

# Find Your Place Go Beyond



# Welcome to Maine School of Science and Mathematics!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Maine School of Science and Mathematics (MSSM). As the Dean of Enrollment Management, I am thrilled to introduce you to our vibrant community of learners, educators, and innovators.

Established in 1995, MSSM is a prestigious, public, boarding school located in Limestone, Maine that has been serving some of the academically motivated and passionate minds in Maine and across the country. Our mission is to inspire and empower students to achieve their full potential, both academically and personally. That is achieved through our caring, small, close knit community of teachers and learners, driven by a balanced approach to whole-student development while exploring rigorous coursework and hands-on learning opportunities.



Our distinguished faculty are not only experts in their fields, with 85% of them possessing advanced degrees, but also passionate educators committed to guiding and mentoring students. With small class sizes, our students benefit from individualized attention and the opportunity to engage deeply with the material. We believe in cultivating critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills to serve our students well in their future endeavors.

MSSM is more than just a school; it is a community where all are encouraged to explore their interests, ask big questions, develop leadership skills, and build lasting friendships. Our residential life program provides a safe and nurturing environment where students from diverse backgrounds come together to live, learn, and grow. Culminating into friendships, connections, and memories that often last a lifetime.

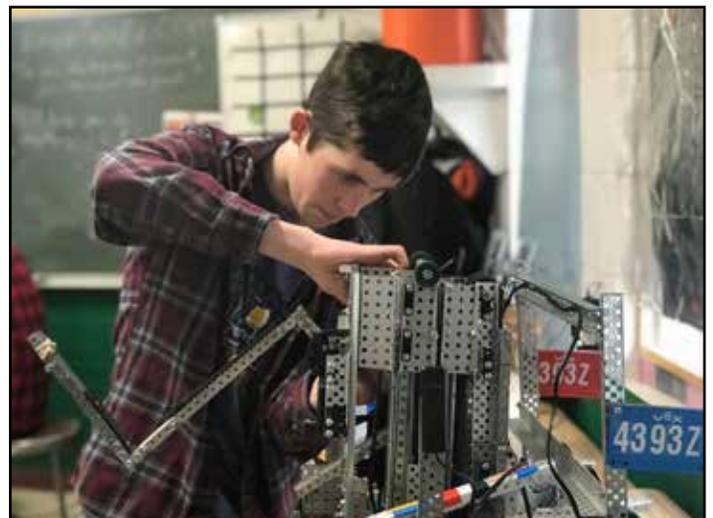
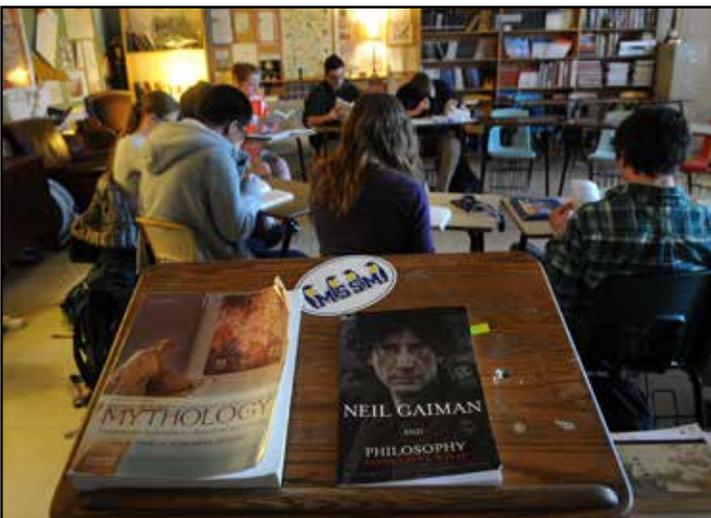
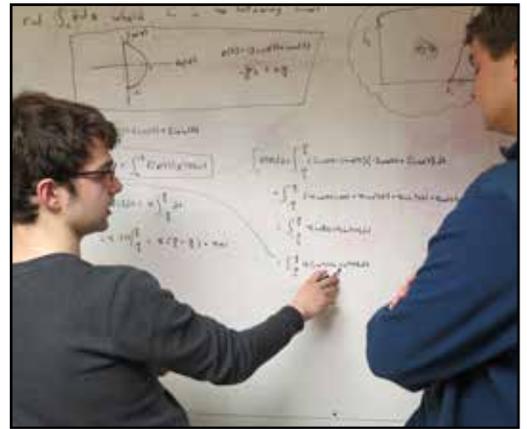
As you explore our website and learn more about what MSSM has to offer, I invite you to reach out to our office with any questions you have. Our enrollment team is here to assist you through every step of the admission process and to help you discover if MSSM is the right fit for your educational journey.

I look forward to welcoming you to campus!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Santiago Durango". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Santiago Durango  
Dean of Enrollment Management



# The Value of Boarding School

Why Families Should Consider This Unique Educational Path

By Rob Constantine, Executive Director MSSM

Choosing the right school for your child is a monumental decision that can shape their future in profound ways. While public and private day schools are common choices that excellently serve some students, boarding schools offer a distinctive and enriching alternative that can significantly benefit a student's personal and academic growth. Choosing a boarding experience for your child is an investment in their future that offers unparalleled benefits, especially how important and transformative ages 13-18 can be. Here are a few more reasons why you might want to consider exploring boarding school, and MSSM, for your child.

## What Makes Boarding Schools Unique?

### 1) Intentional Learning Community

Boarding schools are uniquely positioned to create 24 hour intentional communities with a student's growth and development at the core of all we do. Through a comprehensive and holistic admission process, boarding schools have the ability to shape the student body living and learning on campus as well as the adult population serving those students. From the moment a student arrives on campus (or perhaps even from that first exchange they have on the student chat group), they are surrounded by people who share their passion for learning, their excitement for exploration, and a commitment to welcoming each student as they are. Adults and students alike are interested in helping each member of the community reach their full potential - in all areas of life. These communities foster deep and rewarding relationships that often last a lifetime.

### 2) Unique Opportunities

At boarding school, students are able to be the drivers of their education and have access to a plethora of opportunities. "Extra" curricular activities become "co" curricular activities because they are part of the regular flow of the student experience. Because of our residential environment, we are able to host events ranging from content-expert lectures to musical performances, from community dinners to school outings, for the entire student and adult community. Students are encouraged to pursue their existing passions and to discover new ones, to grow at their strengths and to take risks by trying new things. From sports and arts to clubs and leadership programs are not just hobbies but integral parts of the educational experience and bring the best out of our students. There is nothing more rewarding as an educator than watching students push their limits and discover who they are.

### 3) Classroom Engagement

Classroom engagement can make all the difference in a student's academic success in high school. Boarding schools can offer smaller class sizes where students are able to receive individualized attention. The boarding environment allows teachers to get to know each student inside and outside the classroom- their strengths, interests, passions, and learning style - making sure that no student is left behind. Your student will feel valued and have a sense of belonging in the classroom which often leads to an increase in engagement in their academic journey and participation in classes. They are more open to participating in discussions, asking questions, and engaging with the material.

### 4) Personal Growth and Independence

Perhaps one of the most significant advantages of the boarding school experience is the opportunity for personal growth and independence. Boarding school students tend to develop life skills such as time management, work ethic, self-advocacy, networking, and independence earlier than in non-boarding settings. While this growth is realized through the boarding experience, students do not do it alone. They receive guidance and support from teachers, administrators, dorm parents, and peers in addition to their families. This learning extends beyond the classroom and often occurs in settings like the residence hall, dining hall, playing fields, and student lounges. The opportunity to grow and develop exists and is nourished at all times.

# What Makes MSSM Unique?

## Academic Rigor

MSSM offers a level of academic rigor that's often comparable to a college experience. With small class sizes and a fast-paced curriculum, students are pushed to not only meet but exceed their educational potential. Courses are designed to be challenging and thought-provoking, catering to those who seek an intellectually stimulating environment. Intellectual discourse is actively fostered in the classroom.

## Tailored Admissions Process

At MSSM, our competitive admissions process evaluates applicants in a holistic manner. We are looking for students who will enrich our community, expand their potential, and build their future towards STEM at MSSM. Our admission will work with families personally from the moment they inquire about MSSM until they step foot on campus as new community members. We provide the tools and resources necessary for families to go through the search and application process with ease. We always look forward to connecting with prospective families and showing them the road to MSSM. We hope to connect with you soon!

## Residential Experience

Unlike most high schools, MSSM is a residential school. This adds a layer of independence and responsibility that prepares students for life beyond academics. Living on campus also fosters a close-knit community where students can collaborate, share ideas, and form friendships that last a lifetime.

## High-Achievers with Unique Profiles

Many of our students come with a "wrinkle" in their educational profile. They are high-achievers who often find that their local schools don't fully meet their academic or intellectual needs. MSSM provides these students with the resources, courses, and community that they need to thrive, serving as an outlet for their boundless curiosity and drive.

## Cutting-Edge Facilities

MSSM provides students with facilities that are on par with higher educational institutions. This equips them with the tools they need to delve deep into research, conduct experiments, and engage in experiential learning. Students acquire hands-on laboratory competencies in science courses.

## Diverse Extracurricular Activities

While academics are the cornerstone, MSSM doesn't ignore the value of well-roundedness. The school offers a diverse range of extracurricular activities that cater to various interests, whether it's the arts, sports, or technology. These activities not only enrich the student experience but also provide avenues for personal growth and leadership.

According to Niche.com, MSSM ranks as the



**#1**

Best Public High School in the state of Maine



**#1**

Best High School for STEM in the state of Maine



**#12**

Best Public High School Teachers in America

# Science

## Learn from Real Scientists.

With an emphasis on experiential, hands-on, lab-based programming, MSSM's Science Department prepares students with a core background in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Students learn to think like scientists with a problem-based approach through diverse electives in Geology, Ecology, Genetics, Engineering, Meteorology, and much more.



Because MSSM students learn from practicing scientists, they have a competitive edge in their future areas of study at the college level, preparing them for future careers in science.

## Computer Science

MSSM provides students with a broad range of elective classes and clubs in areas of computer science and robotics. With a fully equipped Makerspace, MSSM students have the tools and materials for class-related and personal projects. With an emphasis on exploration and play, MSSM students learn app, web, and game development, introduction to programming, robotics, and more.



## Chemistry

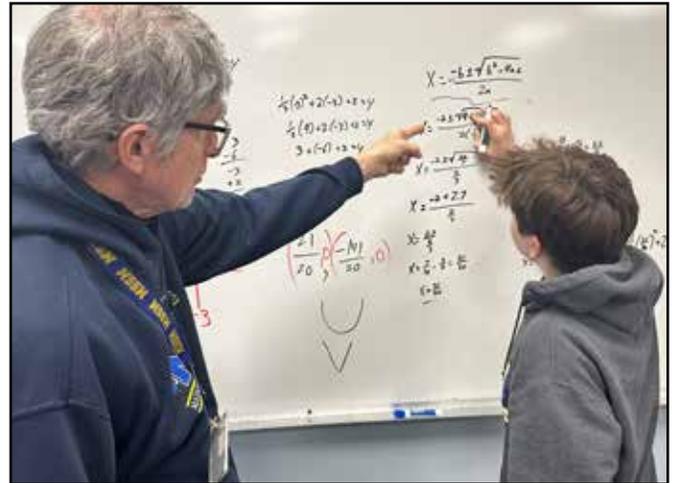
Dr. Kwang Rim brings decades of experience in physics research to MSSM, with a career spanning laser spectroscopy, environmental science, nanoscale engineering, and silicon crystallization now used in industry. His work has shaped fields from graphene research to display technology, but what excites him most today is connecting those breakthroughs to the classroom.

At MSSM, he emphasizes showing students how the science they learn relates to real-world discoveries and applications, inspiring them to see beyond the textbook and imagine their own role in future innovations.

# Mathematics

Become Part of the State and Regional Mathlete Experience.

MSSM's Mathematics Department provides students with an unparalleled understanding of mathematics from the foundational concepts to the more advanced theories. Every course is meticulously structured, aiming to equip students with the skills they need to not only excel in exams but also to apply these concepts in real-world scenarios. With the ultimate objective being that every student tackles Calculus before graduation, the department underscores the importance of a solid grounding in mathematical reasoning.



Recognizing that every student's learning journey is unique, MSSM ensures that those with a natural propensity for mathematics and can advance at a brisk pace have access to college-level classes. This is not just a one-time offer; college-level classes are consistently available every semester. This commitment speaks volumes about the school's dedication to fostering mathematical talents to their highest potential.



The inclusion of **Maine Math League Competitions** is yet another testament to MSSM's comprehensive approach. These competitions are more than just a test of skill; they ignite passion, encourage teamwork, and allow students to see the broader application and impact of mathematics in a competitive environment. With its consistent top rankings in the Maine Association of Math Leagues (MAML), MSSM showcases its place as an incubator for some of Maine's brightest and most advanced students in Mathematics. It's more than just a curriculum; it's a commitment to molding the mathematical minds of the future.



**MSSM is currently ranked #1 in the  
Maine Math League.**



# ENGLISH & FINE ARTS

## Learn to Write from Published Authors.

English and Fine Arts may not be on the sign at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, but it is at the heart of MSSM academics. In the English and Fine Arts Department, students learn the critical thinking skills essential for any mathematician, scientist, or scholar, focusing on understanding and using rhetorical strategies in their first year as well as the foundations of MLA citation.

The department offers a wide range of course offerings in literature, including Indigenous Literature, African American Literature, British Literature, American Literature, and special topics courses in fantasy and science fiction.

Creative Writing provides MSSM students with another opportunity to hone their writing and find their voice. Students have the opportunity to study, write, and publish creative writing (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction) under published poets.

For those students seeking **advanced opportunities in research** and writing, we offer ENG 520: Senior Tutorial, an advanced literary studies seminar with one-on-one tutorials between students and their instructor. Students select a topic of their choice, develop a reading list, and work towards a culminating project. What makes this program unique from other research tutorials is its emphasis on Critical Theory, which prepares students to see the world through various lenses (economic, social, structural, psychological, and more).

### Mr. Brett Vanderlaan, MSSM Music Instructor,

is a seasoned educator and accomplished musician with over two decades of experience teaching physics, chemistry, and music. A graduate of MIT and the Catholic University of America, his interdisciplinary approach blends scientific perspective with artistic insight, inspiring students nationwide.



## Teacher of the Year

MSSM's English and Fine Arts Department is home to the 'Maine Council for English Language Arts English Teacher of the Year,' Mr. Anthony Dolan Scott. Recognized for his work creating innovative, collaborative curriculums, service to his community and the profession, Mr. Scott is a published poet and scholar.



## Fine Arts

MSSM understands the importance of a well-rounded educational program, chief amongst which is its fine arts offerings. Whether you are an advanced pianist or an amateur painter, MSSM students learn from practicing musicians and artists.

# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS



Living in the dorm fosters a tight-knit community, where friends are just a door away.



Outside of class, students enjoy robotics, student leadership, clubs, and academic competitions.



Students learned about blacksmithing during January Term 2025 with Mr. Katsman.



MSSM has a balance of Varsity and Intramural sports held throughout the school year.



Dr. Hinkley brings expertise in chemistry, physics, materials science, and marine biology.



MSSM Alumni Kineo Wallace ('13) is the Lead Propulsion and Fluids Engineer at Vaya Space.



MSSM's Math Team frequently ranks #1 in Maine Math League State Championships.



Students can graduate as published authors through our partnership with The Telling Room.



# Residential Life

## Community in the Dorm



SCAN ME

**Dorm life is truly a transformative experience.** Beyond just making new friends, it's about embracing a myriad of activities that make this place feel like your new home. From surprise midnight breakfasts and movie nights to gaming with friends, sunlit outdoor grilling sessions, and the warmth of the baking club generously crafting brownies for all, the dorm becomes an inviting and familial space to thrive in. The adults and student Residential Assistants are all First Aid / CPR trained each year. Scan the QR code above to see a 360 view of all the rooms.



Residential Assistants (RAs), get CPR / AED training before each year starts. RAs are seniors.



A large 75" TV in the lower lounge is a hub for watching movies and playing games. There is a 55" in another area and all wing lounges now have TVs as well.



MSSM is residential only and all students have either 1 or 2 roommates. Rooms include a bed, desk, dresser, night stand, and armoire.



Friday afternoons through Saturday nights are considered the weekend and students usually gather to play video games or other group activities.

# Extra Curriculars

## Community Beyond the Classroom

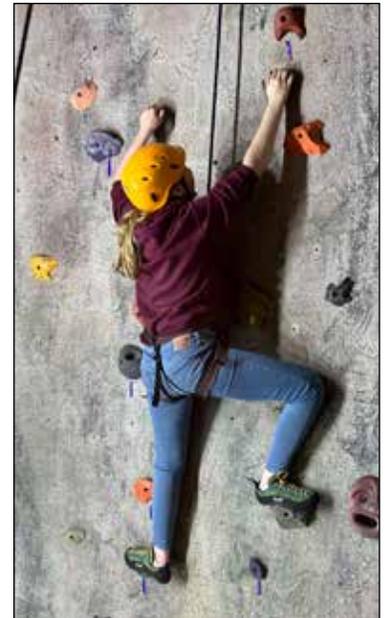


Do an internet search for "MSSM Lettuce Club BuzzFeed.com" and read about how our creativity started a world-famous traditon. It happens a week before finals in May.

MSSM celebrates diverse passions with a wide array of clubs. From the quirky Lettuce Club, where students race to eat a head of lettuce, to robotics and theater, there's something for everyone. If students have a unique passion, they're encouraged to start their own club, highlighting MSSM's inclusive spirit.

### Sample of Student-Led Clubs

Magic the Gathering	Dungeons & Dragons
Key Club	Girl Up
Spanish Club	Rocketry Club
Cinemates	Student Senate
Green Day	Science Bowl
French Club	Math Team
Book Club	Vex Robotics
Theatre Club	Sea Perch
Chess Team	SAGA



# Athletics & Intramurals

## Fall Sports:

Varsity Soccer (Boys and Girls)  
Varsity Cross Country  
Intramural Floor Hockey  
Intramural Volleyball

## Winter Sports:

Intramural Basketball  
Intramural Floor Hockey  
Intramural Futsal

## Spring Sports:

Aroostook League Volleyball  
Varsity Track and Field  
Intramural Wiffleball

## Cross Country



The MSSM cross country team competes in the Aroostook League (Class C). The season runs from mid-August through October. During this time, the team attends 6-7 local meets followed by the Class C North Regional Championship and the Class C State Championship Meet (for athletes who qualify). Individual athletes consistently qualify for the State meet and receive All-Aroostook recognition from the league.

## Soccer



The MSSM Penguins boys and girls soccer teams compete in the Aroostook League (Class D). The season runs from mid-August through October. During the regular season, the varsity teams play 10 games. After the last regular season game, head point standings determine if the teams will continue on to playoffs and the Maine State Championship Tournament, sponsored by the Maine Principals Association.



# Volleyball



The MSSM volleyball team competes in a short season within the Aroostook League. The season begins after February break and culminates in mid-March with boys and girls tournaments. Traditionally, MSSM competes in Division I. While only about three weeks long, the season is a favorite among the athletes and often attracts students who don't normally participate in athletic programs.

Joining an athletic or Intramural team at MSSM is a great way to make new friends, get some stress-relieving exercise, and work with your teammates and coaches toward a common goal.

Each sport has a unique schedule within the season and requires a different level of time commitment, sometimes including school breaks.

Balancing athletics and academics at MSSM can be a challenge for students, but it is also very rewarding. It's always a good idea to consult with your academic advisor and consider your course load before committing to a sport.

# Track & Field



The MSSM Penguins track and field team competes in the Aroostook League (Class C). The season runs from late March through the end of the school year. All athletes must meet certain qualifying standards, set by the Maine Principals' Association, for each event in order to qualify for States. The only exception is relay teams, which may compete at states as long as athletes competed in one event during the regular season.

# Intramurals



Intramurals at MSSM encompass a range of sports activities: Floor Hockey, Basketball, Futsal, and Volleyball (fall of 2025). These sports offer students diverse opportunities for engagement outside of academic settings and are open to all interested participants.

# Alumni Voices

I've taken this hectic time as an opportunity to relax a little bit and take time for some personal projects: I bought a boat that I've spent the summer restoring; there's probably more than a dozen little 3D printed gadgets I've been trying to make work the way I want; and, it always seems like I'm halfway through half a dozen or so books. But when I'm not enjoying the summer breeze for myself, I'm wrenching away at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. I'm in the middle of modelling hydraulic systems and ballast systems for the Alvin submersible, which has been very fun.

“That mentality of ownership, and responsibility that I picked up in school is invaluable and I don't think will ever wither away.”

I don't think any of my teachers would have said I had particularly impressive time management skills back in school, I know they tried to teach me so much and those lessons have carried with me along my journey more than they could ever know. I can say for certain, I would not be able to stay sane, focused, or productive working from home without having basically 'worked for myself' for four years at MSSM. **That mentality of ownership, and responsibility that I picked up in school is invaluable and I don't think will ever wither away.**



Andy Whitman ('15)



MSSM alumni pursue a wide range of careers such as Nurse Practitioner, Purveyor of Nuclear Thermal Performance, Math Instructor, Architect, Software Engineer, CEO, Boat Builder, Machine Learning Analyst, Civil Engineer, Paramedic, CPA, Biologist, etc.



Jay Philbrick ('20)

I spent four years at MSSM where I served as the President of the Student Senate and the Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. I was involved in a number of clubs and organizations on-campus, such as the A Capella Club. While in my senior year of high school, I founded the Maine chapter of a national student-run non-profit called TeleHealth Access for Seniors, Inc, which collects old video-chat enabled devices and donates them to rural primary care providers so they can provide telemedicine services to patients who would otherwise be unable to access them. I was also elected the youngest Presidential Elector in U.S. history.

“MSSM was critical to me finding my way in life.”

**MSSM was critical to me finding my way in life.** Not just because it prepared me well for career and college. It helped me become much more aware of challenges in my community as well as how to work to solve them. Of all skills to gain through education, I believe that this is the most important. Not just because it is universally-transferable; but, it motivates me to work hard and improve the places around me. MSSM taught me this lesson through the sheer quality and closeness of its tight-knit community, and it is one I will never forget. I discovered both internship opportunities through a contact on the MSSM Board of Trustees. MSSM, not even a year since my graduation, had already helped me find work in the field I was most passionate about. The intellectual rigor and wonderful teaching environment allowed me to participate in the U.S. Senate Youth Program, as well as the U.S. Senate Page Program, allowing me to further my passion for public policy.

# College Counseling

The MSSM college counseling process strives to make something that can be incredibly confusing and overwhelming as user-friendly as possible. At MSSM, the College Counselor focuses on helping students prepare for life after MSSM. This includes assisting students in their efforts to research, apply, and pay for the colleges of their choice.

## Junior Year

The MSSM college counseling process begins with the Junior Seminar in the spring of the student's junior year where students learn about the resources available to them when researching colleges and begin investigating how to complete portions of the college application. A major focus is placed on writing attractive and insightful admissions essays and completing the Common Application (which is accepted by almost 400 colleges and universities around the nation).



## Senior Year

One of the main goals of the MSSM College Counseling Office is to help students apply to colleges and universities which will be a good fit for them – not just the school with the biggest name or best ranking. This may be different for every student and requires a great deal of self-exploration. With over four thousand colleges and universities in the United States alone, with proper research and introspection, students will be able to apply to multiple schools that both students and their families determine to be a good fit for them. In Senior Seminar, students research colleges and universities and do a presentation to the class.



## Maine School of Science and Mathematics College Counseling Office strives to:

- Know and care for each student;
- Guide students to discover colleges that reflect their interests and aspirations;
- Work with students to present their strengths in the best light possible;
- Offer expert counseling to students and their families throughout the college admissions process.

UMaine, RIT, RPI, Colby, Bowdoin, Dartmouth, UMass Amherst, Bates, Rice, Washington University in St. Louis, MIT, Georgetown, Rose Hulman, Brown University, Northeastern University, Wellesley College, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston College, Boston University

MSSM graduates received a wide-range of merit aid for colleges all the way up to \$80,000 per year.

The College Counseling Office has a podcast called MSSM Conversations on Soundcloud and other podcast sites. Scan the QR Code to the right.



# Student Voice

“

*From the classroom to the field, Aubrey has made the most of her four years at MSSM. She balances a demanding academic schedule with athletics and extracurriculars, crediting her success to the support of friends and teachers. “We push each other to strive for excellence and support one another throughout our academic journeys.”*

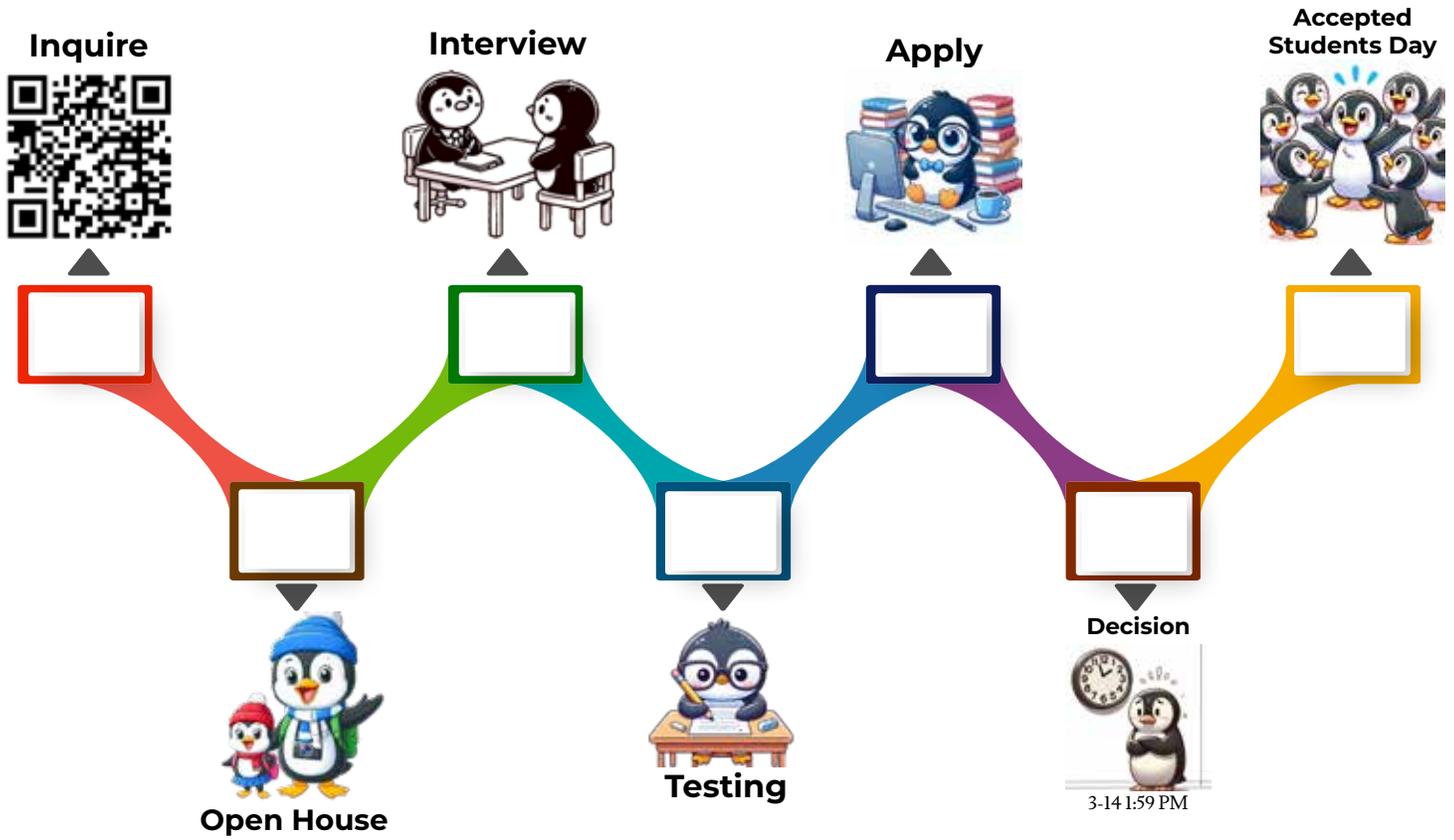
Organization and balance are key. She uses Google Calendar to plan her time and relies on exercise to reset. “My way of clearing my head, which is undoubtedly necessary at MSSM, is exercise.”

Her passion for science began in chemistry class, where curiosity led her to explore biology and develop new study habits. She now helps classmates by sharing strategies that work for her.

Looking ahead, she plans to study biology or pre-med in college, with the goal of attending medical school. “MSSM has opened up numerous opportunities for me that I would never have had access to coming from a small, rural town.”



# Find Your Place



**admission@mssm.org**

## Admission Requirements

### Inquire

Use the QR code above.

### Campus Tour

We encourage families to visit our campus.

### Interview

A pivotal part of the application process as it allows us to best understand you.

### Apply

Use our online application

### Testing

Contact the Office of Admission for details.

**Algebra 1** is highly recommended for 9th grade applicants.

## Financial Aid

### In State: \$10,850

In accordance with our statute, the State of Maine and MSSM are dedicated towards providing an enriching STEM education for all Maine residents. With that, the state of Maine waives tuition cost and leaves families with the cost of room and board.

### Out of State: \$52,500

Tuition is approved annually by the MSSM Board of Trustees.

### Financial Aid

While the state covers tuition costs for qualified Maine residents, we are equally committed to supporting you in securing the financial aid you need to cover room and board expenses.

### To Apply

<https://online.factsmtg.com/aid>

## Deadlines

### February 1st

Admission application deadline

### February 8th

Financial Aid application deadline

### March 14th (PI Day)

Admission decisions are announced at 1:59 PM

### April 10th

Enrollment contracts and deposits are due

## World-Class Faculty

85% of faculty hold advanced degrees, 6 of whom hold terminal degrees in their fields (PhDs and MFAs).



## Small Class Ratio

Students work closely with faculty in small class sizes. MSSM's student-to-teacher ratio is 7:1.



## Cocurriculars

Students can engage in VEX Robotics, SeaPerch (underwater ROVs), Student Senate, and more. These experiences offer leadership as well as technical skills in a collaborative environment for students to prosper.

## Fast Facts

113 students, grades 9–12

Public, magnet, STEM high school

100% residential

Tuition-free for Maine residents

Students from across Maine and the U.S.



## January Term

Research & Internships

An innovative ten-day program that provides students with the opportunity to dedicate themselves to a particular course or project.

## Maine School of Science and Mathematics

For campus tours, open houses, and any other questions, please contact the Office of Admission at:

[admission@mssm.org](mailto:admission@mssm.org) :: 207-325-3619

