



Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR APPLICATION

Generally, students who complete the Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center (KAMSC) application process represent a select group of students from throughout the area. In most cases, these students have consistently experienced academic success and have demonstrated their interest, task commitment, and creativity in a variety of settings. Because a large number of students are competing for a limited number of spaces, we encourage you to consider the following suggestions as you complete your application.

- 1. Your application represents you to the Applicant Review Panel members.** The care and thought with which you complete your application is revealed by things such as correct spelling and punctuation, legible writing if the application is handwritten, and attention to the intent of the questions. You should read and follow directions carefully. Additionally, details like keeping the application neat in appearance are important. Lack of care and thought causes reviewers to question your commitment to the task, and in turn, your probable commitment to KAMSC's academic program.
- 2. Reviewers will be looking for evidence of your potential in several areas.** These will include:
 - a. Mathematical reasoning demonstrated by specific achievements or activities.
 - b. Scientific reasoning demonstrated by specific achievements or activities.
 - c. Communication skills demonstrated by your responses to questions.
 - d. Interpersonal skills demonstrated by evidence of understanding viewpoints other than your own, acceptance of both leader and follower roles, and promotion of cooperative behavior among peers.
 - e. Performance ability demonstrated by activities such as computer programming, music and/or athletic performance, construction of models, etc.
- 3. Reviewers will look for evidence of (1) your willingness to accept consistent challenge, (2) your motivation and commitment to task, and (3) your ability to analyze problems creatively.**
- 4. Your application is supported by recommendation forms completed by your teachers.** Remember that your teachers are very busy. Please allow them sufficient time to complete the forms carefully. It is your responsibility to follow up and make sure teacher recommendations and counselor reports of grades are returned to KAMSC by the deadline.
- 5. Let your personality emerge from your application.** Let the reviewers "see" your sensitivity, sense of humor, and insight. Remember, this is the only way they can learn about you.
- 6. Your completed application packet includes the following:**
 - Student Information - Part A
 - Student Questionnaire - Part C
 - Science Teacher Recommendation
 - Guidance Counselor Report
 - Signed Parent Permission Statement-Part B
 - Mathematics Teacher Recommendation
 - English Teacher Recommendation

Good luck as you complete the application. Call us at 337-0004 if you have questions your teachers or counselors cannot answer. Regardless of the outcome of your application, we hope that the process of applying to KAMSC will be a positive experience for you. Use this time to think carefully about your own educational goals and to examine and celebrate your talents.