

Home School / MST vs. International Academy of Macomb (IAM)

Which path should you choose? One is not necessarily better than the other, but there are some differences between the two that may help you decide what is best for your student:

Home School / MST	International Academy of Macomb
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students attend MST for part of the day. They spend the rest of their day at the home school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students attend the IAM all day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have more “choices” in terms of the courses they wish to take. They do not follow a prescribed program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IAM is an International Baccalaureate (IB) school. This means that the school follows the formal IB Programme.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The MST Program is designed for students who wish to excel in math and science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IB Programme does not focus just on math and science.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The math and science courses in the MST program are accelerated. Students also may elect advanced courses at the home schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The courses offered at the IAM are accelerated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The home schools and the MST program all offer advanced courses called Advanced Placement (AP) courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IAM offers advanced courses called IB courses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AP program is recognized worldwide. However, the AP program is more popular in the U.S. than in other countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IB Programme is recognized worldwide. The program is less popular in the U.S. than in other countries, but it is growing in the U.S.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students may elect AP courses and take AP exams to earn college credit at any time during their high school years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students take IB exams for which they can earn college credit only during junior and senior years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can “pick and choose” their AP courses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must take IB exams in all areas, some at Standard Level (SL) and some at Higher Level (HL).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students may earn college credit for passing scores on their AP Exams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students may earn college credit for passing scores on their IB Exams, but possibly HL only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students do not need to be enrolled in an AP course to take the corresponding exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must be enrolled in an IB course to take the corresponding IB exam.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP exams cost \$100 each. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB exams cost about \$120 each, and there are additional fees for other “core” IB components.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete a Job Shadowing Experience and may participate in a research project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete the IB Programme requirements which include an “extended essay” and group research.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete community service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must complete community service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school year is a standard 180 days. All activities are planned based on the standard Macomb County calendar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school year is longer. Students start school in mid-August.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students retain more of a connection with their home school with activities like athletics or music, and also events during the school day (e.g. pep assemblies). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can still participate in activities like athletics or music, but have less of a “connection” during the school day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students experience a small-school environment for part of the day, and “regular” high school classes for the rest of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are in a small-school environment all day.

For more information, visit: <https://blog.prepscholar.com/whats-better-for-you-ib-or-ap>

MST 8th Grade Information Night Highlights

Advantages of the MST Program	Comments from Alumni
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enriched curriculum in areas of mathematics and science • Cohort model with like-minded students in a small, collegiate environment • Continued connection to home high schools through athletics, music programs, and other extracurricular activities • Friendships with students from other schools to expand both social and academic support networks • Innovative teaching methods • Flexible scheduling; team-teaching approach • Job shadowing • Additional Advanced Placement (AP) courses not offered at the home schools • Integrated SAT / ACT test prep in all courses • Built-in academic support structures • Student organizations (Pankow Leadership Council, Mu Alpha Theta, Science National Honor Society) • College campus visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I liked the smaller class sizes." • "I liked that as you went through the years you created bonds with the other kids in the class and the teachers." • "I liked being able to take AP classes that were not offered at the high school." • "I liked how much effort the teachers put into helping you succeed." • "I liked how difficult it was because it did help me prepare well for college." • "I think the challenging, more difficult academics is an essential part of MST. It creates a space where 'high achieving' students can thrive and be challenged." • "I enjoyed the atmosphere that the MST created. I felt like I was surrounded by like-minded peers. I do feel like the skills that I learned at the MST provided me a strong basis for my STEM classes in college." • "I am very grateful I had the opportunity to take Calc BC and I am seeing how big of an investment it was a year later." • "I have found myself ahead of my classmates"

SAT Results – Class of 2024				MST Curriculum	
	Composite	Verbal	Math	9th Grade	10th Grade
Maximum	1600	800	800	MST Honors Geometry MST Honors Biology	MST Honors Algebra 2 MST Honors Chemistry — AP Biology (optional) AP Computer Science (optional)
State Avg.	958	488	469		
County Avg.	948	483	465	11th Grade	12th Grade
District Avg.	951	481	470	AP Precalculus MST Honors Physics — AP Statistics (optional) AP Biology (optional) AP Chemistry (optional) AP Computer Science (optional)	AP Calculus BC, AP Calculus AB, or AP Statistics AP Biology, AP Chemistry, or AP Physics C — AP Computer Science (optional)
MST Avg.	1256	608	650		
IAM Avg.	1274	647	627		

Application Requirements, Process, and Timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade of B or better for Semesters 1 and 2 of Algebra I and Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit an online MST Application form (<i>due February 14th</i>) • NWEA Map test results (<i>For non-LCPS students, the NWEA MAP test will be administered at Pankow Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 11:30 AM</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I and Science Teacher Recommendation Forms (done by Pankow staff) • Application decisions released on or before <i>March 8, 2024</i>