

AMSA Information Night

For parents and guardians of prospective students.

Information about the curriculum, school culture, transportation and field trips, learning services, school counseling, and athletics.



AMSA

ADVANCED MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY
C H A R T E R S C H O O L

INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE • COMMUNITY



Welcome to the Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

- AMSA is a free public charter school (not private)
- Enrollment - 966 students.
- Core towns: Clinton, Maynard, Marlborough, and Hudson
- We come from 38 towns and speak over 27 languages
- We are a supportive learning community that has very high expectations for learning and behavior
- We work hard and we play hard - New Building Project coming!
- Every member of the community is expected to bring their best to school each day



AMSA Mission and Core Values

Mission:

- Celebration of knowledge
- Children of ALL backgrounds and ALL abilities excel in ALL subjects
- Empowering them to succeed

Core Values:

- Integrity, Excellence, and Community



Academic Life

Prior to Entering AMSA:

- Students take a Math placement exam
- Reading Assessment (Lexia)
- WIDA Screener (based on response to Home Language Survey)

Academic Life - Grade 6

Every Day Classes:

- Pre-Algebra (math levels determined with placement test and performance)
- Computer Science
- English
- History

Every Other Day Classes:

- Latin (grades 6-8) *Upper School - Latin, Spanish, or French
- Biology
- Grammar
- Art
- Physical Education

AMSA ELL Program

AMSA's Mission: "The Advanced Math & Science Academy will create an atmosphere of celebration of knowledge where children of all backgrounds and abilities excel in all subjects..."

In keeping with this mission, AMSA provides a support program for students from various multilingual backgrounds who require additional academic language supports.

AMSA's ELE (English Language Education) Program

Follows an SEI (Sheltered English Immersion) model for all identified ELL students and consists of the following:

1. ELL Classes: Classes focus on state English Language Proficiency Standards (foundational academic language skills) as well as grade specific academic language from subject content classes.

These classes are taught by a fully licensed ELL educator and include ELL students.

2. SEI Classes: Enrollment in core-content classes taught by teachers hold an SEI endorsement qualifying them to work with ELL students and make their curriculum accessible to language learners.

These classes include both ELL and non-ELL students. The SEI endorsement is a current licensure requirement for all teachers in Massachusetts public schools.

Any class with at least 1 ELL enrolled is considered an SEI class. Mainstream classes.

3. ELL Push-In: ELL students receive in-class support by an ELL educator during one of their SEI classes. Typically, ELA.

IDENTIFICATION

AMSA follows state guidelines for the equitable identification of ELL students. These processes are consistent throughout the state of Massachusetts and occur when a student enters a new district.

Students who are reported as speaking or being exposed to multiple home languages are administered the **WIDA SCREENER** as a standard part of enrollment processes. This is the state approved standardized assessment which determines Academic English Support needs.

The WIDA SCREENER is given within 2 weeks of a student beginning classes at AMSA.

Families of identified ELL students are contacted directly by the ELL department where additional information is provided and students begin to receive supports.

This is done as quickly as possible so as to provide these important supports immediately.

An additional informational night is provided to ELL families each autumn.

Directed Study Program

In grades 6-8, every student is assigned to a Directed Study

- Directed Study (DS) is a 45 minute period that takes place every school day
- An opportunity for students to complete homework or meet with teachers

Advisory Period

- Occurs every Day 8 on the rotating schedule during Directed Study
- Character Building - Themes of the Month
- Some Examples: Responsibility, Integrity, Bullying Prevention Week



Student Life

- Many opportunities to socialize and make new connections
 - Social events: dances, games, competitions, PTO-events
 - Clubs
 - Examples of middle school offerings: Drama, Math Team, Coding, Red Cross, Spanish Immersion, Taekwondo, American Music, Homework Club
 - Field Trips
 - Middle school: grade-based, community-building
 - High school: grade-based community-building & academic trips for courses

What separates middle school at AMSA from other middle schools?

- 7-year vision for student achievement, success, and development
- Rigorous course of study
 - High school level content at the middle school level
 - Computer science a core class
- Partnership with high school
 - Tutoring and mentoring programs
 - Athletics
 - Peer mediation



Student Behavioral Expectations and School Policies

- High Behavioral Expectations
- Cell Phone Policy
- Uniform Policy
- Referral Process through the Dean's Office

AMSA Operations

Transportation: Two fee based regional buses and 8 Marlborough buses.

Lunch Program: AMSA has a wonderful lunch program offering a variety of daily options. We use a company called Catering Options. **lunches ordered in advance

Health Office: AMSA's health office is located within the lower school building staffed by 2 full time and 1 part time Registered nurses.

Field Trips: Grade level coordinators are responsible to plan at least one trip for the entire class during the school year. International Trip Opportunities

Clubs: AMSA hosts over 45 clubs.



AMSA



Athletics

AMSA is an **MIAA**-member school (**Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association**) and is a proud member of the **Colonial Athletic League**, competing in District “2” here in Central Mass. at the Division 3 and Division 4 levels.

The Eagle Athletic Department is comprised of 37 different teams spread throughout **23 Varsity programs**. AMSA student-athletes in grades 6-12 can participate at varying levels of Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman and Middle School offerings. **boy’s basketball, track and field, and cross country MS teams**



School Counseling

- For ALL students
- Supports Academic, Social/Emotional, College/Career Development
- Academic Advising
- Classroom lessons, small groups, individual counseling
- Lower School Advisory
- Junior and Senior Seminar
- PSAT, AP Testing
- 504 Coordination

Special Education Department

- Service delivery is provided in an inclusion model
- Majority of IEP services are delivered in the general education classroom
- Academic Labs available as determined by IEP Team
- Services are delivered by Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers, Paraprofessionals
- Also on staff~ School Psychologist, Speech Language Pathologist
- Contracted Services~ Licensed Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Assistive Technology Specialist
- Transition Meetings will be held in the Spring for incoming 6th graders on IEPs to determine service delivery at AMSA
- Any questions, Lynn Jarvis, lj Jarvis@amsacs.org



Admissions

- Admission to AMSA is through a state regulated lottery for grades 6 thru 9
- Lottery application open, November 23rd 2021 thru February 4th 2022
- Apply online at WWW.AMSACS.ORG under [Prospective Student](#)
- Open seats offered in lottery order with the following preference
 1. Siblings of current students,
 2. Students from the Core towns (Clinton, Hudson, Marlborough, Maynard)
 3. Non-core town, all others from MA
 - 2022-23 lottery will be held by Zoom on March 1st, 2022 at 10am, see the Admissions website for details
- All questions admissions@amsacs.org

Important Email addresses

Sports - Peter Jones, p.jones@amsacs.org

Transportation and Lunch - Lynn McCluskey, lmcccluskey@amsacs.org

Special Education - Lynn Jarvis, lj Jarvis@amsacs.org

Counseling - Kate Driver, kdriver@amsacs.org

Nurse - Maureen Searl, msearl@amsacs.org

Dean of Students - Anthony Montesion, amontesion@amsacs.org

Vice Principal - Amanda Cence, acence@amsacs.org

Principal - Mike Nawrocki, mnawrocki@amsacs.org

