



Welcome to **La Mesa Arts Academy!** We're very pleased with your interest in our school and we look forward to showing you our campus and answering your questions. Please read our list of frequently asked questions below

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

LMAAC is a school of choice in the La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools. This means that any child inside or outside of the La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools boundaries 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 School District.

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

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year will be from December 1, 2022, to February 15, 2023. If you will have a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader, you will need to complete a transfer form during this timeframe to be considered for the lottery.

If you are applying for a 7th or 8th grader, please be sure to check your address at [myschoollocation.com/LaMesaSpringValleySD/](https://myschoollocation.com/LaMesaSpringValleySD/). In January, the district will send out a

survey asking where your current 6th grader plans to attend for the 2023-2024. It will be extremely important that you complete this survey. If LMAAC is not your home school, please complete a transfer form to be considered for the lottery.

If you live in the La Mesa Spring Valley School District, you will need to complete an intradistrict transfer form on our website. If you live outside of La Mesa Spring Valley School District, you will need to complete an interdistrict transfer form. Your home school district will need to sign the form **first** before you turn it into our district. If your home district isn't signing transfer forms yet, please submit your form to our district as a placeholder. It will be your responsibility to get it signed when they are signing them. **If your student has a current IEP, it will need to be submitted with your transfer form.**

**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.

Transfers received after February 15 will be processed in the order they are received.

**We live in the neighborhood. Does my child have priority enrollment?**

Yes, but only for 7th and 8th grade students. Because LMAAC is a school of choice for 4th-6th grades and a residential elementary school is already available to 4th-6th graders, there is no priority enrollment for neighborhood students. Priority enrollment is also given to siblings of current and continuing LMAAC students and children of full-time, benefitted district employees.

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

The district will conduct a computer generated lottery by the end of February. Families will be notified by email if their transfer has been approved.

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 - 330 (We will have approx. 175 openings.)**
- **Grade 8 - 330 (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 shirts everyday!

### **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, Social Science, English Language Arts, and 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. If chronic tardiness appears, the student will be placed in a 9:00 am 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 619-668-5700. Additionally, there is a Boys and Girls Club next door to LMAAC that provides after school care for a minimal fee.

***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.***

### **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 periods.

### **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 before or after 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 prepay for school lunches through our café.

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

La Mesa Arts Foundation is our own 501(c)(3) that was established with the sole intent of supporting the established programs at LMAAC. At the beginning of the year, we solicit a donation from each family to help us keep the program moving forward.

### **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

## Regulation 5132-R(1): Dress And Grooming

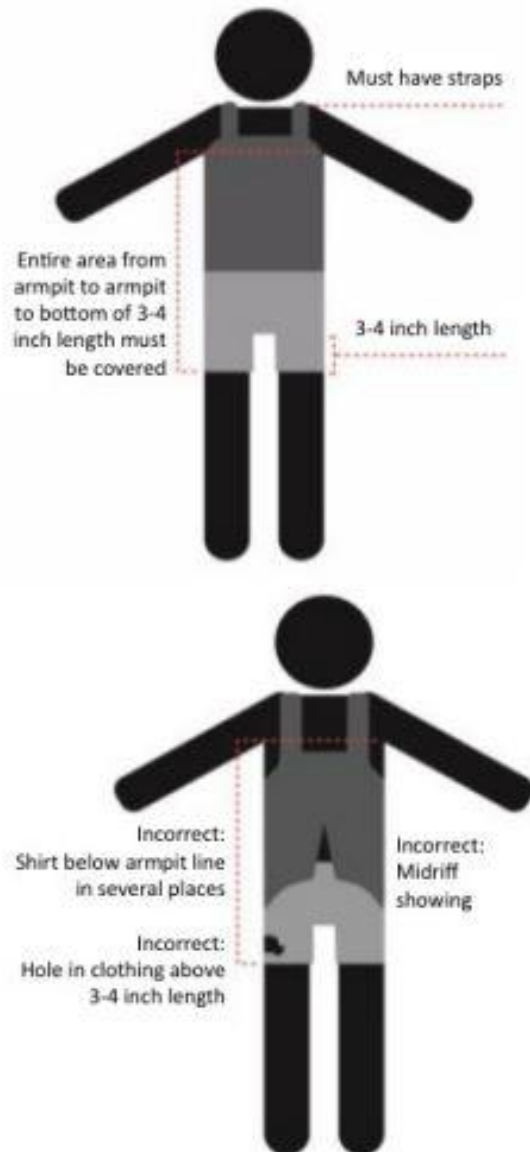
La Mesa-Spring Valley School  
District

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The following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

1. Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, and extend in length to cover approximately 3 to 4 inches on the upper thighs. Tops must have shoulder straps. Rips or tears in clothing should be below 3 to 4 inches on the upper thighs as referenced above (See pictures below for reference). Undergarments must not be visible.



2. Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (pajamas, bedroom shoes, or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by the principal).

3. See-through, mesh or skin-tight garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath or on top that meet the minimum requirements of the dress code listed in item #1.
4. Headgear, including hats, caps, hoodies, sunglasses, and other head coverings shall not be worn unless permitted for religious, medical sun protection or other reason by school administration.
5. Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.

Additionally, clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc.):

1. Must not depict, imply, advertise or advocate illegal, violent or lewd conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or any other controlled substance.
2. Must not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
3. Must not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory or obscene language or images.
4. Must not state, imply or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.

The dress code shall be modified as appropriate to accommodate a student's religious or cultural observance, health condition, or other circumstance deemed necessary by the principal or designee. In addition, the principal or designee may impose dress requirements to accommodate the needs of special school activities, physical education classes, athletic activities, and other extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

No grade of a student participating in a physical education class shall be adversely affected if the student does not wear standardized physical education apparel because of circumstances beyond the student's control. (Education Code 49066)

Students shall be allowed to wear sun-protective clothing, including school appropriate hats, for outdoor use during the school day. (Education Code 35183.5)

#### **Gang-Related Apparel**

At individual schools that have a dress code prohibiting gang-related apparel at school or school activities, the principal, staff, and parents/guardians participating in the development of the school safety plan shall define "gang-related apparel" and shall limit this definition to apparel that reasonably could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment if it were worn or displayed on a school campus. (Education Code 32282)

Because gang-related symbols are constantly changing, definitions of gang-related apparel shall be reviewed at least once each semester and updated whenever related information is received. As necessary, the school shall collaborate with law enforcement agencies to update definitions of gang-related apparel.

#### **Uniforms**

In schools that require a schoolwide uniform, the principal, staff, and parents/guardians of the school shall jointly select the specific uniform to be worn. (Education Code 35183)

At least six months before a school uniform policy is implemented, the principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians of this policy. (Education Code 35183)

Parents/guardians shall also be informed of their right to have their child exempted.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria for determining student eligibility for financial assistance when purchasing uniforms.

Students who participate in a nationally recognized youth organization shall be allowed to wear organization uniforms on days when the organization has a scheduled meeting. (Education Code 35183)

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