



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, applicants will receive a confirmation email that their application was received.

2. Can I submit a paper application?

No. All applicants must submit the digital MSA admissions application through Microsoft Forms.

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 as a non-academy student. They will follow the general education pathway. All students are encouraged to take AP and IB courses in high school to prepare them for college and post-secondary opportunities.

4. How do families accept or decline an offer?

If a student declines the offer, their parent/guardian needs to contact MSAadmissions@pths209.org or 708-338-5939.

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

All students and their families will be notified as to their admissions status by mid-February 2023.

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

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

7. Is there a waitlist?

There is no waitlist. Admission into the MSA program opens on October 30, 2022, and closes on January 15, 2023.

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

No. The MSA program is a two-year program during students' 9th and 10th grade years.

9. My daughter will be transferring to Proviso as a sophomore. Can she apply for the MSA Program?

No. The MSA program is a two-year program during students' 9th and 10th grade years. Only incoming freshmen (8th graders) can apply for the MSA program. The MSA program does not accept transfer students.

10. 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. Additional seats do not open up based on students who decline their admission invitation.

11. 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 time of enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year.

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

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

13. Is the MSA information available in Spanish?

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

14. What if I do not have access to a computer to complete the digital admissions application?

You can schedule an in-person application appointment by contacting MSAadmissions@pths209.org or 708-338-5939.

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

Please email MSAadmissions@pths209.org or call: 708-338-5939.

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

Students must contact their middle school and request an official transcript of their 7th grade year from the registrar or counselor – It must include the student's full name, date of birth, and final grades in English, math, science, and social studies. Middle school registrars or counselors will upload the student's 7th grade transcript to the Transcript Request Form: [7th Grade Transcript Form](#) When the registrar clicks "Submit" on the form, it will be sent to the PTHS D209 Admissions repository. Completed forms will only be considered official if they are submitted by the registrar or counselor, not by the student or parent. Paper copies of transcripts will not be accepted.

17. What are the MSA Admissions Scoring Criteria?

MSA ADMISSIONS SCORING CRITERIA	WEIGHT
PSAT 8/9	35%
Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT3)	35%
7th Grade Transcripts*	30%

* 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.

Assessments

18. What assessments will be used for the admissions process and why?

PSAT 8/9 published by the College Board is a nationally normed predictive test for success in college. It assesses students' skills in reading and math. In 2019, the first national operational SAT validity study for the redesigned assessment produced many notable findings supporting the value of the SAT. The study was among the largest ever conducted on SAT validity, with data from more than 223,000 students across 171 four-year colleges and universities. On average, SAT scores add 15% more predictive power above grades alone for understanding how students will perform in college.

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test, 3rd Edition (NNAT3) is a nonverbal measure of students' reasoning and problem-solving abilities. Specifically, it measures nonverbal reasoning and problem-solving abilities. It consists of problems that use a complex set of geometric shapes and designs without words or reading required. The test is administered to students from pre-K through 12th grade and is often used to determine eligibility for gifted schools and programs.

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

Two assessments are required for the MSA Admissions process: PSAT 8/9 and NNAT3.

20. How long are the assessments?

PSAT 8/9: Approx. 3 hours (2 hours and 25 minutes plus breaks)

NNAT3: Approx. 1 hour

21. When are the test dates?

Middle schools have been asked to administer the PSAT 8/9 and NNAT3 between November 7th and November 30th. There are alternate testing days for students who were absent, are home-schooled or attend a private school between November 12th and December 10th.

22. When are the alternate test dates and how do I register for them?

DATE	LOCATION	TIME (PSAT will finish by 11am)	Registration Links
12-Nov	Proviso West	8:00 – 12:00 Noon	Registration Link
19-Nov	Proviso East	8:00 – 12:00 Noon	Registration Link
3-Dec	PMSA	8:00 – 12:00 Noon	Registration Link
10-Dec	PMSA	8:00 – 12:00 Noon	Registration Link

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

PSAT 8/9: Approx. 6-8 weeks after testing

NNAT3: Immediately following the test online

24. 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 with the PSAT 8/9 and NNAT3 tests.

25. 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.

School Zoning

26. 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 200 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 100 students (approx.) for each home school will be invited to attend their MSA campus, either PEMSA or PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous math and science academy program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

27. 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 200 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, either PEMSA or PWMSA. The next 100 students (approx.) for each home school will be invited to attend their MSA campus, either PEMSA or PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous math and science academy program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

28. How can I make sure my child attends their home school MSA?

If your child is accepted into the MSA Program, they can choose to attend their home school MSA.

29. 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 200 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 100 students (approx.) for each home school will be invited to attend their MSA campus, either PEMSA or PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous math and science academy program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

Diverse Learners and English Learners

30. 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.

31. 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.

32. Are students with IEPs or 504 accommodations required to meet entrance test requirements for enrollment?

No. The MSA admissions criteria is the same for all 8th grade students who apply.

33. Are English Learners required to meet entrance test requirements for enrollment?

No. The MSA admissions criteria is the same for all 8th grade students who apply.

34. How are students with IEPs selected for the MSA Program?

The MSA admissions criteria is the same for all 8th grade students who apply. Cut scores for admission are determined by enrollment capacity for the incoming freshman class. The top 200 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 100 students (approx.) for each home school will be invited to attend their MSA campus, either PEMSA or PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous math and science academy program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

35. How are English learners selected for the MSA Program?

The MSA admissions criteria is the same for all 8th grade students who apply. Cut scores for admission are determined by enrollment capacity for the incoming freshman class. The top 200 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 100 students (approx.) for each home school will be invited to attend their MSA campus, either PEMSA or PWMSA. All three campuses provide the same rigorous math and science academy program for students admitted into the program. The only difference is location.

Other

36. Can students at PMSA participate in extracurricular activities and athletics?

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

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

You can attend one of our informational webinars or one of our open houses.
See dates and times below.

INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS took place on October 27 and November 1, 2022.

OPEN HOUSES (Hosted by PMSA at 8601 Roosevelt Road in Forest Park)

Monday, November 7th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

38. 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.

39. 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. All MSA students follow the same course pathway.

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

The MSA Program at all three campuses provides a high level of rigor and pacing for students who meet the admissions criteria for acceptance. Their grades are weighted which boosts their GPA for college and scholarships. The MSA course pathway differs from Proviso East and Proviso West non-academy students in grades 9-10 in preparation for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) coursework in grades 11-12. MSA students also take a required research course in preparation for AP & IB as upperclassmen. See course pathways below.

MSA PATHWAYS*	9 th Grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
ENGLISH	IH Survey of Literature	IH World Literature	AP Lang or IB Lang Yr 1	AP Lit or IB Lang Yr 2
SOCIAL STUDIES	IH Global Studies or AP World History	IH Black History 365 & IH Law & Society (PEMSA & PWMSA) / IH Black History 365 & IH Amer Government (PMSA) / AP US Government & Politics (MSA)	AP US History or IB History Yr 1	AP Human Geography, AP European History, or IB History Yr 2

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

MSA PATHWAYS*	9 th Grade	10 th grade	11 th grade	12 th grade
MATH	IH Integrated Math 1 or 2	IH Integrated Math 2 or 3	IH Integrated Math 3, AP Statistics, Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Computer Science, or IB Math Yr 1	IH Math Studies, AP Statistics, Pre-Calculus Honors, AP Computer Science, or IB Math Yr 2
SCIENCE	IH Physics	IH Chemistry	IH Biology, AP Biology, IB Biology Yr 1, or AP Environmental Science	IH Forensic Science or IB Biology Yr 2, AP Physics 1 & 2, AP Chemistry, AP Anatomy & Physiology, or Human Genetics

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

41. Will there be Shadow Days / Building Tours of PMSA and the other two campuses?

Each MSA campus will host a Shadow Day for incoming freshmen accepted into the program. Families can contact the school in March for further information.

42. 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.

43. What are the important dates of the MSA process?

- October 27, 2022 Informational Webinar from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- October 30, 2022 The MSA Admissions process goes live on the PTHS D209 website
- November 2022 Middle Schools administer PSAT 8/9 and NNAT3
- November 1, 2022 Informational Webinar from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- November 7, 2022 Middle schools begin administering the PSAT 8/9 and NNAT3
MSA Open House from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. in the PMSA Auditorium
- November 12, 2022 Alternate testing day at Proviso West in Hillside, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- November 19, 2022 Alternate testing day at Proviso East in Maywood, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- November 29, 2022 MSA Open House from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. in the PMSA Auditorium
- December 3, 2022 Alternate testing day at PMSA in Forest Park, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- December 10, 2022 Middle schools end administering the PSAT 8/9 and NNAT3
Alternate testing day at PMSA in Forest Park, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- January 15, 2023** **MSA Admissions process closes – Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m.**
7th grade transcript must be requested from middle school registrar or counselor
- Mid-February, 2023 All students and their families will be notified as to their admissions status