

**MOUNDS  
PARK  
ACADEMY**

**MPA**





## **MY MPA STORY: SUNGJOON PARK '21**

### **What do you love about MPA?**

MPA is such a welcoming community! We are so diverse and accepting that nobody is excluded in any way. Faculty and peers are friendly and caring, as well.

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

To sum up the difference in one word, it would be “welcome.” Since the students at MPA are so diverse, everyone is welcome to join. In other schools I have gone to elsewhere, there was always an inevitable hostility between students. Here, I see students pursuing their dreams in a safe environment.

### **In what ways has MPA prepared you for life?**

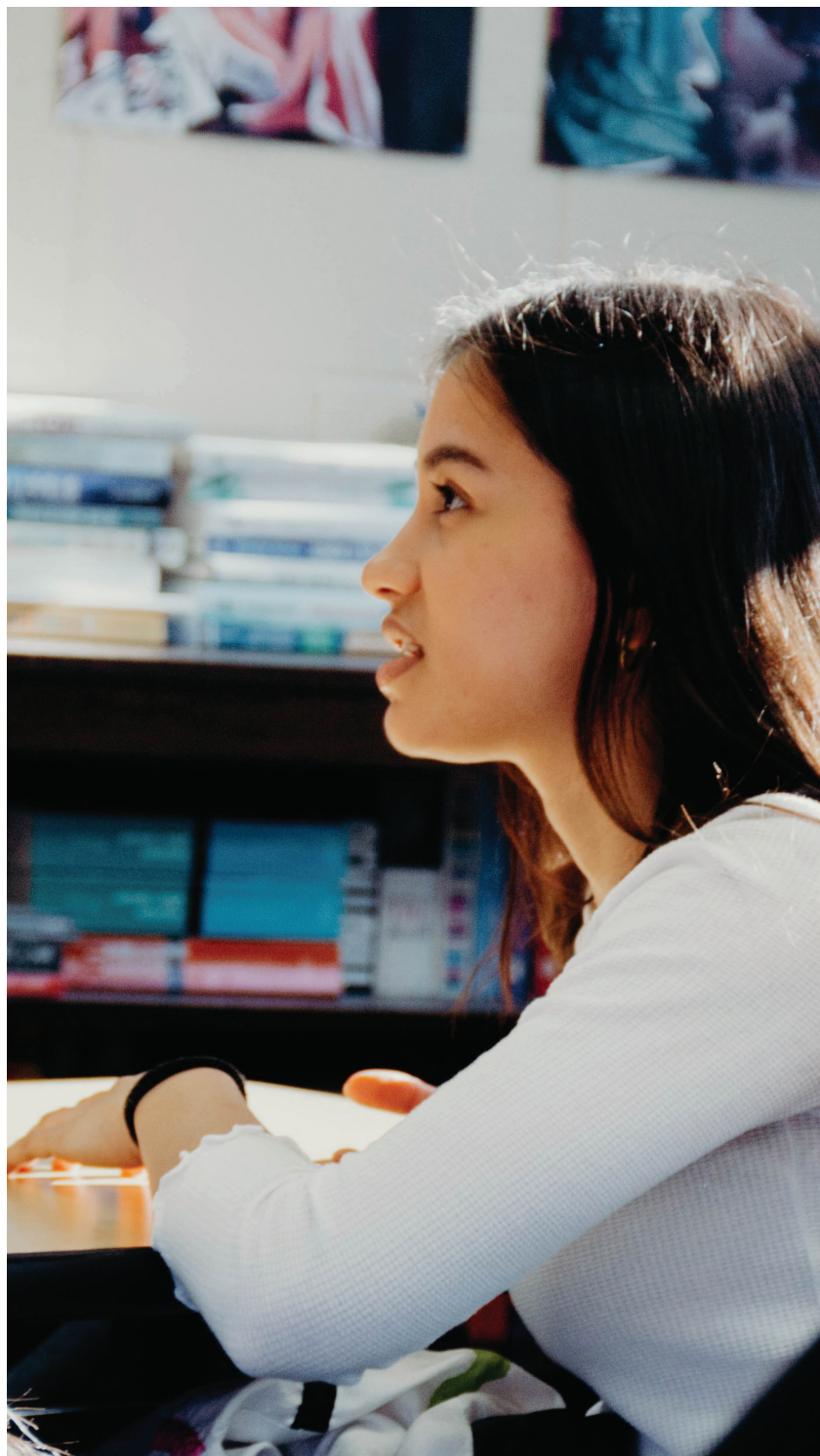
MPA has helped me tremendously in preparing for my adult life in America. As a first-year international student here, I have learned a great deal about American culture. In such a friendly environment, I feel safe to explore the new culture to the best of my abilities.

### **What do you dream for yourself in 20 years?**

When I am 36, I dream of living a happy yet busy life as an entrepreneur. Overall, I will have a positive life and spend a lot of time improving myself.

**“I love the warmth of MPA. That’s the reason that I chose MPA for my son who had come from so far away to the United States. Throughout the application, school tour, and interview process, I could feel the warmth, respect, and sincerity from teachers, interviewers, and staff. They are all proud of being an MPA family, which makes me feel confident. MPA has something special within their heart to care for students and care for families.”**

– Sungwon Koo, parent of Sungjoon Park '21



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 nine 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.

**TOP-RANKED**  
PRIVATE SCHOOL  
IN MINNESOTA

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

AP, HONORS, AND  
ADVANCED COURSES

**29**  
AVERAGE  
ACT SCORE

**1:1**  
COLLEGE  
ADVISING

**37%**  
ENROLLED IDENTIFY  
AS STUDENTS  
OF COLOR

**100%**  
COLLEGE  
PREPARATORY

**1368**  
AVERAGE  
SAT SCORE

**NEW  
MACBOOK  
AIR LAPTOP**  
INCLUDED

**7:1**  
STUDENT-TEACHER  
RATIO

**35+**  
CLUBS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS

**58**  
HOURS OF  
COLLEGE  
COUNSELING  
CURRICULUM

## 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](https://moundsparkacademy.org/internationalstudents).

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:

- **DEDICATED INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:** The International Student Program Coordinator 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 Coordinator throughout the entire duration of their MPA experience.
- **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 entire process.
- **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:** All international students have the Program Coordinator available to help them navigate homesickness, friendships, social situations and events, stress, and culture shock. When needed, the Program Coordinator 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **TRANSITION AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT:** Transition and language support is offered throughout the student's time at MPA and in preparation for postsecondary schooling. The Program Coordinator 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.
- **DAILY HOT LUNCH:** Daily hot lunch is provided with culturally and religiously sensitive options.
- **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 Coordinator works closely with students and their host families to ensure that the home is a safe, welcoming, happy environment for all. Quarterly 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 Coordinator works with host families and students to build routine, communication, and a supportive experience.
- **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 Coordinator often also plays a role in communication between students, teachers, host parents and natural parents, ensuring the success of our students.

Mounds Park Academy

PreK-Grade 12

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# Dream Big. Do Right.