



Welcome to **LA MESA ARTS ACADEMY!** We're very pleased at your interest in our school and look forward to showing you our school and answering your questions. Please read our list of frequently asked questions below.

### **Who can attend LMAAC?**

**LMAAC** is a school in the La Mesa Spring Valley Schools School District. This means that any child inside or outside of the LMSVS School District is eligible to enroll.

***If your child is truly not interested in the arts, LMAAC isn't the appropriate placement. Please consider one of our other district schools.***

### **Tell us about LMAAC**

**LMAAC** is a school that uses the arts to teach character and leadership. Although many of our students are talented, we are most focused on the inner self: learning how to navigate through adversity and disappointment, how to be gracious, respectful, and kind, and understanding that effort and hard work will support you through life.

- Academic needs always supersede arts electives. If your child needs additional time and support academically, this is the priority.
- Although we try very hard to provide a student's first elective choice, it's not always possible. There are many factors involved in the development of the master schedule that impact what classes students take.
- Class size follows the District-mandated regulations.
- Attendance is crucial. Promptness is crucial.
- Performer expectations:
  - Not all classes are performing classes.
  - Classes that are performance-based or leadership (ASB, media, yearbook, CAT, advanced art) require students to live "above the line" with regard to academics and behavior to be able to participate.
  - Student performers must be in attendance for the full day in order to perform that evening.

### **Is LMAAC a charter school?**

No. **LMAAC** is one of 21 schools in the La Mesa-Spring Valley District.

### **What is the process for enrollment?**

Enrollment opens the first Monday in October and ends at noon on the first Friday in December. Enrollment forms may be obtained on the Friday before the first enrollment date either online or in the school office. Enrollment forms must be turned in in person. We will only accept completed enrollment forms including copies of IEPs for our children in special education or 504 plans.

If it's discovered that enrollment information is inaccurate or incomplete, it will impact your child's enrollment. They will be disenrolled and the process will begin again. Please be sure to read the forms carefully and mark the appropriate boxes including grade level and any services your child receives.

**What is the lottery and how does it work?**

Enrollment closes at noon on the first Friday in December. At that time, if we are over our enrollment numbers at each grade level, we will go to a lottery drawing that is held at the La Mesa Spring Valley Schools Board Room. Lottery will be done for enrollment first and then a second drawing for number on the waitlist.

Below is how many children we enroll at each grade. Most of our children “roll up” to the next grade level, so these numbers indicate how many children are at each level and how many anticipated openings we would foresee:

- **Grade 4 100**
- **Grade 5 130 (We will have approx.. 30 openings.)**
- **Grade 6 160 (We will have approx... 30 openings.)**
- **Grade 7 350 (We will have approx.. 155 openings.)**
- **Grade 8 350 (Number of openings varies.)**

**My child is in special education or has a 504 Plan. Can he/she be enrolled?**

For students in special education or on a 504 Plan, part of the enrollment process includes sharing your child’s individualized education program (IEP) or 504 Plan. The IEP will need to be reviewed by either our special education staff or the district special education team to ensure LMAAC has the services to support the IEP.

**Do you have uniforms?**

No. However we do follow the District Dress Code Policy (see attached). We encourage all staff and students to purchase and wear **LMAAC** spiritwear every day!

**Will my child still receive academics?**

Of course! Here is how the day looks for our students:

**Grades 7/8**

Students in grades 7 and 8 will take all of their core academic classes: math, science, history, ELA, PE (dressing out daily). They will also have the opportunity to take two electives. The second elective is optional. It can be removed if the student isn’t able to keep up with academics or is chronically tardy or absent. If chronic tardiness appears, the student will be placed in a 9:00am start time.

**Grades 4/5/6**

Students in grades 4/5/6 will:

- take math/science from one teacher
- take ELA/history from one teacher
- take four nine-week foundational classes (art, music, theatre, dance)
- have one year long elective that will switch on an A/B schedule with PE (4/5/6 do NOT dress out but will have a PE credentialed teacher)

**Do you have after school care?**

**LMAAC** has our District Extended School Services Program (6:00am-6:00pm). For more information, please call our District Office at 668-5700. Additionally, there is a Boys and Girls Club next door to **LMAAC** that provides after school care for a minimal fee for ages 10 and up.

***School supervision ends at 2:45pm for our elementary students. If you have students who release at 2:25pm and 3:35pm, there is NO supervision unless you access ESS or Boys and Girls Club.***

**Do you have busses?**

No. Transportation is not provided.

**Will my fourth grader be in classes with eighth graders?**

No. However, they WILL be traveling with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the hallways during passing period.

**How does lunch work?**

We have three lunches at **LMAAC**:

- All of our 4/5/6 students eat lunch together. Additionally, 4/5/6 have a morning intermission (aka recess) and an afternoon intermission after they've eaten lunch.
- We have two other lunches that contain both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Students may bring or buy lunch. Free and reduced lunch applications are available, as well. Parents may pre-pay for school lunches through our café.

**Do you receive additional funding for the arts program?**

**LMAAC** receives no additional funding from the District. La Mesa Arts Foundation is our own 501(c)(3) that was established with the sole intent of supporting the established programs at **LMAAC**. We encourage **LMAAC** families to support our La Mesa Arts Foundation, our non-profit organization that supports our academic and arts programs.

**What are the school hours?**

**Grades 7/8:**

M/W/TH/Fri 8:00am-3:35pm

Tuesday: 8:00am-2:30pm

**Grades 4/5/6**

M/W/TH/Fri 8:00am-2:25pm

Tuesday: 8:00am-1:32pm