

**MOUNDS
PARK
ACADEMY**
SAINT PAUL, MN



push the limits of your own capacity for innovation.



Every new day you will stand



* “MPA is continuously finding new ways to help our students learn and teach them the importance of not only academic skills, but personal and social skills.”

- CORY BECKER-KIM, MPA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR

MY MPA EXPERIENCE: ELLA LI '24

What do you love about MPA?

I love the various curriculums at MPA. I can access different levels of math classes, like algebra, statistics, and calculus, which inspired my curiosity to explore more knowledge. MPA's science courses, such as physics, chemistry, biology, and environmental science, are wonderful. Additionally, I like watercolor drawing, painting, and photography. All of these courses enrich my life at MPA.

How is your experience at MPA different than your former school?

At MPA, I have a closer relationship with teachers and classmates. I have a lot of group discussions and projects; I am also very willing to discuss questions with my teachers. They always give me detailed explanations, enabling me to understand the content I learned clearly. In my former school, I spent most of my time preparing for standard tests and rarely had opportunities to discuss questions with teachers.

In what ways has MPA prepared you for life?

MPA taught me valuable analytical skills through American Studies, science class discussions, and Math League competitions, enabling me to think critically and independently. These experiences guided me to acquire the knowledge and wisdom necessary to succeed in the adult world.



Mounds Park Academy wholeheartedly embraces diversity and welcomes students from all over the world. We are a safe and inclusive community that offers a rigorous, college-preparatory education to international students in grades 7 through 12.

At MPA, we have built a globally minded community and we are currently home to students born in 16 different countries and countless families who have spent significant time living abroad.

Our faculty, students, parents, coaches, host parents, and school community as a whole value the opportunity to learn about new cultures and gain fresh perspectives through the stories and lives of our diverse community.

International students at MPA find that the rigorous college-preparatory curriculum is balanced and always focused on the application of learning rather than memorization. It's infused with thoughtful integration so the connections between concepts and different subject areas are rich. Whether studying biological processes, constitutional law, or multiple languages, students connect their deep content knowledge to the world.

But there's more to the MPA experience than academics. Participation in athletics and co-curriculars is encouraged here and that has a profound impact on the culture and character of the school. Students develop broader groups of friends, greater self-confidence, deeper levels of tolerance and compassion, and they consistently perform better academically when they're involved. They become inspired by their experiences and unafraid to accept new challenges.

MPA graduates are brilliant. They stir the human spirit, stand for justice, and shake the world. They forever dream big and do right.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COLLEGE MATRICULATION

An asterisk (*) indicates matriculation of more than one student.

Bard College
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Northeastern University
The Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University
Purdue University*
Queens College of Charlotte
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rutgers University
School of Visual Arts
Smith College*
University of California - Davis
University of California - San Diego*
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities*
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin - Madison

#2

RANKED
PRIVATE SCHOOL
IN MINNESOTA
ON NICHE

28

AVERAGE
ACT SCORE

1:1

COLLEGE
ADVISING

36%

ENROLLED IDENTIFY
AS STUDENTS
OF COLOR

PRIVATE,
INDEPENDENT,
COLLEGE
PREPARATORY,
NON-RELIGIOUS
PREK-12 SCHOOL ON
ONE 32-ACRE CAMPUS

1303

AVERAGE
SAT SCORE

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application process involves steps designed to help us get to know each other better. Components of the process include TOEFL, TOEFL Junior, IELTS or Duolingo exams, admission application, student interview, recommendations, transcripts or academic summary, standardized test scores, and a copy of the passport photo and identification pages. For more information, visit moundsparkacademy.org/internationalstudents.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The following services are included for all international students and are provided through the international student program fee. These benefits, often extremely limited or non-existent in other international programs and independent schools, are proudly offered at MPA:

- **ADVANCED LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSE:** This course has a 6:1 student-to-teacher ratio for all international students and is built into the curriculum as a World Language credit towards graduation. First-year international students are enrolled in this course to help with the cultural transition to an American high school, to discuss important social and historical events of the United States, and learn the nuances of strong academic English and vocabulary to achieve fluency.
- **COLLEGE APPLICATION SUPPORT:** MPA's full-time college counseling staff provide guidance and direction every step of the way as international students find their best fit. This includes assistance with the application process, writing the college essay, and navigating the process.
- **DEDICATED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** The International Student Program director serves as an advisor, teacher, and confidant to all international students on a daily basis and regularly monitors their academic achievement. Given MPA's emphasis on public speaking, college preparatory writing, and higher Lexile level reading, students work one-on-one or in small groups with the program director throughout the entire duration of their MPA experience.
- **HOST FAMILY SELECTION, ACCLIMATION AND SUPPORT:** Host families are carefully recruited, selected and vetted to ensure the highest quality experience for our students. The program director works closely with students and their host families to ensure that the home is a safe, welcoming, happy environment for all. Regular (at least three times per year) home visits, one-on-one check-ins with students and host families, communication with natural parents, and student/family events are all ways that the program director works with host families and students to build routine, communication, and a supportive experience.
- **NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION:** Orientation includes one-on-one meetings with the division leadership to create a class schedule, acclimation to classroom and school culture, laptop orientation, plagiarism discussion, school supply shopping, sight-seeing in the Twin Cities, student networking opportunities, and more.
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF FACULTY:** Faculty professional development provides knowledge and skills to support the needs of international students and to deepen their understanding of working with students from varying cultures. The program director often also plays a role in communication between students, teachers, host parents and natural parents, ensuring the success of our students.
- **STUDENT TRANSITION SUPPORT:** Transition and language support is offered throughout the student's time at MPA and in preparation for postsecondary schooling. The program director is available for ongoing academic support, especially in the areas of History and English, essay writing and high-level reading comprehension, and assisting students in their understanding of American educational standards. There is also summer orientation and quarterly events throughout the year to help support new and returning students. Visa and immigration assistance and documentation support is also provided. All international students have the program director available to help them navigate homesickness, friendships, social situations and events, stress, and culture shock. When needed, the program director works closely with the school counselor and division leadership to be sure the student is as happy and healthy as possible during their time at MPA. Support includes connecting international students to domestic students, faculty and administration, and engaging the students in co-curricular activities.
- **TRANSLATION ASSISTANCE:** Translation assistance is available upon enrolling and throughout attendance to help students form connections within the school and the Twin Cities. Translation services are provided for international students or parents, including in-person conversations and document translation on an as-needed basis.
- **DAILY HOT LUNCH:** Daily hot lunch is provided with culturally and religiously sensitive options.



Mounds Park Academy
PreK-Grade 12
2051 Larpenteur Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55109

Office of Admission
admission@moundsparkacademy.org
phone 651-748-5577
moundsparkacademy.org

moundsparkacademy.org/internationalstudents

Dream Big. Do Right.