

# MA<sup>2</sup>S MOMENTS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

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## A BANNER YEAR!

The MA<sup>2</sup>S staff and students are poised for a banner year, with renovations that include a new physics lab, chemical storage area, ceiling, lighting, heating and cooling improvements, as well as a new computer lab. In addition to improvements in the building, we are poised for a second year with Motorola, Inc., continued improvements with our research program, a third year with The Fighting PI--our FIRST Robotics team--and a focus on teaching and learning that is even more strongly research-based. As we work to assure that our students not only meet but exceed the expectations for high standards set by the State of Michigan, we look for-

ward to even more feedback from our alumni: feedback that is both supportive and helpful. Our collaboration with the Utica Community Schools and the Mount Clemens Community Schools with the E=MC<sup>2</sup> grant from the U.S. Department of Education will provide an opportunity for in-depth and meaningful development of our learning model, plus both expansion of MA<sup>2</sup>S and the development of a MA<sup>2</sup>S Middle Academy. Our students are ready for high expectations, for working with each other and for the challenge of preparing for college and for their place in a global world. They are respectful, eager and inquisitive young men and women,

and we are pleased that they have chosen to work with us in this dynamic and unique learning environment. We're committed to communicating even more fully with parents and the community, so that you can become spokespersons for our vision. *Please plan to join us from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 for our first Open House: An Evening With MA<sup>2</sup>S: Experience, Explore, Discover.* We'll begin experiencing, exploring and discovering a banner year for MA<sup>2</sup>S!

## MA<sup>2</sup>S MISSION

Meeting the needs of the academically talented with a curriculum of integration and application.

## 2008 MATH COMPETITION REGISTRATION DEADLINE RAPIDLY APPROACHING!

Every year in February, our school is one of over 5000 nationally that takes part in a mathematics competition sponsored by The Mathematical Association of America. Participation is open to all students at the Academy. Last year, close to one third of our student body opted to participate!

Freshmen and sophomores are eligible to take the AMC 10. Juniors and seniors qualify to take the AMC 12. Both exams consist of 25 questions and are very challenging in nature. All students who *pre-register* take the exam at the same time on the same day in the Gallery at the Academy. Par-

ents/students will be notified by mail in early November on how to register for this competition. Please feel free to contact [Rene.Carlson@armadaschools.org](mailto:Rene.Carlson@armadaschools.org) for more information or visit the MAA website at <http://www.unl.edu/amc/>.

**C++ PROGRAMMING***by Rene' Carlson*

This advanced programming class, offered as an elective to juniors, began Friday, September 7, 2007. This class will continue to meet each Friday, for the entire 2 blocks, throughout the school year. This is a problem-solving course that requires a great deal of persistence, patience and determination. It is not

uncommon for students to spend countless hours developing and coding a program. This is why patience has been described as a programmer's greatest asset! Many students who have taken the course in the past say that learning to program in C++ is similar to solving a puzzle - most particularly a logic puzzle.

**MA<sup>2</sup>S REGISTRATION FORMS**

If you have not turned in your registration paperwork, please mail or hand-carry it to the Academy office. Please note that the state of Michigan requires that a copy of a child's birth certificate and immunization record be submitted within 30 days of starting school.

*This applies to any students who are new to the Academy. If your student was here last year, you do not need to submit another birth certificate or immunization record. If you have any questions, please call the Academy office at 586-784-2150.*

**BIOLOGY***by Rob Blume*

It would be so easy to do biology from a textbook. I can almost hear the words flowing off my tongue, "This is a picture of a nematode, and this is paragraph that describes symbiosis. But, you'll probably never see things like this." I can't do it, though. That's how I *learned* about things ecological (not to be used synonymously with "environmental"), and I resented that I couldn't see these things or find them in their natural habitats. So, your students are going to see a nematode, and if the first clump of dirt we look for them in doesn't have any, we'll apply the Habit of

Mind called 'persistence' until we do find some. They're going to see firsthand what the many of the various interactions are and what succession is. Through a distance-learning station we're going to meet up with a guy who spends six months a year on Isle Royale chasing wolves and moose so he can document the interactions between them. And, since these things live out there in the "environment", we'll spend some time discussing ways we can make sure there's an environment still there for your kids' grandkids while still allowing for economic sustainability.

**A Little Reminder:**

If your student will not be in school, please call and let us know. Leave your student's name, your name and the reason for the absence on our attendance line at 586-784-2151. The attendance line is available for calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Thank you!*

**FIGHTING-PI NEWS  
FIRST ROBOTICS***by Craig Roys and Rick Wahl*

The MA<sup>2</sup>S robotics team is getting ready to start the 2008 FIRST Robotics season. We have 13 returning members and applications are now out for new students. We look forward to announcing our new team soon! Our returning members are Senior Sarah McCauley; Juniors Kathryn Van Ham, Chris Tobey, Cody Tousignant, Cole Waterstraat, Matt Karl, Bret Kirchner; and Sophomores Chelsea Antilla, Chris Graham, Josh Lewis, Kevin Kline, Tom Zinger, and Raymond Van Ham. We will be competing at the Team Ford FIRST Autumn Robotics Competition at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center on Saturday, October 6. It will be a one-day event playing the game from last year's FIRST Robotics game. Other fall plans include clean up of our adopted road (Omo Rd between Armada Center and Irwin Rd), a possible spaghetti dinner and a possible bowling fundraiser. Our new season official kicks off on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> with FIRST's announcement of the new game.

**ATTENTION SENIORS!**

Be sure to see Mrs. Bilot for *course completion letters* from MA<sup>2</sup>S to include in your college/university applications. If you are submitting more than one college application, please let Mrs. Bilot know and she will prepare multiple copies of the letters. Also, be sure to check out [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) for college information.



Computer Lab

**STUDENT AMBASSADOR CLUB**

The Academy's Student Ambassador program is back for the 2007-2008 school year. The group's first meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 7:30 pm. At this meeting officers are to be elected and projects for the year selected. The Student Ambassador program is open to all

students who attend the Academy. The more people that we have participate, the better. Projects that were organized by the Student Ambassadors last year include: Fall and Spring ground clean-ups, dances, video game nights, euchre nights, food and clothing drives, and much more. If you are interested in

being a more involved part of MA<sup>2</sup>S, the Student Ambassador program is a great place to start. Students should listen to the announcements for bi-weekly meeting times.

Hope to see you at the meetings,

*Mr. Skull*

**ARMADA AREA SCHOOLS 2007-2008 CALENDAR**

(PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE FOR ACADEMY ACTIVITIES AND CALENDAR UPDATES)

September 28	In-service, no students
October 23	Academy Open House - 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
October 31	In-service, 1/2 day students
November 14	Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
November 15	Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
November 16	All schools closed for students and staff
November 21 - 23	Thanksgiving Recess
November 26	School resumes
December 19	Winter Recess begins after last class
January 2	School resumes
January 16 - 18	All students 1/2 day of school High School exams/records Middle School and Elementary records
January 21	In-service, no students
February 20 - 22	Mid-winter Break
March 7	In service, no students
March 19	1/2 day students Spring Conferences by appointment only. Please contact teachers for available times.
March 21	Easter break - School Closed
March 24	Easter Break - School Closed
March 31 - April 4	Spring Recess
April 7	School resumes
April 25	In-service, no students
May 26	Memorial Day, no school
June 4 - 6	All students 1/2 day of school High School exams/records Middle School and Elementary records
June 6	Last day of school

**MA<sup>2</sup>S  
STUDENT &  
STAFF  
EXPECTATIONS**

- Understand real-life applications of science and math concepts
- Become independent learners and thinkers
- Apply critical/creative thinking to problem-solving
- Be willing to take risks, make mistakes and learn from these experiences
- Respect ourselves, each other and diverse ideas
- Take responsibility for ourselves and our own learning
- Appreciate the beauty of the relationships between mathematics, art and science



Solar Car



# E-mail / Telephone Connections

Academy Office: 586.784.2150  
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We are on the web!  
[www.macomb.k12.mi.us/armada/armada/ma2s](http://www.macomb.k12.mi.us/armada/armada/ma2s)