

# Maine School of Science and Mathematics

2021-2022 School Profile

Maine School of Science and Mathematics

The Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM) was founded in 1995 by the Maine Legislature as a public, residential magnet school that serves talented and highly motivated high school students from across the state and around the world. For the 2021-2022 school year, MSSM serves 124 students in grades 9-12.

MSSM's academic year is divided into semesters with an additional January term providing opportunities for accelerated, specialty courses, and internships.

Last year, we employed a hybrid opening. Half the student population was on campus and the other half were using state-of-the art remote teaching. This year, we opened with all students being on campus.

#### Sam Critchlow Executive Director critchlows@mssm.org

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#### **Academic Rigor**

Most courses at MSSM are taught at the college level using college textbooks and curricular materials. MSSM has an agreement with The University of Maine at Presque Isle allowing students to receive college credit for a majority of MSSM courses that are taught at or beyond the AP level.

Advanced Placement courses are offered at MSSM in Calculus AB and BC, Statistics, Chemistry, English Language and Composition, and Physics C: Mechanics and Electricity & Magnetism.

MSSM students are motivated, talented and hard-working. In 2020, 43 students took 66 Advanced Placement tests and demonstrated their mastery of college level material by achieving a mean score of 3.9 on the tests. Due to Covid-19, this is the most recent AP data available.

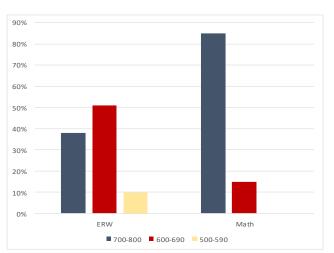
AP Test Average		
Subject	Number Tested	Mean Score
Science	18	3.7
Math	31	4.2
Humanities	17	3.9
Total for All Sub- jects	66	3.9



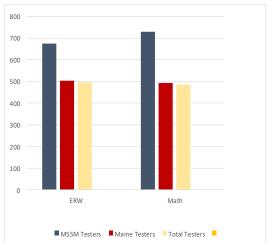
MSSM is ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the #1 High School in Maine,

Grading is also done at the college level. Grades are not weighted despite the rigor of MSSM's curriculum.

## **Percentages of Students in** SAT Score Ranges, Class of 2021



#### **2021 SAT MSSM** Compared to the **State & Total Population**









### A Learning Community

MSSM is located in the town of Limestone (pop. 2,300) in a rural area near the northern tip of Maine, less than two miles from the Canadian Border. The nearest city, Bangor (pop. 33,000), is a three hour drive from MSSM, and the biggest city in our state, Portland (pop. 66,000), is almost six hours away. With these longer drive times, it is difficult for MSSM students to make college visits. Therefore interviews are most commonly completed via video conferencing.

Activities at MSSM range from Astronomy Club and Art Club to VEX Robotics and Key Club. MSSM requires two hours per week of community service from students, such as tutoring, assisting faculty, or serving as residential assistants. To emphasize academic collaboration over competition, MSSM records neither GPA nor class rank. The school's small size, residential nature, and cooperative academic environment combine to create a very tight-knit community of scholars.

MSSM typically offers the dedicated student athlete an opportunity to engage in sports. Varsity teams currently include soccer, cross country, track, Nordic skiing, and volleyball.

#### **Distinctive Academic Features and Awards**

- Admission to MSSM is highly competitive. In addition to their academic ability (measured by grades, teacher recommendations, a writing sample and test scores) our students are selected on the basis of maturity, motivation, and ability to contribute positively to the residential environment.
- In 2021-2022, the student teacher ratio is 9:1.
- The academic year typically includes a January term which gives students the opportunity for intensive interdisciplinary classes, research opportunities, and internships.
- 92% of faculty hold advanced degrees. Many have significant private sector experience and have studied extensively in their fields.
- In March 2019, MSSM's jazz combo was awarded its first-ever medal at a state competition.

- MSSM won the 2019 Maine State Science Bowl Competition.
- The 2019 SeaPerch team placed first in the judging of the engineering design at the national SeaPerch Challenge at the University of Maryland.
- Out of 29 students in the class of 2021, seven will receive recognition in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program
- The MSSM math team consistently places first in the Maine State Math Meet.
- MSSM requires two years of world language and two years of social sciences.
- MSSM is a member of the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools.

## **Matriculation Summary: Classes of 2020 and 2021**

Bennington College University of Georgia Dartmouth College **Boston University Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign **Boston University** Georgetown University University of Maine **Bowdoin College** Georgia Institute of Technology University of Massachusetts-Boston **Brandeis University** Mass. Institute of Technology University of Pennsylvania **Brown University** Northeastern University University of St. Andrews Carleton College Olin College of Engineering University of Washington-Seattle Colby College Paul Smith's College of Arts/Sciences Vanderbilt University Colorado School of Mines Rochester Institute of Technology Wellesley College Creighton University Stevens Institute of Technology Willamette University Culinary Institute of America The College of Wooster Worcester Polytechnic Institute University of Detroit Mercy