



SCIENCE & ARTS ACADEMY



SCHOOL PROFILE

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.

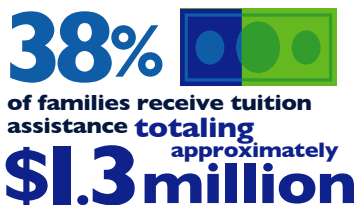
SAA is located in Des Plaines, a northwest suburb of Chicago, directly off Interstate 294. SAA offers chaperoned Metra train service before and after school for students who commute from the city of Chicago. A school shuttle bus transports students between the Des Plaines Metra Station and SAA.



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

scienceandartsacademy.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

The SAA experience is not a one size fits all program, but a differentiated program designed to cultivate the individualized academic abilities, creative talents, and emotional growth of each SAA student.

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.



Faculty

Science & Arts Academy's faculty consists of 38 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



18
YEARS

**average
teaching
experience**

74%
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

students score
on average
20 points
higher
than
national norms
on standardized
MAP tests

3 year-
round
fine
arts
classes

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

Extracurricular Programs

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, extracurricular programs also support social and emotional growth. Some of our offerings include:

Athletics

Basketball
Cross Country
Soccer

Arts & Culture

Certamen Team
Drama Productions
Mandarin Class
Private Music and
Voice Lessons

Enrichment

Chess Club
Cooking Class
Math Team
Science Olympiad

Leadership

Community Problem Solvers
Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts
National Junior Honor Society
Student Council

30+
extracurricular
activities & teams

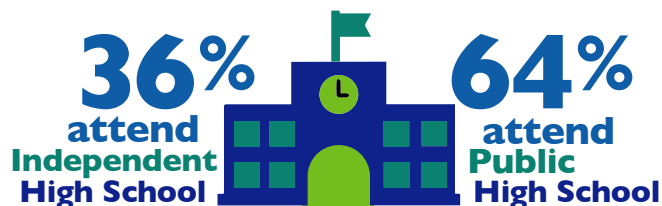
12
live performances
each year

2nd
STATE
SAA
Science
Olympiad
team

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

High School Matriculation

SAA alumni have attended the following schools in recent years:



Independent High Schools

Beacon Academy
Benet Academy
Chicago Academy for the Arts
Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School
Elgin Academy
Fenwick High School
Francis W. Parker School
Lake Forest Academy
Latin School of Chicago
Loyola Academy
Northridge Prep School
North Shore Country Day School
Resurrection College Prep High School
Rochelle Zell Jewish High School
Roycemore School

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

Public High Schools

Addison Trail High School
Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Deerfield 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
James B. Conant High School
John Hersey High School
Maine East High School
Maine South High School
Maine West High School
Nequa Valley High School
New Trier Township High School
Niles North High School
Niles West High School
Northside College Prep High School
Oak Park River Forest High School
Prospect High School
Rolling Meadows High School
Walter Payton College Prep High School
York Community High School

Learn More

Attend an Event

SAA hosts various events throughout the year to help families learn more about the SAA community and gifted education. Events are free and open to the public.

Meet with Admissions

The admissions team offers private, personalized virtual admissions meetings and school tours year round.

Contact SAA

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

Schedule a visit or meeting at scienceandartsacademy.org/events

