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 their usefulness as reliable above-level assessment tools 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!

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 Overviews are designed specifically for 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.

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.

Nan Janecke has worked as the Program Coordinator for ATYP since 2009. She holds a degree in English from the University of Michigan, and is currently working towards her Masters in School Counseling at WMU. Nan substitute teaches for numerous ATYP English classes and works with both the College Board and ACT as part of her duties as Coordinator. As co-founder and President of Partners in Learning for Unlimited Success (PLUS of Southwest Michigan), she gives and attends many presentations on both gifted education and middle school students. All three of her children participated in the Talent Search, and two were ATYP students—she has lived the challenges that these students face.
Registration: For online registration go to wmich.edu/atyp/qualifying and choose “Registering for the Test Preview Seminar.” Enrollment may be limited, so sign up quickly. Should there be space available, there is an additional fee for late registration.

Cost: The Test Preview fee for a family—one or two parents and the student—is $30. The charge for families with more than one student is $45. Payment must be made when you fill out the online registration form. There is a $10 late fee if you register less than one week before the seminar date.

Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Please email the office at atyp-info@wmich.edu or call (269) 387-3553 for more information.

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 before or after the Kendall Center. Additional parking is available further west on Jackson Street and is an easy walk to the Kendall Center.

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 wmich.edu/maps.

Locations (continued)

Test Preview Seminar
Test Taking Tips for Students & Parents
9:30 - 11:45 a.m.
December 10, 2016
February 25, 2017
Western Michigan University
1910 Sangren Hall
or
January 14, 2017
WMU’s Kendall Center
50 W Jackson Street
Battle Creek, MI

For More Information
A cademically Talented Youth Program
Office of Pre-College Programming
Western Michigan University
(269) 387-3553
http://www.wmich.edu/atyp/
atyp-info@wmich.edu