

Important Numbers

Office of the Executive Director	662-329-7674 (FAX) 662-329
Office of Academic Affairs	662-329-7360 1-800-400-4656 (FAX) 662-329-7205
Office of Student Affairs	662-329-7766 (FAX) 662-241-6408
Office of Computing Services	662-329-8521 (FAX) 662-328-4586
Office of School Advancement	662-241-6439 (FAX) 662-329-8570
Office of Admissions	662-329-7687 1-800-553-6459 (FAX) 662-329-8570
Goen Residence Hall	662-329-7696 (FAX) 662-241-7768
Frazer Residence Hall	662-329-8516 (FAX) 662-241-7769

Website: <http://www.themsms.org>

Mailing Address: 1100 College St., MUW-1627, Columbus, MS 39701

Did you know...

The History

- The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science was created by legislative enactment on July 1, 1987 and is located on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, MS.
- MSMS is Mississippi's only public, residential, co-educational high school for academically-talented juniors and seniors. The student body represents a strong sampling of the many talented and highly motivated students throughout the state. While they may differ in their academic, cultural, and economic backgrounds, they all share an intense motivation to excel academically in order to prepare for successful college experiences, professional careers, and positions of leadership.
- Funding provided by the Mississippi Legislature supports an excellent program including a broad range of academics, counseling services, residential life, and student activities. Support from business and industry provides additional leadership, expertise, and mentorship. Beginning with the 2008 classes, the legislature has required a room-and-board fee of \$500 per semester.
- The mission of MSMS is to "enhance the future of Mississippi by providing innovative learning experiences in a residential environment to meet individual needs of gifted and talented students and by providing quality educational leadership and aggressive outreach programs."

Getting Accepted to MSMS

- Since MSMS is a public high school, the admissions process is open to all Mississippi tenth grade academically-able students with mathematics, science, and technology interests. Students who apply to MSMS have a record of school performance that is superior (A's) in math and science classes and above average (B's or higher) in other subjects. Applicants must be noted for intellectual curiosity.

- The number of students accepted is determined by the capabilities of those in the applicant pool and vacancies left by the previous graduating class. The number varies, but typically ranges from 135 – 160 per year. The small population average allows opportunities for small classes. The low teacher-to-student ratio means that all of our students have the benefit of personal attention from their teachers. The MSMS focus is on getting better, not larger.
- The application process involves three, separate committees: The Application Review Committee, the Interview Committee, and the Final Review Committee.
- The process culminates in early spring with written notification of acceptance to the school, followed by a New Student/Parent Orientation before the end of the spring semester. This orientation session is helpful in providing newly-accepted students with information concerning academics and residential life in preparation for the fall semester.

Academics

- As the name implies, our emphasis is in the areas of mathematics and science, but we also offer a well-balanced curriculum in the humanities and fine and performing arts.
- The academic program is rigorous, and students have the opportunity to progress to their utmost in their academic pursuits. All efforts are expended to ensure that students achieve academic success.
- MSMS follows a collegiate-type class schedule (M-W-F and T-Th classes) with students usually taking six or seven classes per semester. The academic day begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.
- Students are evaluated quarterly, and transcripts reflect grades and credit earned each semester. The following grade scale is used: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 0-69=NC.
- Students who meet the criteria are eligible to take dual credit courses offered by MSMS. In these courses, students will earn

- together, families and the MSMS community help students reach their highest potential. This commitment is enhanced by a positive and continuing relationship with the home and family.
- Students leave the MSMS campus for one weekend per month (extended weekend). Students attend a short academic schedule on Thursday or Friday, sign out of the residence hall by 3 p.m. for home and return to MSMS by 6:30 p.m. on Sunday or Monday evening, thus providing them with a three- or four-day weekend at home with their family and friends.

Campus Security

- Safety and security is everyone's responsibility. Students are housed on a gated campus, with access monitored by MUW campus police 24 hours per day. The campus is lighted for students to feel secure night and day, and emergency call boxes are strategically placed throughout the campus..

pool; a game room with billiards; and aerobics and weight rooms.

- MSMS provides opportunities to compete in activities sanctioned by the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc. Competitive activities include soccer, swimming, cross country, and tennis.
- Other extracurricular activities have included step teams, judo, taekwon-do, aerobics, basketball, volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.
- Students at MSMS have the opportunity to attend a wide variety of dances including winter formal and spring prom, participate in an active intramural sports program, and take school-sponsored trips off campus.
- Over 30 clubs and organizations exist in which students can participate, including Beta, Student Government Association, Youth Legislature, Mock Trial, Mu Alpha Theta, FBLA, Spanish Club, FrontLine, etc.

Parents Lending United Support (PLUS)

- Opportunities for parents to be involved are provided through PLUS (Parents Lending United Support). PLUS' purpose is to provide a support group similar to a PTA/PTO. The family membership dues are used to support student needs and allow parents to actively participate in their children's ongoing educational programs. Previous projects have included exam snacks, prom breakfast, winter formal refreshments, providing copy machines for the residence halls, and providing furniture for the residence halls.

Extended Weekends

- Family commitment is a very significant component of assuring that the MSMS experience is successful for each student. Parents provide the security of home, love, values, and discipline. The MSMS academic and residential programs build upon these parent-established foundations by offering students the opportunities, structure, and materials with which to learn. Working

- Carnegie units towards graduation as well as college credit through the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) or Mississippi State University (MSU).
- All students must pass the required Subject Area Tests and earn the required number of Carnegie Units of credit as required by the Mississippi Department of Education to graduate from MSMS.

Faculty

- One hundred percent (100%) hold advanced degrees. Honors of faculty include, but are not limited to: National Board Certification; National Science Foundation Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching; Christa McAuliffe Fellows; Disney National Teacher of the Year; Mississippi University for Women Hall of Master Teachers inductees; Tandy Corporation National Award recipients; Mississippi Teacher of the Year; Albert Einstein Fellow, etc.

Publications

- MSMS offers three student-generated publications. *Visions*, the newspaper, the *Innovator*, the yearbook; and *Southern Voices*, the literary magazine.

Facilities

- MSMS students share *dining facilities* with MUW. The dining center is set up in an all-you-can-eat arrangement, with several choices of entrees, as well as a salad bar and deli line. Students are provided three meals per day on week days and two meals per day on weekends.
- MUW's *health center* is available to MSMS students weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. If additional services are needed, students are taken to Lowry's Family Medical or Baptist Memorial Hospital-primary care.

- MSMS students have access to the John Clayton Fant Memorial Library on the MUW campus and the Mitchell Memorial Library at Mississippi State University.

Residential Life/Student Affairs

- A commitment to student development and the belief that education is alive and vital in all areas of an institution is a common belief held by student affairs professionals in colleges and universities throughout the United States, as well as by MSMS staff.
- The Office of Residence Life is committed to the belief that learning is a continuous process that extends beyond the classroom. The student at MSMS is viewed as a whole person with many needs and interests. The residence life staff seeks to integrate programs that will encourage, engage, and enhance students' full personal growth, while providing opportunities, tools, and resources for academic success, community involvement, leadership, development, freedom of thought, and expression in the spirit of mutual respect.
- The Office of Residence Life is staffed with one full-time Coordinator for Residence Life who supervises the staff of both MSMS residence halls (Goen and Frazer).
- Each residence hall is staffed with a full-time, live-in hall director and professional community leaders and residential advisors for each floor. A part-time residential counselor provides support services to both residence halls.
- The hall staff receives extensive training in CPR, First Aid, Illegal Substance Identification and Laws, and Emergency and Crisis Management.
- The hall staff is available to assist students during their transition from living at home to living in a residential environment. They are trained to provide support and guidance as needed to enhance the chances that each student will have a successful residential experience.

- Each residence hall is equipped with a computer lab, printers, and a copy machine for student use.
- Students may bring computers and refrigerators for their own rooms. Each room contains two beds, two dressers, two desks, and two closets.
- Students are not allowed to have televisions in their rooms, but sets are available in each floor's lobby for student viewing.
- Each residence hall room is equipped with two direct internet connections for students who bring their own computers from home.
- All students are given an e-mail account and assigned an e-mail address upon enrollment to the school. E-mail and the World Wide Web are used for communication and research.
- MSMS students are allowed to have a car on campus with their primary use being for trips to and from home. Students do have limited use of vehicles for academic purposes during the school week.

Student Activities

- The goal of the Office of Student Activities is to provide social and developmental leadership opportunities through meaningful programming, support services, and creative instruction and activities that contribute to the balanced development of the total person. To meet this goal, Student Activities must create an environment conducive to creativity, good sportsmanship, and social and physical development.
- MUW's Stark Recreation Center is the hub for MSMS recreational activities. The center houses two gymnasiums with basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts; racquet ball courts; a swimming