



Morgan Park Academy



**INDEPENDENT THINKERS
AND GLOBAL LEADERS
SINCE 1873**

OUR MISSION

Morgan Park Academy engages the whole child, inspires the independent learner, and prepares the global leader of tomorrow to make a positive difference in the world.

OUR VISION

Morgan Park Academy aspires to be a beacon of education for the Chicagoland area by developing a learning community of innovative teachers, the best and brightest students, and exceptional facilities and resources.

OUR VALUES

Independent Thinking

We believe in providing a rigorous broad-based liberal arts program that inspires students' pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and critical thinking.

Global Leadership

We believe that our student body and our curriculum should be socioeconomically, ethnically and culturally diverse, so that students see the world's challenges through a global lens.

A Whole Child Approach

We believe in an education that is both challenging and nurturing, where students discover the unique potential of their heads, hearts and hands.

Mutual Respect

We believe that a school community should stand for and teach a set of core values: integrity, respect, responsibility, diligence, kindness, cooperation, and service.

BY THE NUMBERS

TOP
10

We're consistently ranked among the best private schools in Chicago by independent experts.



18

countries visited by MPA students in the past five years

20,000

community service hours performed by MPA students annually

8:1

student-teacher ratio

74%

of our faculty in Upper School hold advanced degrees

\$4.4 million

in college scholarships earned by the Class of 2021

The MPA Difference

small, discussion-based classes

With an average class size of fewer than 15 students, we give every student the opportunity to speak up and stand out.

approachable, relatable teachers

Our teachers invite dialogue and forge meaningful connections with students because they know real learning takes real relationships.

a spacious, self-contained campus quad

Our inward-facing quad creates outdoor space for study and play along with opportunities for regular interaction.

an experiential curriculum

All students learn best when they apply concepts to real life. So we've designed our curriculum to take students outside the classroom to explore and experiment.

ambitious, hard-working classmates

We foster camaraderie more than competition, and MPA students infuse a contagious passion into serious academic studies and extracurricular activities.

a trusting, respectful school culture

Our faculty members model what they teach: respect, consideration, honesty, and empathy. Together, our community listens to one another and acts with integrity.

imaginative, disciplined arts

We set students free to discover their own voices and talents through writing, music, and the visual and dramatic arts. Creative outlets improve academic focus and success.

competitive, inclusive athletics

MPA athletes bring discipline, determination, and good sportsmanship to each competition, learning teamwork and leadership along the way.

perspective-widening, global focus

We show our students the world. Scores of MPA students travel abroad each year, and on campus we interpret events and ideas in their larger, global context.

thorough, thoughtful college counseling

The MPA experience readies students for advanced college coursework and also teaches them how to identify the type of college right for them.





Discover a school where it's cool to be smart.

What if you could learn and grow in a warm, welcoming community surrounded by bright, curious, motivated peers and inspirational teachers? At MPA, not only is it cool to be excited about Victorian literature, a mysterious 19th-century skeleton, or AP math, but your classmates are likely to share your enthusiasm.

Conversations — about issues like Middle East peace, gender roles, immigration, and sustainable energy — continue throughout the day. Soccer practice, club meetings, lunch, a music or play rehearsal, and advisory groups are all opportunities for students and teachers to share experiences and perspectives.

Discover being part of a community that celebrates your individuality.

At MPA, students are recognized for **who they are, how they think, and what they can do.** And that makes a big difference.

In an inclusive community that intentionally reflects Chicago's diversity in ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic background, we embrace the differences that make each other unique.

Students come from all over Chicago — some from big public schools, others from smaller neighborhood schools.

Here, preparing the global leaders of tomorrow means helping students develop a cultural fluency that enables them to be comfortable in their own skin and beyond their borders.





MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES 6-8

The Middle School years are a time of tremendous growth and change. As students transition from Lower School to Middle School, their educational journey as lifelong learners continues.

At Morgan Park Academy, **Middle School emphasizes independent learning in a nurturing environment.** Our program establishes a student-centered approach that helps our students with the important transition from childhood into adolescence.

Our Middle School offers **a strong foundation in English, mathematics, science, music, drama, art, physical education, social studies, world languages, and technology.**

This continues the MPA tradition of being **integrated and experiential**, leading to both deeper and wider understandings and allowing numerous opportunities for individual expression.

Every day, middle school students attend **teacher-led advisory groups.** The result is tangible bonds of trust with their teachers and camaraderie with their classmates.

When children feel cared for and respected, they put forth more effort in the classroom.

UPPER SCHOOL GRADES 9-12

As students transition from Middle School to Upper School, learning continues to be **authentic and engaging** with rigorous curriculum offerings at three levels: college preparatory, honors, and advanced placement.

Dialogue and interchange between teachers and students are hallmarks of the Upper School, where the focus moves from subject mastery to higher-order thinking skills. In this unique setting, students have the opportunity to **develop their individual talents and creativity through a carefully sequenced and integrated curriculum.**

Students can customize their curriculum to meet individual needs, interests and abilities. With a variety of academic and extracurricular offerings, students can excel in learning opportunities in and out of the classroom.

With a rigorous academic program, **four-year college guidance**, peer mentoring program, and standardized test review preparation, our students are **accepted at the nation's best colleges and universities.**

Upper School students exemplify the MPA commitment to **excellence as independent thinkers and global leaders** of the 21st century.





Discover teachers who give you the freedom to think openly and deeply, to question and make mistakes.

Built around small class sizes and strong teacher-student relationships, the MPA experience invites students to develop a worldview rooted in their own culture while broadening and deepening their thinking beyond the boundaries of campus, city, and country.

With a ratio of one teacher for every eight students, MPA students not only have the opportunity to speak up and stand out in the classroom, on stage, and on the athletic field, but also to develop genuine, personal relationship with teachers that foster academic achievement and create community.

Our teachers invite dialogue, infuse relevance into lessons, and forge meaningful connections with students because they know real learning takes real relationships.

Teachers collaborate on new ideas for projects and how to present material to students in a more interesting way, understanding what catches students' attention and what's going to inspire them to work harder and figure things out on their own.

In math class, students calculate their height based on echoes in the lobby of Alumni Hall. Shakespeare unfolds outdoors on the campus quad. A history class performs a real-time mock trial.

The end result is graduates who emerge as confident young adults, original thinkers, and creative problem solvers. They progress into the next stages of their lives well-prepared for advanced college coursework and poised to meet and exceed the high expectations that they refined at MPA.

Discover a global approach that creates meaningful connections.

From preschool to senior year, we show our students the world, integrating a perspective-widening, global focus throughout the MPA experience. Scores of students travel abroad each year, and on campus we interpret events and ideas in their larger, global context, challenging students of all ages to step outside their comfort zones and their zip codes.

Learning from and with peers from a host of cultures and nationalities, students prepare to meet head-on the challenges of an increasingly global world.

As Middle School students move into adolescence, it becomes increasingly important for them to reflect upon their learning, articulate the meaning of past experiences, and recognize the





path to true national and world citizenship they began in the Lower School.

Students in our Upper School move into leadership roles in a variety of schoolwide initiatives, completing their Global Studies education.

Students study literature, film, and history from multiple perspectives (e.g., discussing the Vietnam War from both American and Vietnamese perspectives). They practice yoga and learn Shinto, the craft of Chinese painting and letter writing. Extracurricular clubs include Model UN, Diversity Council, and cultural affinity groups for each of our world languages: French, Spanish, and Mandarin.

Global Week extends our curriculum by bringing Middle School and Upper School students and teachers together outside the classroom to share a broader range of learning experiences. Students pursue their interests and expand their horizons by spending a week each spring exploring at home and abroad. Recent trips have included explorations of culture, history, science, religion, and service in China, Germany, Greece, Iceland, India, Italy, Morocco, Nepal, Peru, Spain, and Thailand.

Discover a competitive, inclusive athletics program.

In baseball, basketball, cross country, soccer, tennis, and volleyball, MPA coaches develop teamwork and leadership, seeing each student as a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.

And despite being a small school, the Warriors regularly challenge for conference, regional, and sectional championships, with recent graduates going on to play soccer, tennis, and volleyball at the college level.

MPA is a member of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Independent School League (ISL), competing for league championships with other independent schools in the area.







Discover a place where the arts play a leading role.

Arts is a core part of the MPA experience with a rich tradition, as music, visual art, and drama education play a key role in the curriculum and opportunities abound for students to embrace their creativity.

Students have the chance to explore creative writing, ensemble performance, radio, video editing, set design, sculpture, and much more.

Guided by experienced, enthusiastic teachers, students perform on stage in choral groups, concert bands, and theatre productions at all ages.

Whether painting and sketching, playing a musical instrument, or presenting a dramatic piece on stage, we give all budding artists, from beginners to experienced, the chance to hone their skills, discover their artistic passion, and work together to create masterpieces.





MAKERSPACE





Discover spaces designed for creativity and experimentation.

Hands-on, experiential learning, which is a focus all over campus, finds perhaps its purest expression in the Thrall Family Maker Space, an open workspace designed for collaborative and hands-on learning, building, and designing.

By combining a multimedia area, a woodworking space, a 3D printing and robotics area, a kitchen, and a multi-purpose science area, the spaces are designed to meet the needs of creative students and faculty.

No matter the equipment, the mindset of a maker space is one of exploring new areas of interest and creating realities out of ideas.

The Thrall Family Maker Space allows MPA students to learn through application, instead of simply demonstrating their expertise of concepts through application. This allows for a more deeply ingrained level of critical thinking and increases student engagement as they are more quickly able to see the outcomes and consequences playing out in front of them.



Discover a century-long tradition of service.

Service has long been at the core of the student experience at Morgan Park Academy — though 100-plus years ago, that meant preparing cadets for military service.

In the 21st century, our commitment to the values of service takes various forms as students progress from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, but the core focus stays consistent: Service and teaching students empathy for others is what positions them to make a positive difference in the world.

MPA teachers help students realize the power they have to effect change in their world. Students cultivate their passions while also fostering a commitment to service learning and giving to others.

We hold two all-school service days each school year and require that Upper School students perform 80 hours of service to graduate, but that ethos of reaching beyond yourself to help others goes beyond requirements. It's learned through action

every day on campus, from something as small as students holding the door or carrying a box for a teacher to larger, student-driven projects.

Middle School focuses on creating experiences for students to be directly involved. In one example, after learning about Chicago youth who are experiencing homelessness, Middle School students used the proceeds from a walkathon to collect supplies and build hygiene kits for local youth organizations.

In Upper School, students pursue not only group service projects, but also an array of individual efforts based on their specific interests. Recent projects have included writing a musical about mental health for teenagers; creating videos to spread awareness about human trafficking; and volunteering at a local forest preserve while building a website to encourage more people to get involved.



CLUBS & GROUPS

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE TEAM
ARTS COUNCIL
ATHLETICS COUNCIL
BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS
OF AMERICA
CHESS TEAM
CHORAL GROUPS
CONCERT BANDS
DANCE FOR LIFE
DIVERSITY COUNCIL
DRAMA & MUSICALS
FRENCH HONOR SOCIETY
HONOR COUNCIL
INVESTMENT CLUB

LGBTQ ALLIANCE
NATIONAL CHINESE HONOR SOCIETY
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
MATH TEAM
MOCK TRIAL
MODEL UN
PROM COMMITTEE
ROBOTICS TEAM
SERVICE COUNCIL
SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY
SPEECH TEAM
STUDENT COUNCIL
STUDENT NEWSPAPER
YEARBOOK

Discover extracurricular opportunities that make it easy to choose your fun.

At a small school, it's easy to get involved in sports, arts, clubs, and other extracurricular activities that provide students with opportunities to expand their horizons and explore.

The MPA experience includes dozens of different extracurricular groups representing a broad spectrum of interests for students of all ages. Some of these groups reflect students' modern interests, while others are deeply grounded in the history of our school.

It's safe here to try new things. The point of high school at MPA is expanding your horizons and even discovering something completely new — whether that's mock trial, robotics, or improv comedy — that catches your interest and you love doing.

Some MPA students are on the robotics team and take trigonometry. The point guard on the basketball team might also be

the band's trombone player. A section leader in chorus could be a top-flight history fair competitor since fourth grade. Or the guitar player on the campus quad who's also an ace on the tennis court.

If a student's passions and experiences are not represented by the activities currently offered, he or she can propose a new group. This type of student initiative, leadership, and service is encouraged and celebrated.

Sustained and meaningful involvement in after-school activities is one of the many goals we have for our students at MPA. Beyond the classroom, this involvement provides special opportunities for community building as students work towards common goals. Leadership skills, responsibility, friendship, a sense of belonging, and self-esteem are often developed as students become committed to a club, team, or group.

Discover one-on-one attention that helps you find the right college and great scholarships.

College prep begins freshman year, as students plan their course load with their advisors and meet with our director of college counseling, who coordinates college preparation programming and the application process.

The director works closely with students and families through a detailed program that includes selecting courses and extracurriculars, test prep for the SAT and ACT, building a resume and portfolio, writing and editing essays, setting priorities for the college search, establishing contact with college representatives both on campus tours and during their frequent visits to MPA, and sorting out the particulars of college financial aid.

Throughout, the focus is finding a great college or university that will be the right fit for each student.

38 of 40

In the past decade, MPA students have been accepted by 38 of the nation's top 40 colleges and universities.





Discover a commitment to community health and safety.

Faced with the unique challenges posed by COVID-19, our faculty and staff drew on deep reserves of skill and knowledge, creativity, flexibility, and dedication, working together to continue providing an exceptional educational experience for MPA students and families in an unprecedented time.

From masking, distancing, and testing to developing live, real-time remote learning and figuring out how to safely reopen campus, every decision that we've made has been about keeping our community safe and maintaining the integrity of the rigorous education that the Academy has delivered for more than a century.

COURSE MAP —

	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
ENGLISH	Ancient & Classical Literature and Beginning Middle School Composition	World Literature and Intermediate Middle School Composition	American Literature and Advanced Middle School Composition
SOCIAL STUDIES	Ancient World History	World History	U.S. History
WORLD LANGUAGES	French Foundations Spanish Foundations Mandarin Foundations	French 1 Spanish 1 Mandarin 1	French 2 Spanish 2 Mandarin 2
**MATHEMATICS	6th grade 6th grade (accelerated)	Pre-algebra Pre-algebra (accelerated) Algebra 1 H	Foundations of Algebra Algebra 1 H Geometry Geometry H
SCIENCE	Earth & Space Science	Physical Science	Life Science
ARTS	6th Grade Rotation	7th Grade Rotation	8th Grade Rotation
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Physical Education / Interscholastic Sports	Physical Education / Interscholastic Sports	Physical Education / Interscholastic Sports
OTHER COURSES	Global Week Class Trip World Language Trips (elective)	Global Week Class Trip World Language Trips (elective)	Global Week Class Trip World Language Trips (elective)

*** Typical mathematics progressions are shown. Students can switch the level or advance the course based on individual performance with teacher's discretion and department approval.*

YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY

GRADE 9	GRADE 10	GRADE 11	GRADE 12	GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
*World Literature	*American Literature	Advanced Literary Studies AP English Language AP English Literature Electives	AP English Language AP English Literature Electives	4 credits
*World History	*U.S. History *Consumer Economics AP U.S. History	AP Human Geography Electives	AP U.S. History AP Human Geography Electives	3 credits
French 1-3 Spanish 1-3 Mandarin 1-3	French 1-3, 4H Spanish 1-3, 4H Mandarin 1-3, 4H	French 1-3, 4-5H, AP Language, Advanced Topics Spanish 1-3, 4-5H, AP Language or Literature, Advanced Topics Mandarin 1-3, 4H	French 1-3, 4-5H, AP Language, Advanced Topics Spanish 1-3, 4-5H, AP Language or Literature, Advanced Topics Mandarin 1-3, 4H	3 years (at least 2 in one language) (8th grade language counts towards requirement if completed at MPA)
Algebra 1 Algebra 1 H Geometry Geometry H Algebra 2 H	Geometry Geometry H Algebra 2 Algebra 2 H Pre-Calculus H	Algebra 2 Algebra 2 H Numeracy for 21st C College Algebra Pre-Calculus H AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	Numeracy for 21st C College Algebra Pre-Calculus H AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics	3 credits
*Biology *Chemistry *Computer Science	*Chemistry AP Biology	Physics AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Computer Science Electives	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Computer Science AP Physics Electives	3.5 credits
Intro-Level Arts Elective	Level 2 Arts Elective or Intro Level Elective	Level 3 Arts Elective or Intro Level Elective	Level 3 Arts Elective or Intro Level Elective	2 credits
*Health *Physical Education	*participation in a team sport or sophomore project for non-athletes			1.5 credits
*Freshman Seminar *Project Week Trip Other Electives	*College 101 *Project Week Trip Other Electives	*College 102 *Project Week Trip Other Electives	*College 103 *Project Week Trip Other Electives	4 credits

* denotes required courses in Upper School

Discover how we make MPA affordable for more families.

As an independent, not-for-profit organization, Morgan Park Academy is funded primarily by tuition and fees, which are used to finance operating costs such as school programs, faculty and staff salaries, and maintenance of our facilities.

We are committed to inclusion as an essential part of our educational philosophy and school culture. Economic diversity enriches the educational opportunity for all families and participation of a wide range of families is critical to the health of our school.

Accordingly, the MPA community includes some families who can afford tuition at the top of the index and also provide generous philanthropic donations; other families who make substantial sacrifices to pay tuition at the highest level; and still others who are able to afford only minimal tuition.

We are able to offer indexed tuition based on our operating budget and philanthropic gifts. In order to make an MPA education accessible to families from a range of economic backgrounds, we offer a range of tuition levels.

INDEXED TUITION

We encourage families to apply for indexed tuition if they have concerns about their ability to afford tuition at the highest level. While we require each family to contribute to the cost of operating our school and expect them to support our community to the extent that individual circumstances allow, we do not expect each family to be the same.

The formula used to calculate a student's tuition level is complex and considers many factors that affect a family's ability to pay. Morgan Park Academy uses FACTS Financial Assistance system to assist in collecting relevant income information to determine indexed tuition levels. To be considered for an indexed tuition lower than the highest level, families must furnish detailed financial information.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Exceptional high school students can earn a merit scholarship of up to \$40,000 over four years.

MPA thrives because we're able to bring together a diverse mix of outstanding students from across Chicago. Programs such as the Merit Scholars help fulfill our mission to educate well-rounded students who demonstrate initiative, leadership, determination, and excellence.



Scan the QR code to access the latest facts and figures about tuition and financial aid.

NEXT STEPS



*Scan the QR code to register
for an admission event or a
tour of campus.*

1. Attend an event.

You can schedule a personal tour of campus or visit an open house or other admission event.

2. Complete an admission application online.

3. Submit financial info to apply for indexed tuition.

4. Take an entrance exam.

Applies to grades 2-12 only. We accept the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) and the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT). We host the ISEE monthly from October through June.

Morgan Park Academy exists because families across Chicagoland rely on us for a unique experience. Since 1873, we've been a beacon of educational excellence in the Morgan Park-Beverly neighborhood, helping students find their voice, their strengths, and their highest purpose in school and in life.

Want to learn more? Contact our admissions team at 773-881-6700 or admissions@morganparkacademy.org.

Admission officers Allie Bowles
and Yvonne Armstrong



DISCOVER MPA

a warm, welcoming community
small, discussion-based classes
approachable, relatable teachers
global, perspective-widening focus
a spacious campus quad
hands-on, experiential learning
ambitious, hard-working classmates
imaginative, disciplined arts
competitive, inclusive athletics
one-on-one college counseling
celebrate your individuality
be kind and do your best



Morgan Park Academy

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