

Applications for Iberville School System's Math, Science & Arts Academy Now Accepted; Timeline for Selection Process Announced

It's Math, Science, and Arts Academy (MSA) application time in Iberville Parish. The applications will be accepted now through January 15, 2010.

Students will be selected from qualified applicants during a lottery scheduled on February 9, 2010 at the Iberville Parish School System offices in Plaquemine.

Applications will be available after November 19 at various locations, including at all Iberville Parish schools, the Iberville Parish School Board office, and all Iberville Parish libraries, and on line at ipsb.net. Applications are also being mailed to all families in the parish.

Once applications are received, the Administrative Assistant of District Initiatives reviews all applications for accuracy. A letter is sent to parents stating that the Academy has received the application and a log is kept in the order of applications received. A public lottery is held in February with results made available until November of the same year. In November the waiting list is void. Siblings and students identified by the school system as Gifted and Talented Arts students are automatically accepted, according to School System brochures on the program application process.

“The MSA academies offer higher academic expectations, new technology, including laptops for students in 7th to 11th grades, hands-on learning, field trips, small classes with excellent faculty, and a focus on excellence,” says Iberville Parish Executive Director of Special Programs Elvis J. Cavalier.

This next school year, the MSA-West will offer programming from kindergarten through 11th grades. The MSA-East will offer programming from 5th through 11th grades. This next school year, the MSA-East Academy, will continue to be temporarily housed at the St. Gabriel Community Center. A new school will be constructed to serve the East academy with ground to be broken in January of 2010 and to open sometime in 2011. When the new MSA school building opens, the school will then be kindergarten through 12th grades.

At the West academy, major renovations will be made in the summer to accommodate the new students. A new STEM center, performing arts center, parking lots, and a second gym will be added by the 2011-2012 school year.

A specific grade point average is not needed to enroll, but students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative average once they are enrolled in the program, says Cavalier. Parents and students are invited to tour and learn more about the programs offered on both the East and West sides of the river by the Iberville Parish School System.

“These schools’ high academic standards offer a wide array of opportunities for students to discover their skills, interests and talents and to build an academic foundation that will transform their future lives,” says Iberville Parish School Superintendent P. Edward Cancienne, Jr.

The schools’ courses include honors and advanced placement and also dual credit offerings for 11th grade students. Many innovative offerings are in partnership with university programs, said Cavalier.

“This past year, MSA students’ scores were comparable with any charter schools, university sponsored schools, and magnet schools in the region,” said Cavalier. “All students can learn and this school system is providing opportunities for ‘schools of choice’,” he added.

“It is the belief of this school system that an academy education can empower families and revitalize the community, and that every student who enters our door—regardless of race, income, or zip code—deserves to be challenged and will achieve,” Cavalier added.

A brochure on the www.ipsb.net website offers details on the course offerings and an application form.

The phone number is 687-6845.

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