academy is accredited through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). The rigorous standards set forth by ISACS are aimed to help schools improve their programs through a continuous cycle of introspection, evaluation, and revision. Additionally, Science & Arts Academy is recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education.

SAA is also a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, Lake Michigan Association of Independent Schools, National Association for Gifted Children and the Illinois Association for Gifted Children.



Illinois
State Board
of Education



LMAIS



Faculty

Science & Arts Academy's faculty consists of 42 teachers uniquely trained to meet the needs of gifted children. From professional musicians, artists and actors, to scientists, poets and authors, SAA teachers draw upon all of their interests and areas of expertise to inspire students both inside and outside of the classroom.

student : teacher ratio
7:1 

17 YEARS **average teaching experience** 

78% **of faculty hold advanced degrees** 

Meet SAA's faculty at scienceandartsacademy.org/faculty

Curriculum

Science & Arts Academy offers a diverse and challenging curriculum, fostering critical thinking, creativity and intellectual curiosity. The curricular program is differentiated to cultivate the unique talents, needs and interests of each child. A variety of instructional approaches allow each student to learn at their most appropriate depth, complexity and pace. Courses include:

- Art
- Drama
- Explore and Create
- French or Spanish
- Language Arts
- Latin (5th - 8th)
- Library
- Math
- Music
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Emotional Learning
- Social Studies

7 **daily class periods** 

average class size
12 **students** 

23 **points higher than national norms** **on average on standardized MAP tests** 

3 **year-round fine arts classes** 

Discover more about SAA's curriculum at scienceandartsacademy.org/curriculum

Extracurricular Overview

Committed to the education and development of students beyond the classroom, SAA provides a broad selection of extracurricular clubs, organizations, teams and enrichment opportunities. Designed for students to further develop their academic, artistic, creative and athletic talents, after school activities also support social and emotional growth. A sampling of extracurricular offerings includes:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Athletics
Basketball
Cross Country
Martial Arts
Soccer | Arts & Culture
Certamen Team
Drama Productions
Mandarin Class
Private Music and Voice Lessons | Enrichment
Chess Club
Coding Club
Math Team
Science Olympiad | Leadership
Community Problem Solvers
Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts
National Junior Honor Society
Student Council |
|---|--|---|--|

30+ **extracurricular activities & teams** 

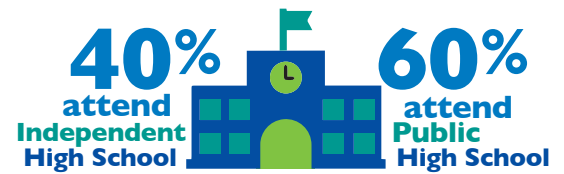
12 **live performances each year** 

STATE **regional and state ranking teams** 

Learn more about SAA's after school programs at scienceandartsacademy.org/extracurriculars

High School Matriculation

Students graduate from SAA well-prepared for high school. SAA alumni are represented at the following schools:



Independent High Schools

Beacon Academy
Benet Academy
Carmel Catholic High School
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Choate Rosemary Hall
Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School
Elgin Academy
Emma Willard School
Fenwick High School
Francis W. Parker School
Guerin College Prep High School
Lake Forest Academy
Latin School of Chicago
Loyola Academy
Northridge Prep School
North Shore Country Day School
Notre Dame College Prep
Resurrection College Prep High School
Roycemore School

Saint Ignatius College Prep
Saint Viator High School
Trinity High School
University of Chicago Lab Schools
The Webb Schools
Wolcott School
Woodlands Academy of the Sacred Heart

Public High Schools

Addison Trail High School
Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Barrington High School
Deerfield High School
Downers Grove South High School
Evanston Township High School
Glenbrook North High School
Glenbrook South High School
Grayslake Central High School
Highland Park High School
Hinsdale Central High School

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy
John Hersey High School
Lane Technical College Prep High School
Libertyville High School
Maine East High School
Maine South High School
Maine West High School
Michigan City High School
Nequa Valley High School
New Trier Township High School
Niles North High School
Niles West High School
Northside College Prep High School
Prospect High School
Rolling Meadows High School
Vernon Hills High School
Walter Payton College Prep High School
Wheeling High School
William Howard Taft High School
York Community High School

Visit Science & Arts Academy

Open House

Open House events are held in November and January each year. These events provide attendees with an opportunity to meet members of the school community, visit classrooms, and learn more about the mission of Science & Arts Academy.

Tours

SAA offers private tours daily. Guests meet with a member of the admissions team, visit classrooms and observe students and teachers in action for greater insight into daily life at SAA.

Parent Education Events

SAA hosts various parent education events each school year on topics relating to giftedness and education. These events are free and open to the public.

Contact SAA

To reach out with questions or request more information, email info@scienceandartsacademy.org or call 847-827-7880.

Schedule a visit to SAA at scienceandartsacademy.org/events

