



Armada Area Schools

Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences

Elsie Ritzenhein
Director

August 15, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences (MA²S) and the Armada Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences (AMA²S). If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Elsie Ritzenhein, Director of the Academies, for assistance. The AER is available for you to review on the website www.armadaschools.org.

The Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Armada Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences are Specialized Schools for honors-level/advanced mathematics, science and technology. Students attend for ½ day. Consequently, we do not report AYP. Students are included in the AYP report at their respective home schools, which they attend for the remaining ½ day.

Additional information which you may find helpful:

1. Students are selected for AMA²S based on their academic record and performance on the MEAP in mathematics, science and ELA. Selection for MA²S is determined by completion of Algebra I, academic record and performance on the MAT-8 achievement tests for mathematics and science.
2. The Armada Middle Academy of Arts and Sciences (6-8) offers an integrated program that focuses on accelerated learning and problem-solving in mathematics, science and technology. Students currently work in a 1-to-1 environment with laptop computers and are responsible for an annual student-designed research project that engages them in the real life application of math and science concepts. The program is based on the honors level high school program at the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences (9-12). Both programs share a focus on research, hands-on projects, problem solving and creative approaches to thinking and application within a highly technological environment. Students are encouraged to

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question, take risks and learn through an interactive, dynamic approach. MA²S student achievement on the ACT/MME is consistently above state averages. 100% of our students are accepted in the college/university of their choice. Many students are offered impressive scholarships for their four-year collegiate experience.

3. The core curriculum in mathematics and science are implemented through integrated math/science/technology with arts and creative thinking embedded. Teaching staff provide creative projects and innovative approaches to learning. Grants for artists-in-residence have allowed us to provide a unique approach to professional learning for an integral arts integration focus within the programs. Curricula for MA²S can be found at the Macomb Academy of Arts and Sciences, 23211 Prospect Street, Armada, MI, 48005. Curricula for AMA²S is available either in the middle school principal's office for with Ms. Karen Markey, AMA²S lead teacher.
4. Numbers attending parent/teacher conferences for AMA²S can be found at the Armada Middle School. Since AMA²S is a school-within-a-school, those numbers are included in the full count for that building. In 2009-2010, MA²S had 120 parents (60%) attending the fall parent/teacher conferences. In 2009-2010, 92 parents (44%) attended. 2010-2011 numbers are available through Patti Lange, the MA²S Administrative Assistant.

The Director and/or teaching staff for each program will be happy to offer further information if requested.

Sincerely,

Elsie Ritzenhein, Director