

Second Message from the President  
July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

IMSA Colleagues,

I hope you enjoyed the first two weeks of July. We celebrated two birthdays in my household, and I have to say we really like discovering “Smallcakes” down the road from IMSA. They can also be called “big and delicious cupcakes.” :- ) I’m glad we have a track to burn off those extra calories.

I shared in my previous letter that I’m excited to be part of the IMSA family, and just like my own family, I like to learn about things we should celebrate, whether they are life changing events or professional accomplishments. [Here’s a list of recent things to celebrate among our community](#). Please keep sharing so we can offer applause and virtual hugs.

I’d like to offer some updates on three important priorities as I get started:

## **Deeply Understand IMSA and the People Who Make it Amazing**

I have been holding office hours three to four times each week to meet with colleagues in small groups, some virtual and some in person. I have been learning much about our history, culture, your programs, worries and love for working with our students. It’s rewarding to learn about you and what inspires you in the IMSA community. I want to invite you to sign up sometime this summer so I can meet as many of you as possible.

**CHOOSE FROM THE OFFICE HOURS BELOW:**

[On-Campus Office Hours](#)

[Virtual Office Hours](#)

## **Re-open School in Person, not Just Operationally in a Safe Manner, but also Culturally**

We are open for student learning in person! With our rising 10th graders (and tutors) in EXCEL and extension programs through the Center for Teaching and Learning, it’s exciting to see students engaged in in-person learning. The energy is palpable and it’s so uplifting to talk with our students. It makes perfect sense why you love working with them. As you plan for your return to campus, colleagues on our Return to Learn and Work

Committee (RLWC) have been developing cultural activities to promote a welcoming spirit, and members of the Academy Leadership Team have been thinking about community and culture in their ramp up plans.

## Build on Our Equity and Excellence Plan

I have had a chance to review recent results from the student Diversity Climate Survey and colleague Intercultural Development Inventory. I appreciate our intentionality to learn what we are doing well and where we have room for growth. For example, 53% of Black student respondents reported feeling safe on campus. While we haven't been physically on campus, many of our Black students have felt emotionally unsafe even over Zoom. I have learned, from my own experience in learning cultural competency, there is constantly room for growth. I appreciate hearing approaches you have found helpful at IMSA, and look forward to our deliberate attention in the near future.

Last, the IMSA Board of Trustees convened today where we had Deep Dive conversations about our Intercultural Development Inventory and Study of the Influence of the SAT in the IMSA Admissions Process. You can read these reports, along with other updates at the [Board Docs website](#). It was really nice to see our Board in person, and I can't wait to see you all, as well.

Titans Together,

Evan

Evan Glazer

President

Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

**ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY**

1500 Sullivan Rd., Aurora, IL 60506-1000 | 630.907.5000 | [imsa.edu](https://imsa.edu)

