**Why Take the SAT/ACT?**

Decades of research documents that academically talented students can have very different educational needs. Grade-level achievement tests can’t magnify important details about their potential, and thus provide insufficient information to match students to the most appropriate programs and courses of study.

Above-level testing provides a more accurate assessment of a talented child’s potential in math and verbal areas. The SAT/ACT tests may be written for high school juniors and seniors, but 40 years of research have documented its usefulness as a reliable above-level assessment tool for talented students.

These tests act like high-powered microscopes, giving a much more detailed assessment of a student’s math and verbal reasoning abilities. With the follow up interpretation of scores and academic planning guide sent by Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), everyone—parents, students, and schools—can make better decisions about appropriate levels of acceleration and classes needed during the middle and high school years.

Since the tests differ both in format and content from tests usually taken by middle school students, it is important to offer these students a preview of what they can expect when they arrive to take them.

Above-level testing is analogous to taking a patient’s blood pressure. The number needs to be accurate so the patient can receive the best treatment possible. You get the most accurate reading on both tests if you relax!

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**Test Preview Seminar: Schedule**

**9:30–10:05 a.m. General Overview**

**10:10–10:55 a.m. Math Overview**

**11:00–11:45 a.m. English Overview**

Parents are invited to stay for the whole seminar, or they can stay just for the General Overview. The General Overview has information important to both parent and student. The Math and English Overview times will be geared toward the student.

Please bring a pencil to the seminar. No calculator or other materials are needed.

**General Information**

This practical counseling session focuses on the major aspects of the tests. The SAT/ACT, multi-hour timed tests, are a very different testing experience for middle school students.

This session focuses on the organization and rules of the test, and offers specific suggestions on how to prepare for and improve the student’s test score.

Teachers with math and verbal content expertise will discuss sample math and verbal questions, as well as strategies for finding the best answer. The differing formats of various types of questions will be highlighted. Test directions and timing will be presented.

The seminar is designed to help the student to relax while taking the SAT/ACT so that a valid assessment can be made.

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**Presenters**

Dr. Kelly Schultz, ATYP Director and instructor, has been a member of the mathematics/computer science faculty at both Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. She has taught all levels of ATYP math from algebra through AP Calculus, and is the creator of its AP Computer Science course. Her sons have also participated in ATYP. Through these experiences, she has learned how talented students think about math concepts, and how to introduce ideas in ways that work for them. She has received Kalamazoo County’s Excellence in Education “Significant Educator Award” from ATYP graduates, and is the recipient of teaching awards from WMU, as well.

Mr. Scott Friesner is currently a Faculty Specialist for the Lee Honors College and formerly an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, both at Western Michigan University. In addition to twenty-five years of university experience, he has also taught for ATYP for more than 20 years. He created ATYP’s AP English Literature and Language class, showcasing ATYP students’ talents. This past year, he co-created a new ATYP IV class. He has received Kalamazoo County’s Excellence in Education “Significant Educator Award” from over twenty ATYP graduates. Mr. Friesner has also received teaching awards from Stanford, WMU, and the U.S. Department of Education’s Presidential Scholar Program.
Registration: Use the registration form in this brochure to register in advance by mail. Advance registration is recommended in order to guarantee a seat. If space remains available, phone or email registration may be possible up to one week prior to the session by calling (269) 387-3553 or emailing atyp-info@wmich.edu. There is an additional fee for late registration.

Cost: The Test Preview fee for a family—one or two parents and the student—is $25.00. The charge for families with more than one student is $40. Payment must accompany registration form. Enrollment may be limited. Fee reductions are possible; see the registration form for details. There is a $10 late fee if you register after November 26 (for December events) or after January 5 (for January event).

Locations:
WMU’s Kendall Center
50 W. Jackson St, Battle Creek, MI
Take I-94 to Exit 98B (I-194). Turn left on Hamblin St, turn right on Capitol Ave, and left on Jackson St. The Kendall Center will be on your right, with free two-hour parking in the lot just before or just after the Kendall Center. Additional parking is available for a fee across the street at McCamley Place.

Locations (continued)
1910 Sangren Hall,
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI
Please park in the Sangren Hall Lot (Lot 41). Enter the lot by following the Ring Road around campus from either the traffic circle near the intersection of Howard and West Michigan Avenue (Rankin Avenue coming from the west), or from West Michigan Avenue near Stadium and Oliver (Dormitory Road coming from the east), and then turning south onto Gilkinson. Go up the hill and then turn left into the lot. GPS Coordinates: 42°17’06.4N, 85°36’58.5W. Interactive Maps are available at http://www.wmich.edu/maps.

Test Preview Seminar
Test Taking Tips
for Students & Parents
9:30 - 11:45 a.m.
December 6, 2014
January 10, 2015
Western Michigan University
Sangren Hall
or
December 13, 2014
WMU’s Kendall Center
50 W. Jackson Street
Battle Creek, MI

For More Information
Academically Talented Youth Program
Lee Honors College
Western Michigan University
(269) 387-3553
http://www.wmich.edu/atyp/
atyp-info@wmich.edu