

Dear Parents of:

We invite your child to take part in the **Minnetonka Academic Talent Search Program** by taking the **SAT Test** as a 7th or 8th grader. Your child has been selected for this opportunity because of her/his strong academic record and because he/she may benefit from the out of grade level testing and other high-level academic opportunities available through this program. Only 7th and 8th graders may participate.

In the past we have offered the ACT exam as well but due to many variables related to COVID we are only offering the SAT this school year.

The goals of Minnetonka Academic Talent Search are:

1. To provide students with the opportunity to discover more about their academic strengths and to use this information when planning for their academic pursuits.
2. To identify academically talented students who might benefit from additional enrichment program options and provide information about those options from Northwestern University.
3. To provide recognition and encouragement to those students with exceptional mathematical and/or verbal and/or writing ability.

The **SAT** test will be given on **Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 8:00 am to approximately 12:30 pm at Minnetonka Middle School EAST**. The family is responsible for the fees involved. We will adhere to all COVID safety measures. (wearing of masks, use of room purifiers, temperature checks, sanitation procedures and 6-foot distant seating). The deadline for this registration is: Feb. 11, 2021. The fee for this exam is: NUMATS Fee: \$45 SAT Test Fee: \$52 TOTAL: \$97. IF in the event that the test is cancelled your fee will be refunded.

Why should your child take part in the Minnetonka Academic Talent Search?

1. You and your child will receive a **realistic appraisal of your child's math, verbal, and writing abilities** in comparison with other high ability students of the same age. After we receive our copy of the results, usually in early May, we will provide you with the current year's statistics by grade level and subject area in comparison to Minnetonka and Midwest 7th and 8th graders who took the test.
2. Many grade level standardized tests do not discriminate well among academically talented students. The SAT, however, is a very difficult test, therefore allowing students to show their academic talent areas.
3. Minnetonka students who score at or above the average scores of all students who participate in the **Midwest** Academic Talent Search will be **awarded certificates as Minnetonka Scholars** and recognized at an awards ceremony in late May.
4. Students identified as *Minnetonka Scholars* will receive information about **online and summer academic enrichment opportunities** from the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University.
5. Test results can also be used to **make decisions regarding future educational plans**.
6. Scores from this SAT **are not** used for Honors, Accelerated or Advanced Math courses in the Minnetonka Schools.

Parents and students interested in learning more are encouraged to view an informational meeting recorded last year. Link to the informational meeting: <https://vimeo.com/364097275>
Although the meeting information indicates this ACT will be given and conveys wrong dates and fees, there is pertinent information to help you understand the rationale/philosophy for taking the exam at an early age and how your child was selected.

It is imperative that this information NOT be disseminated to students other than those who have been invited. Students who receive this letter (High Potential/Wings Students and those in Advanced Math, Accelerated Science and Honors courses) meet the established criteria given to us by the NUMATS organization. This is not an opportunity that is appropriate for just any student.

If you determine you or your child are interested in registering for the SAT exam please following the instructions attached to this email. It can also be located on the MME or MMW school website under Extracurricular and then Academic Talent Search. **Please be sure to read special instructions carefully with specific codes.** Please adhere to deadlines.

There is financial aid for students who are eligible for federally subsidized programs such as free or reduced lunch. Please email Deborah Zachman or refer to FAQ's on the MME/MMW website under Extracurricular – Academic Talent Search to learn more about a financial aid request.

Students who currently have an IEP or a 504 plan may apply to receive **special accommodations**. If this is of interest to you, please do not delay in registering. **Please contact Deborah Zachman immediately to learn how to apply.** Please refer to the process under MME/MMW website under Extracurricular – Academic Talent Search

The **deadline for special application registrations** are due about 4 weeks before the regular registration deadline. This enables the testing institution to review the application and IEP/504 support documentation (medical/psychological reports and diagnosis/school accommodations) and grant accommodations. If your child applied last year for special accommodations you DO NOT need to reapply. Each institution has their own criteria for granting accommodations so if your child was approved for special accommodations for ACT and now you are interested in applying for SAT you must complete an application to College Board for SAT. Additionally, your child MUST be currently using the accommodations you are requesting and will need to be verified by school staff and the 504 coordinator or Special Education case manager. **Deadline for application for Special Accommodations is Jan. 13, 2021.**

In the event you may have already received registration information from the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS). Please **DO NOT** register online until you receive the SEPCIAL registration instructions for Minnetonka students as there are specific and exclusive codes to use for our Minnetonka students.

PLEASE do not give out our site codes to students outside our district. We are not an open site and will not accommodate students who are not from Minnetonka Schools.

Further information about:

1. Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) Program can be found at <http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats/>
2. SAT <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

ALL pertinent information can be found on the MME/MMW website under Extracurricular – Academic Talent Search

However If you do need to contact me, please do so by email with your contact information. Thank you.

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