



MA<sup>2</sup>S MOMENTUM

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JUNE 17, 2008

## Welcome to MA<sup>2</sup>S

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The Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences are pleased that you have chosen to be with us in the fall and are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for all of us.

School in Armada will begin on Wednesday, September 3rd with a regular schedule for students. That means that you will all be joining us on the first day of school. Please mark your calendar so that you can plan for a good beginning on that day.

We will be available at the Academy until June 20. Following June 20, the school is officially closed, due to updates, renovations and construction such as the replacement of the Academy roof, installation of the new tech lab,

and installation of exterior lighting. We will be in the office on August 18 if you need to contact us.

This year we are pleased to announce that the Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences is expanding. Both staff and students will be increasing for the academic year 2008-2009. For the first time since its inception, the Academy will have two sessions for both the A.M and P.M. groups.

For more information, please visit our website. As we are currently updating and changing our web address, please Google MA<sup>2</sup>S and you will be directed to our web-site. Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

## MA<sup>2</sup>S MISSION

**Meeting the needs of the academically talented with a curriculum of integration and application.**



Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences

## MR. WAHL RETIRES

Richard Wahl, who taught geometry, Algebra II, and computer science at MA<sup>2</sup>S, retired at the end of this school year.

Mr. Wahl was also a mentor and assistant coach for our FIRST Robotics Team, The Fighting Pi. He came to us from Armada High School and was part of

our teaching faculty for the past six years.

Mr. Wahl not only cared deeply for our students, but he was a gentleman and a scholar in his own right. He will be missed, and we wish him well.

## MA<sup>2</sup>S REGISTRATION FORMS

Registration forms were mailed three weeks prior to the end of the academic school year 2007-2008. If you have not turned in your registration paperwork, please mail or hand deliver it to the Academy office.

Please note that the state of Michigan requires that a copy of a

child's birth certificate and immunization record be submitted within 30 days of starting school.

This applies to any students who are new to the Academy. If your student was here last year, you do not need to submit another birth certificate or immunization record. If you have any questions, please call the

Academy office at 586-784-2150. Please mail all forms to:

**Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences**  
**23211 Prospect St.**  
**Armada, MI 48005**



## ATTENDANCE

If your student will not be in school, please call and let us know. Leave your student's name, your name, and the reason for the absence on our attendance line at **586-784-2151**. The attendance line is available for calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Thank you!*

## MA<sup>2</sup>S NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION

Parent/student orientation for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on **Tuesday, August 26 at 7:00 p.m.** We will meet in the **Academy Gallery** for important information for the year from Mrs. Ritzenhein and the teaching staff.

The orientation

will also provide an opportunity for you to once again tour the school and to talk with teachers about any questions that you may have. Information regarding schedules for the year, transportation, starting/ending times, etc. will be made available as well.



Students in computer lab at MA<sup>2</sup>S

## RESEARCH ALREADY?

by Jeff Shull

Another year of Independent Student Research Projects is over and the teachers agree that this year's projects, presentations, and defenses were the best we've seen so far at the Academy. It's up to you to make next year's projects even better. The best research projects begin design in the summer. Our challenge to you is to begin thinking about next year's project over break.

On those rainy days when there's nothing else to do, sit down and start ironing out the details of next year's research project. Groups that are able to use all ten weeks collecting data can conduct research projects that are much more complex and interesting than those who only collect data for a portion of the time, due to design obstacles when setting up their experiments. To get your creative juices

flowing, two new pieces of equipment in the building include a bomb calorimeter and a UV-Vis spectrometer. We also purchased cells to handle liquids in the infrared spectrophotometer. And as always, don't forget the Peak Motus motion analysis equipment and the Pasco GLX probes. The possibilities are endless. Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing all of you again next year.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Macomb Academy of Arts & Sciences  
 23211 Prospect Street  
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Academy Office – 586.784.2150  
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 Craig Roys – croys@armadaschools.org – 586-784-2173  
 Jeff Shull – jshull@armadaschools.org – 586-784-2174

## Student Supply List

- **4 college-ruled spiral notebooks (at least 50 pages)**
- **TI-84 calculator**
- **6 Duotang pocket folders**
- **Protractor, ruler, compass**
- **Pencils, highlighters, glue stick**
- **Assorted color markers and/or colored pencils**
- **1–1GB or larger flash drive**
- **2–Three hole punch binders (1 1/2” or 2” wide)**
- **1–package 1/4” standard graph paper**
- **2–packages college-ruled lined paper for binder use**
- **2–packages index dividers**
- **1–mini DV (60 minute) tape for Digital Camcorders**
- **5–CD-RW Compact Discs**
- **2 boxes of Kleenex tissue**

## 2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sept 2	Teacher In-service
Sept 3	School begins (full day students)
Sept 26	In-service, no students
Oct 31	In-service, ½ day students
Novr 12-13	School District Conferences
Novr 14	All schools closed for students & staff
Novr 26-28	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec 1	School resumes
Dec 19	Winter Recess begins after last class
Jan 5	School resumes
Jan 14-16	All students ½ day High School exams/records Middle School and Elementary records
Jan 19	In-service – no students (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Feb 18-20	Mid-winter break
Mar 6	In-service – no students
Mar 18	½ day students All Schools – Spring Conferences
April 9	Spring Recess begins after last class
April 20	School resumes
May 8	In-service – no students (prom)
May 25	Memorial Day, no school
June 3-5	All students ½ day High School exams/records Middle School and Elementary records
June 5	Last day of school

# End of year lecture...

by Rob Blume

The quickest school year of my career just ended - must have been the overwhelming fun and good times of the activities in the biology classroom. Well, it was a good time to me, anyway, but that's what you guys bring to the table with you. You really have more control in how fun things really are than you probably know based on the attitudes with which you walk through the door. In the past couple of years, you and I have done activities, particularly in genetics, that only became apparent to me in the past five years, if not more recently.

Some of them are things that top scientists could only dream about 30 - 40 years ago. But just to throw you off a bit I throw in one lecture per semester, usually early on, to remind myself why the activities are so important. It's fun to take that transcendental step outside myself on lecture day, typically about 30 minutes in, to think, "Dude, would you really want to be here listening to this?" "Not really."

I'll spend the summer thinking of new activities so that I can get rid of lecture

day. I'm particularly excited about another year of opportunities to work with the Problem Based Learning Project at Michigan State University. That can only mean more student-driven work. For those students reading this who are moaning and muttering in protest I can only suggest that you recall lecture day, the most recent having been in February about energy systems.

There is a big push statewide, and nationwide really, to get kids outdoors. It seems bizarre to me that we have to have billboards and television commercials suggesting this, but that's where we are. So, I'm gladly doing my part with 14 students, a former graduate, and one gluttons-for-punishment set of parents. We will be camping and backpacking around the Leelanau Peninsula, South Manitou Island, and the Manistee River near Mesick.

Once we arrive for day one at the D.H. Day Group Campground in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore it will be all-outdoors-all-the-time, except for a small amount of car travel and tent time for those

who think a thin wall of nylon between you and atmosphere is *inside*.

As I sit here on the last day of school very excited about the next 12 weeks - yes, students, teachers are as happy about this time of year as you are - I know it's just a time to recharge my batteries, because let's face it, coming back in September is just as fun for me.

I'll take those 12 weeks to analyze and reflect on what I could do differently. I don't think a student from our first graduating class would see much in common with what goes on now. Rest assured, however, that the one constant that students from the class of 2009 through the class of 2030 (the first class with which I would become retirement eligible, if I so choose to exercise that option) will recognize is the grading system. I can think of nothing more fair for you, and you deserve it. Have a great summer!

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