Dear Southwest Michigan Student and Family,

For more than 35 years, the Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP) at Western Michigan University’s Office of Pre-College Programming has served advanced and accelerated students from across southwest Michigan. If you are in 6th or 7th grade, interested in working in greater depth and at a faster pace in language arts or mathematics, and if you are motivated and excited by the prospect of demanding coursework, we encourage you to consider testing to determine if you are eligible to participate. If you qualify, and if you’re up for the challenge, you could begin ATYP in September of 2018.

Your school has provided us with your name as someone whose exceptional mathematical, reading, or writing ability might qualify you for these classes. We invite you (student and parent) to discover more about qualifying for the program at an upcoming information session. Directions and room locations are given on the enclosed bookmark. All meetings are held from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and will be at the following locations:

**Thursday, October 12, Harper Creek Middle School**
**Thursday, October 19, Marshall Middle School**
**Thursday, October 26, Hastings Middle School**

**Tuesday, October 17, Pennfield Middle School**
**Wednesday, October 25, Lakeview Middle School**

At these meetings we cover topics such as:

- What is ATYP?
- Who is eligible to test for enrollment?
- Qualifying for the program
- Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)
- Deadlines and procedures (For example, you must register for testing by May. ATYP is designed for students to begin in 7th or 8th grade. The program is not meant to be started in high school.)

Once eligibility is determined, *participation in this program is entirely up to you and your family*. ATYP provides students with a way to reach their academic goals, laying a strong foundation for high school and college, but it is not for everyone. We work with all parties to determine whether or not this is the right option for you.

For more detailed information, please see the Parent Brochure and other helpful links on our webpage at [wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/](http://wmich.edu/precollege/atyp/). Again, we will answer any additional questions you may have at the information sessions, so we hope you will join us to learn more about qualifying for ATYP and about the many opportunities our program affords.

Sincerely,

Peggy Stewart, Battle Creek Area ATYP Liaison

P.S. Qualifying for ATYP is not the only reason to participate in NUMATS. We hope you will come and learn more about the benefits of above-grade-level testing, and what it can do for you, even if you’re not interested in ATYP at this time.
Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **How do I register for NUMATS (eligibility testing)?** We encourage you to register for NUMATS (which includes either the SAT or the ACT) online at ctd.northwestern.edu/program/numats by the deadline of January 10, 2018, for the February 10, 2018, ACT or by February 6, 2018, for the March 10, 2018, SAT. Additional testing dates are also available in December and April. If you cannot afford the NUMATS registration fee of $88, fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. More detailed information is provided during the registration process.

   **NOTE:** NUMATS does not automatically provide ATYP with score information. To be considered for the program, your scores must be sent to the office. Add ATYP’s code below during step 4 of the registration process.

   - *If you take the SAT, you may have your SAT scores sent directly to ATYP by entering 1944 (ATYP’s code number) in the “Additional Score Report” section.*
   - *If you take the ACT, you may have your ACT scores sent directly to ATYP by entering 6007 (ATYP’s code number) in the “Additional Score Report” section.*

   If you do not enter a code number, we will not receive a copy of your scores. We invite all parents to send a copy of your child’s scores directly to the office to ensure that they have been received. You may do this by taking a screenshot of the score report and emailing it to us at atyp-info@wmich.edu, along with the child’s name, address, and grade.

   **PLEASE NOTE:** TAKING THE SAT OR ACT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY ENROLL YOU IN ATYP. IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE PROCESS. QUALIFYING STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROCEED.

2. **When and where will I take the SAT/ACT?** Students interested in qualifying for the program take the SAT in March or the ACT in February at several regional sites, including WMU and some local high schools. The dates and locations of the tests are at the NUMATS website listed above.

3. **How should my child prepare for the SAT/ACT?** ATYP offers a Test Preview Seminar to give students and parents basic test-taking information. This $30 class is completely voluntary, and again the fee is waived if you qualify for free or reduced lunch. Other than taking a short practice test to understand the time limits/pacing of the test, no other preparation is necessary. You can register and pay for the Test Preview Seminar from a link on the website (wmich.edu/precollege/atyp). Classes are offered in both Kalamazoo (November 19 and January 27) and Battle Creek (January 20). The same material is presented at each seminar.

4. **Why not register directly for the SAT/ACT?** We recommend NUMATS because it not only registers you for the SAT or ACT, it tells you how to interpret your test scores and how to make use of them. NUMATS also provides you with detailed academic course planning guides, additional program opportunities, and counseling information. Young students cannot register online for the SAT/ACT directly.

5. **How do I know if I qualify?** Students are notified in the spring (by late April or within one month of your test date, whichever is later) whether their test scores qualify them for ATYP. **IF YOU TEST AND DO NOT HEAR FROM US, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR SCORES. PLEASE CONTACT US AT atyp-info@wmich.edu or (269) 387-3553 TO GIVE US YOUR SCORES.** A separate meeting is then held with more detailed information regarding course offerings.

6. **What does the program cost?** Families are responsible for a $75 per semester, per student enrollment fee. Fee waivers are available to qualified families. Contact the office for more information.

   - **For public school or charter school students:** Currently all public and charter schools financially support their students in this program by paying their tuition.
   - **For private or home-schooled families:** Families are responsible for program costs (currently $400 per course per semester). However, some private schools pay the tuition or are willing to reduce the tuition for families with participating students. Contact your school for more information.

7. **How will my student get to class?** Since classes are held at Western Michigan University’s campuses in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, families form carpools based on contact and scheduling information provided by the office, which groups students from the same school together to accommodate this process. Local districts may also provide transportation to the program.

8. **What if I don’t qualify this year?** 6th grade students who do not qualify this year are welcome to take the SAT or ACT again next year, and to once again send their scores to the office. Additional opportunities may also be available through other programs (NUMATS, local summer camps, etc.).

9. **How do I learn more?** We invite all students and parents to attend an informational meeting held at several schools throughout the region. **Dates and locations for these meetings are on the front of this letter.**

10. **What if I can’t attend one of the meetings? How may I get more information?** Basic NUMATS/SAT/ACT/ATYP information is available on our website, wmich.edu/precollege/atyp or by mail. E-mail atyp-info@wmich.edu your mailing address and we will send you information.