Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) and ATYP

October 2013
Does this sound familiar?

- “My child is bored in school.”
- “My child does not feel challenged at school.”
- “My child gets an ‘A’ without studying.”
- “My child ‘acts out’ at his/her school.”
If you’ve heard yourself saying any of the above, your child may be academically gifted and talented.

Academically talented students need accelerated, above-grade-level course content.

Our philosophy is rooted in the idea that intellectual development often outpaces social and physical development.

We should teach children according to intellectual capacity, not age or grade level.
ATYP Overview

- Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP) was founded in 1981 with 22 students.
- We have enrolled over 3500 students from 60 SW Michigan public and private schools.
- ATYP is part of the Lee Honors College at Western Michigan University.
- ATYP now offers classes in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.
Why ATYP?

- Advanced & Accelerated Instruction
- Intellectual Challenge
- Open Discourse & Debate
- Like-Ability Peers
- Study Skills
- Self-Confidence
- High School Credit

Talent + Motivation + Opportunity = Success
How does ATYP serve its students?

- ATYP identifies and serves middle and high school high-ability students who:
  - need the challenge,
  - are motivated to learn,
  - are capable of completing above-grade-level curriculum with fast paced instruction.

- ATYP uses advanced high school and university level curriculum which:
  - culminates in Advanced Placement (AP) content,
  - leads to student success in advanced classes.
How does ATYP work?

- Currently, ATYP has a math and language arts program that focuses on advancement and acceleration in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.
- Students begin the program in 7th or 8th grade and continue for two to four years.
- We follow the local public school calendar.
- Parents are responsible for the transportation of their students to and from ATYP; some districts provide a bus.
How does ATYP work?

- For most students, the courses meet one day per week from 1:20 pm – 3:50 pm (AP classes meet two days per week).
- Classes are offered Tuesday through Thursday in Battle Creek and Kalamazoo.
- These students tend to take a seminar/study hall period during the last hour of the school day for the rest of the week (if possible). They do ATYP homework there, as well as other schoolwork.
How does ATYP work with local schools?

- ATYP uses a collaborative model that partners with local schools and school districts, higher education institutions, foundations, and local philanthropists.
- We sub-contract with local schools to provide rigorous and fast-paced academic instruction in math, language arts, and AP Computer Science.
Does it cost anything?

- Tuition is paid for by public schools for their enrolled students.
- Revenue from school districts pays for about 75% of ATYP’s costs.
- The other 25% comes from WMU or CISD (office, classroom, library access, secretarial support) and from donations.
- For students who are home-schooled or at private schools, the payment comes from the families.
- We currently charge districts $600 per class per year.
How does my child qualify?

- Your presence here means you’ve taken the first step; we’ve identified your student based on standardized achievement test scores (95% or better) or from teacher, parent, or counselor recommendations.

- Register with Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search for the SAT test in January or March (we also accept the ACT test test in February).
Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

- NUMATS is part of the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.
- It seeks to serve gifted children and their families from Pre-K through grade 12.
- Even if you’re not interested in ATYP, we highly recommend NUMATS as a low-cost assessment option.
- http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats
NUMATS uses a three-step process

Step One: Identifying students
- State test scores
- Achievement test scores
- Past Talent Search participant
- Qualifies for school gifted program
- Teacher and/or parent nomination
### High State Achievement Test Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEAP (scaled scores)</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Verbal / Reading</th>
<th>Math</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>765 or higher</td>
<td>763 or higher</td>
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Characteristics of Nominated Students

- Advanced aptitude in verbal or mathematical reasoning.
- Consistent performance in the top 10% of their grade level on tests/assessments.
- High performance in academically demanding course work in school.
- Consistent demand for more challenging academic experiences.
NUMATS uses a three-step process

- **Step Two: Administer above-grade-level tests**
  - **Definition of above-grade-level testing:** A test designed for older students taken by younger students.
  - **Rationale:** Above-grade-level tests have enough ceiling (difficult questions) to differentiate among students with advanced abilities.
Above-Grade-Level Testing Performance Graph
NUMATS uses a three-step process

- Step Three: Access customized score report and targeted resources
  - NUMATS provides a detailed score report showing how your student compares to other gifted students.
  - NUMATS provides tailored recommendations useful for educational planning.
  - NUMATS provides access to a curated set of resources and educational opportunities appropriate for gifted students.
Which test should I take?

- ATYP recommends taking the SAT. The SAT is a reasoning test and is not as concerned with prior knowledge.
- The ACT is an achievement test and measures how well you have learned high school material.
- The SAT seems like a puzzle to most middle school students and can be less frustrating.
Registering for NUMATS

- Online registration is easy. Go to: http://toolbox.ctd.northwestern.edu.
- Deadlines are:
  - January 1 for the January 25 SAT
  - February 4 for the March 8 SAT
  - January 7 for the February 8 ACT
Registering for NUMATS

http://toolbox.ctd.northwestern.edu

- If this is your first time to register a student, click on Get Started. Otherwise, log in or click on the link at the bottom to activate your Toolbox account.
- Step 1 varies depending on whether your student has participated in NUMATS before.
- Step 2 asks for general information about the student and asks how the student qualified. If the student received a letter from us, then he or she has qualified by his or her state achievement test scores. Check all that apply.
Registering for NUMATS

- Step 3 asks for your address and phone numbers.
- Step 4 asks you to select the ACT or SAT, your student’s grade and if he/she needs special accommodations.
- Step 5 asks for you to pick your school from a list. After clicking on the button, enter your school’s city and search. It should appear at the bottom of the screen.
Registering for NUMATS

- You also need to choose your test center and date.
- The SAT is held at both WMU and Kalamazoo Central High School (or Jackson High School). NUMATS students are separated from the older students at these test sites.
- The ACT is held at Coldwater High School, Kellogg Community College, Kalamazoo Central High School, Kalamazoo Christian High School, Plainwell High School, South Haven High School, St. Joseph High School, and WMU.
Registering for NUMATS

- You are not required to pick an alternate test center, but you can select a center that you did not pick previously.
- In order for us to receive your scores you **must** request that they be sent to us. Under **additional score reports**, add our ATYP school code:
  - For the SAT enter **1944**
  - For the ACT enter **6007**
Registering for NUMATS

- Step 6 asks you to confirm your registration and if you qualify for financial aid.
- Step 7 provides details for your review. Make changes if needed then be sure to click on Finish and Pay so that you can enter your credit card information.
Costs

- Total cost is only between $73–$88, compared to a typical individual educational assessment at $500–$700 or more.
- Students continue to receive information from CTD throughout high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Test Fee</th>
<th>NUMATS Fee</th>
<th>Total Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>$36.50</td>
<td>$37</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>$51</td>
<td>$37</td>
<td>$88</td>
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Why pay the NUMATS fee?

- ACT/SAT scores for younger students are confusing when viewed out of context.
- NUMATS provides easy-to-understand material to help young students and parents interpret scores and plan educational needs for the future.
- Direct online registration for the ACT/SAT is not available for young students not testing through NUMATS. Paper registration forms are hard to find.
Sample Score Interpretation/Recommendation

If NUMATS students score:

- 480-580 on SAT-R  
- 22-27 on ACT-Eng/Read  
- 520-600 on SAT-M  
- 18-23 on ACT-Math

**Recommendations:**

- compression of school courses into shorter time periods via curriculum compacting;
- fast-paced summer classes in area of strength;
- early access to advanced placement;
- long-range academic planning;
- early career counseling.
Financial Aid

- Center for Talent Development waives the NUMATS processing/benefits fee for students who qualify for a federally-funded school program, such as free or reduced-price lunch.
- Any student who qualifies for a NUMATS fee waiver will automatically receive an ACT or SAT test fee waiver.
To receive these fee waivers, students must submit a letter written on school letterhead and signed by a school official stating that the student qualifies for a federally subsidized program. (A sample letter is available online at: www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/program/aid/)

7th grade students who meet these same criteria can qualify for fee waivers through the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.
What to bring to the test

- Have several pencils and a calculator with you.
- Bring an ID with you. Choices are:
  - student ID or passport
  - print and bring the ACT or SAT Student Identification Form (found on our website and under the NUMATS Info tab of the NUMATS Toolbox)
- Bring your test center admission ticket from the ACT or SAT testing agency.
- Tests are long – bring a snack and water bottle.
- Cell phones must be off and watches cannot beep.
Preparing for the test

- Read the booklet sent to you by SAT; ACT’s booklet, the NUMATS Student Guide, and other test preparation materials are available for download from the NUMATS Toolbox.
- Take the practice test found in the test prep booklet for your test.
- Get a good night’s sleep and have a good breakfast.
- Arrive at the testing site on time: 7:45 am.
- Special content prep classes are not necessary and do not help us determine the right placement for the student.
SAT Preview Seminar

- Held the first two Saturday mornings in December and a Saturday in January
- Kalamazoo and Battle Creek locations available
- Tips and content information given
  - General Overview
  - Math Overview
  - English Overview
- Cost: $25
ATYP: How does my child qualify using the SAT?

- To qualify for the Language Arts program, students need an SAT score of 520 on Critical Reading or Writing.
- To qualify for the Math program, students need an SAT score of 520 on Math if they have not had algebra (560 if they have had algebra) and have a Combined Math + Critical Reading score of at least 960.
ATYP: How does my child qualify using the ACT?

- To qualify for the Language Arts program with the ACT, your English + Reading scores should be $\geq 46$, with neither below 22.

- To qualify for the math program with the ACT, you need a Math score $\geq 19$ (21 if you have had algebra) and a Composite score of at least 20.
ATYP Timeline

- Throughout late winter/early spring, ATYP collects scores from parents and NUMATS, and then mails letters both to students who qualify and to those who don’t by May 1. If you haven’t heard from us by this date, please contact our office.

- ATYP hosts an informational session in May for qualifying students, explaining ATYP in detail and what is required of them should they register.

- Registrations are due in May.

- Classes are put together over the summer.

- Classes begin in September.
Contact Information

Website: wmich.edu/atyp
Phone: (269) 387-3230
Email: atyp-info@wmich.edu

- Program Director: Dr. Kelly Schultz
- Program Coordinator: Nan Janecke
- English Coordinator: Becky Cooper
- Battle Creek Administrator: Peggy Stewart
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