



PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT 209

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Math & Science Academy (MSA) Program at PTHS D209

Admissions

1. If I submit an online application, how can I be sure that it was received?

Upon submission of the MSA admissions application at pths209il.scriborder.com, applicants can confirm their application by logging in.

2. Can I submit a paper application?

No - All applicants must submit the digital MSA admissions application through pths209il.scriborder.com.

3. What options do I have if my child does not get accepted to one of the MSA programs?

If your child does not get accepted into the MSA program, they will attend their home school and take non-academy requisite courses for 9th grade as listed in the D209 course catalog.

4. When will I find out if my child has received an offer?

All students who apply will be notified as to their admissions status by mid-February.

5. How will I be notified of my child's offer?

Students and their families will be notified by email addresses provided in the application.

6. Is there a waitlist?

There is no waitlist. Admission into the MSA program opens October 6, and closes on December 19.

7. If my child is not accepted into the MSA program, can they re-apply the following year?

No. Currently, only incoming freshmen (8th graders) can apply for the MSA program. The MSA program does not accept transfer students at this time.

8. My student will be transferring to Proviso as a sophomore/upperclassmen. Can they apply for the MSA Program?

No. Only incoming freshmen (8th graders) can apply for the MSA program. The MSA program does not accept transfer students.

9. If a student declines the offer, does that open up a seat for another student?

No. Cut scores for admission are determined by enrollment capacity for the incoming freshman class. Currently, additional seats do not open up based on students who decline their admission invitation.

10. Who can apply for the MSA Program?

Any 8th grade student who currently attends a foundation school for PTHS D209; any 8th grade student who currently attends a private school or is home-schooled whose permanent residence is within the PTHS D209 boundaries; and any 8th grade student who currently attends a middle school that is out of district, but whose permanent residence will be within the PTHS D209 boundaries by the start the upcoming school year.

11. Where can I find the MSA Admissions Application and other information?

<https://www.pths209.org/msa>

12. Is the MSA information available in Spanish?

Yes, information about the Math and Science Academy Program is provided in English and Spanish.

13. What if I need assistance with the digital admissions application?

You can contact MSAadmissions@pths209.org.

14. Who do I contact if I have any questions about the MSA admissions process?

Please email MSAadmissions@pths209.org.

15. Besides the application and assessments, what else do I need to do to complete the MSA Admissions process?

Proviso Township High School will contact student's middle school to request an official 7th grade transcript on behalf of the applicant.

16. What are the MSA Admissions Scoring Criteria?

MSA ADMISSIONS SCORING CRITERIA	WEIGHT
<i>Math and Reading Assessment*</i>	75%
<i>7th Grade Transcripts**</i>	25%

**For the 2025 application season, Proviso will use the PreACT 9 as the Math and Reading Assessment*

*** For 7th grade transcripts, there is a concordance scale in which each letter grade has a numeric designation (A = 4; B = 3; etc.) to convert into an admissions score. Non-letter grade transcripts, or standards-based graded transcripts vary slightly in the numeric conversion, and depend on the implementation of grading practices.*

17. What is the difference between the 3 Math and Science Academies of Proviso Township?

Proviso Township High Schools District 209 offers three selective enrollment Mathematics & Science Academies (MSAs):

- **Proviso East MSA (PEMSA)** – Maywood
- **Proviso West MSA (PWMSA)** – Hillside
- **Proviso Mathematics & Science Academy (PMSA)** – Forest Park

All three campuses deliver the same rigorous and high-quality Mathematics & Science Academy program. The curriculum, expectations, and opportunities for students are identical across locations.

The only difference between the academies is where the program is housed—students can attend at East, West, or PMSA depending on their placement. Regardless of campus, every MSA student benefits from the same challenging coursework, academic supports, and enrichment opportunities.

17. How many assessments will my child have to take?

One assessment is required for the MSA Admissions process: Math and Reading Assessment.

19. How long is the assessment?

PSAT 8/9: Approx. 2.5 hours

20. When are the test dates?

Middle schools will be administering their Math and Reading Assessment in November/December. 8th graders in private school, home-school, or transfer students must pre-register for a testing day using the sign-up form found at www.pths209.org/msa

21. When will students receive their scores on the tests given?

PSAT 8/9: Dependent upon each middle school. Please contact your school's Principal.

22. Do you provide sample questions or study materials for the assessments?

PTHS D209 does not provide sample questions or study materials; however, there are many resources online to help familiarize students and their families the test.

23. Can my child take the test more than once to try to increase their score?

No. Students are permitted to take each assessment one time only.

24. Do I have to live in Forest Park to go to PMSA?

No - Cut scores for admission are determined by enrollment capacity for the incoming freshman class. The top 250 students (approx.) whose cumulative score is above the cut score will be invited to choose between PMSA and their home school MSA, either PEMSA or PWMSA. The next 200 students (approx.) will be invited to attend their home school MSA program. In other words, there will be 100 academy freshmen invited to PEMSA and 100 invited to PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous curricular program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

25. Does my residential address determine which MSA Program I go to?

No - Cut scores for admission are determined by enrollment capacity for the incoming freshman class. The top 250 students (approx.) whose cumulative score is above the cut score will be invited to join will be invited to choose between PMSA and their home school MSA. The next 200 students (approx.) will be invited to attend their home school MSA program (based on their permanent residence). In other words, there will be 100 academy freshmen invited to PEMSA and 100 to PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous curricular program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

26. Are all students who apply guaranteed admission to one of the three campus MSAs?

No. Students must meet the admissions criteria for acceptance. The top 250 students (approx.) whose cumulative score is above the cut score will be invited to choose between PMSA and their home school MSA, either PEMSA or PWMSA. The next 200 students (approx.) will be invited to attend their home school MSA program. In other words, there will be 100 academy freshmen invited to PEMSA and 100 to PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous curricular program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

27. Can students with IEPs or 504 accommodations apply to the MSA Program?

Absolutely. All 8th grade students are encouraged to apply for the Math and Science Academy Program at PTHS D209.

28. Can English Learners apply to the MSA Program?

Absolutely. All 8th grade students are encouraged to apply for the Math and Science Academy Program at PTHS D209.

29. Does PMSA Forest Park provide bus transportation to and from school for students?

Yes. All students who attend the Forest park campus are eligible for free bus transportation provided by the district.

30. Can students at PMSA Forest Park participate in athletics at their home school?

Yes. Bus transportation is provided after school for PMSA students to travel to their home school for sports. Bus transportation is also provided home.

31. How can I learn more about the Math and Science (MSA) program at PTHS D209?

Visit <https://www.pths209.org/msa> for updates on informational webinars and open houses.

32. Does the MSA Program include a sibling preference in the admissions process?

There is no sibling preference in the admissions process. Some siblings end up on the same campus; others are on different campuses. Families can make that determination once acceptance letters are received.

33. Is there a difference in the MSA Program at PMSA vs. PEMSA and PWMSA?

No. All MSA campuses provide a high level of rigor and pacing for students who have met the admissions criteria for acceptance.

34. What are the benefits of entering the MSA Program?

The Math & Science Academy (MSA) course pathway students for post-secondary success for their future whether it is enrolling in a 2-year, 4-year college, enlisting in the military, or becoming employed directly after high school. Additionally, MSA students' grades are weighted, which boosts their GPA for colleges and scholarships. Below is a chart with the MSA course pathways (and course choices) for the core subjects across Grades 9-12.

MSA PATHWAYS*	9 th Grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
ENGLISH	IH Survey of Literature	IH World Literature	IH American Lit AP Lang & Comp IB Lang Yr 1	IH Literary Criticism AP Lit IB Lang Yr 2
SOCIAL STUDIES	IH Global Studies AP World History	IH Law & Society (PEMSA & PWMSA) IH Civics (PMSA) IH Black History 365 AP US Govt & Politics	AP US History IB History Yr 1 IH US History IB Psychology	AP Human Geography AP European History IB History Yr 2 AP Psychology IH Psychology
MATH	IH Integrated Math 1 or 2 AP Computer Science Principles	IH Integrated Math 2 or 3 AP Computer Science Principles	IH Integrated Math 3 AP Statistics Pre-Calculus Honors AP Computer Science A IB Math Yr 1	AP Calculus AB or BC Pre-Calculus Honors AP Statistics AP Computer Science A IB Math Yr 2
SCIENCE	IH Physics	IH Chemistry	IH Biology AP Biology IB Biology Yr 1 AP Environmental Science	IH Forensic Science IB Biology Yr 2 AP Physics 1 & 2 AP Chemistry IH Anatomy & Physiology IH Human Genetics

* Please note: Course offerings each year are based on enrollment and staffing.

35. *Is there a World Language requirement?*

Yes, all MSA students are required to take Spanish or French for their first two years of high school. Information on placement will be provided to students upon admission to the program.