



GIFTED ADVOCATE

Enriched Placement Program

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Dear Worthington Families,

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed the winter break and that your children are eager to get back to the many new learning adventures that await them. We have definitely escaped the wrath of Old Man Winter thus far. I don't know about you, but I would be just fine if we can just enjoy the milder winter until spring is upon us. While we have not yet experienced winter weather, it is comforting to look at the calendar and see that in just a few short months we will be ending the school year and thinking about summer vacation. It is not too early to start thinking about the many spring and summer opportunities available for children of all ages. This issue of the Gifted Advocate will prove you with many reasons to start planning your summer fun as well as many other upcoming events and other important information.

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this newsletter or other gifted-related concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you and your family a very Happy 2016!

Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator

OWjL Camp Registrations Available

Ohio Wesleyan University and The Junior League of Columbus will once again be presenting its long-running summer program of challenge and enrichment for Central Ohio's **Gifted Middle School** students. Their program is called OWjL and is a week-long residential summer camp for gifted and talented students **currently** in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. It is held in June on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. Students enjoy a wide range of academically challenging classes in the arts and sciences from nearly 70 courses.

Camp Dates are:

June 12-17, 2016 – 6th and 7th Grades

June 19 - 24, 2016 – 7th and 8th Grades

June 26 – July 1, 2016 – 6th and 7th Grades



To qualify, students must meet the state definition of giftedness by scoring in at least the 95th percentile on standard measures of achievement/ability or otherwise demonstrate talent or

creativity. Contact our Gifted Services office at 450-6056 if you need scores for any interested students. We will be happy to send them to you via email. Tuition for the 2016 camp is \$635 with full and partial scholarships available, based on need.

Applications can be downloaded from the OWjL website: <http://owjl.owu.edu> . Applications must **be postmarked by January 31, 2016** or received in the OWjL office by 4:30 p.m. on **February 1, 2016**. Forms may be completed and submitted on line. Do not fax applications. Late applications will be put on a wait list. Students who are selected will be notified after mid-March. Space is limited. Questions should be directed to the OWjL office at 740-368-3939.



2016 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted Applications due April 1, 2016

The 2015 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted and Talented™ at Otterbein University offers **gifted current sophomores and juniors** opportunities for enrichment and career exploration through a unique program comprised of classes, seminars and workshops on the arts, sciences and humanities. Taking place in multiple venues throughout Otterbein's campus, this week long residential program encourages social interaction and peer discussion so that students can be challenged intellectually and artistically and develop a better understanding of the role of their abilities and talents in their lives and in society. For more information about the camp, please visit www.otterbein.edu/essex. You can also [click here](#) for a video of highlights from last year's camp.

DATES for this summer opportunity: June 19-26, 2016

LOCATION: Otterbein University Campus

COST: \$650 - Financial assistance may be available for those who qualify. See application for more information.

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION, contact Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator, 614-450-6056, spalmer@wscloud.org or [click here](#) for more information.

2016 THINK Summer Institute - Applications Available

The Davidson Institute is seeking **profoundly** gifted students, ages 13 to 16, who are interested in attending the 2016 THINK Summer Institute. THINK is a three-week residential summer program on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno where students can earn six college credits by completing two university courses.



The 2016 THINK Summer Institute will run from July 9 through July 30, 2016. Tuition is \$3,555 and covers course credits, room and board and the cost of planned programs and activities. Need-based scholarships are available.

To qualify, students must be 13 to 16 years old during THINK, and must meet or exceed designated SAT (minimum 1130) or ACT (minimum 26) scores. Applications are considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the intense nature of the program, enrollment is

limited. Homeschooled students are eligible to apply. To download an application or to learn more about THINK, please visit www.davidsongifted.org/THINK or call (775) 852-3483 ext. 6.

2nd Annual Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy

We are excited to announce the return of the Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy. Last summer was a huge success, and we hope that you will consider enrolling your child(ren) in this fun and educational program. This one week program, open to all students currently in grades K-8, will be held the week of June 6-10, 2016. Look for more information to come later this winter.



Support for Talented Students (STS)

There are many enriching summer opportunities available to the gifted students of Central Ohio. This issue has just highlighted a few of the many available. Most summer programs come at a cost to families, and therefore, may not be possible for some students to participate. Support for Talented Students is a local non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide the opportunity for gifted students to participate in such activities that families may not otherwise be able to afford. For more information on this organization and how to apply for a scholarship, please visit the Support for Talented Students [website](#).



Invention Convention



Calling all creative students!!!! Do you have a great idea? Have you uncovered an interesting problem? Have you ever wanted to invent something? Or make an existing invention better? Then Invention Convention is just the program for you!

FACTS ABOUT INVENTION CONVENTION:

- ► Invention Convention is offered at no cost to students, parents, teachers, schools or districts.
- ► More than \$650k in scholarship and prizes have been awarded since 1996 through the Invention Convention.
- ► It is aligned with National Standards...and most recently expanded in support of our national focus on STEM learning.

- ▶ In addition to Invention Convention being an exciting, fun program - students also develop important life skills.

The 20th Annual Columbus Regional Invention Convention Competition will be held at Columbus State Community College on May 7, 2016. Invention Convention is open to **all** students in grades K-8. Gifted Identification is **not** required. Students must first compete in the district Invention Convention to be held on **Saturday, February 27th**, at the 3rd Annual Worthington Science Day in order to have the opportunity to advance to the Columbus Regional Event. For more information on the Worthington Science Day or to sign-up to participate, please visit: www.worthington.k12.oh.us/scienceday.

In order to be considered for advancement to the regional event, students must meet all criteria established by Invention Convention. Visit www.inventionconvention.org for more information on required elements, including the student journal.

Captain Gadget 'Q' Think-a-ma-jig and Dr. Claire Out-of-Hair to Visit Worthington



Join us on **Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at 6:30 PM, Kilbourne MS**, for a special **Invention Convention Community Assembly**. At this assembly, parents, teachers, students, and other community members can get more information on how to become an inventor, solve everyday problems, and learn more about Invention Convention. For more information on this fun, free, and informative event, [click here!](#)

Advanced Placement Exam Registration

Registration due Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Advanced Placement exams will take place Monday, May 2 through Friday, May 13 at the Worthington Education Center located at 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road. Once again there will be on-line registration this year to register for AP Exams. Look for additional information to come from our office at the end of January.



The deadline to submit applications to the College Board for **special accommodations** is **February 19, 2016**. You must contact the guidance department at your child's school about the process to request special accommodations if your child's disability impacts his/her participation in standardized testing. The College Board [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) approve the requests **NOT** Worthington Schools. For If your student is on free/reduced lunch you may qualify for a fee reduction. Please contact Gifted Services at 450-6056 if you have any questions. Link to on-line registration will be available on the Worthington Gifted Services website at the end of January.

TWHS 2015 Results

312 students took AP exams and 503 exams were taken by these students. 80.8% of the students earned a score of 3, 4, or 5.

WKHS 2015 Results

153 students took AP exams and 247 exams were taken by these students. 72.5% of the students earned a score of 3, 4, or 5.

The percent of students in Ohio earning a score of a 3, 4 or 5 was 64.8%. The percent of students globally who earned a score of a 3, 4, or 5 was 60.7%.

Destination Imagination Teams Formed



Gifted Services is very pleased to announce that **25** teams will represent Worthington Schools at the **March 12, 2016 Destination Imagination Region 4 Tournament this school year**. The DI season is 17 weeks long. There will be 22 elementary teams, 2 middle school teams and 1 high school team. The age of the student participants determines the competition category.

We wish the following **teams** the best of luck as they work on their central challenges for this school year's Destination Imagination Tournament:

Bluffsvew Team coached by Julie Lovegrove with Team Appraiser Tracey Smith
Bluffsvew Team coached by Kami Prince with Team Appraiser Kara Prem
Bluffsvew Team coached by Lavanya Kusuru with Team Appraiser TBD
Brookside Team coached by Laura Grindle with Team Appraiser Ashley Lavey
Brookside Team coached by Kate Turner with Team Appraiser Adam Turner
Colonial Hills Team coached by Tina Niven with Team Appraiser David Niven
Evening Street Team coached by Shawn Dickerson with Team Appraiser Patty Cooper
Evening Street Team coached by Gina Jacob and Diane Smullen with Team Appraiser TBD
Evening Street Team coached by Laura Wood with Team Appraiser Kim Lindemeyer
Evening Street Team coached by Melissa Gayhart with Team Appraiser Maryna Matlock
Evening Street Team coached by Heather Levingston with Team Appraiser TBD
Evening Street Team coached by Tatianna Motta with Team Appraiser Mary Rykowski
Granby Team coached by Megan Wolfe with Team Appraiser Benjamin Wolfe
Granby Team coached by Heidi Schaeffer with Team Appraiser Becky Myers
Kilbourne Middle Team coached by Debbie Bennington with Team Appraiser Mike Graham
Liberty Team coached by Jessica Swisher with Team Appraiser TBD
Phoenix Team coached by Brad Baylor with Team Appraiser TBD
Thomas Worthington Team coached by Debbie Bennington with Team Appraiser Amy Kargiotis
Wilson Hill Team coached by Angel Hedberg with Team Appraiser Karrie Mowery
Wilson Hill Team coached by Tracy Hartwick with Team Appraiser Melissa Hagmaier
Worthington Estates Team coached by Monica Peters with Team Appraiser Alie Thompson
Worthington Hills Team coached by Rachel Caviness with Team Appraiser TBD
Worthington Hills Team coached by Shannon Navin with Team Appraiser Pat Hensley
Worthington Park Team coached by Lori Henderson with Team Appraiser Neha Vijay
Worthington Park Team coached by Shanna Schmeising with Team Appraiser Chris Cermak

SWEPP



SWEPP

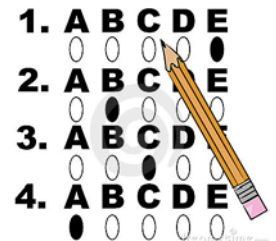
SAVE THE DATE: February 21, 2016, 12-3 p.m.

SWEPP (Supporting Worthington's Enriched Placement Program) is hosting a Summer Camp/Enrichment Fair at The Shops at Worthington Place. This is a great place to bring your whole family to find opportunities for your high-achieving students, K-12. Keep them learning all summer long, add excellent experiences to your college application, and explore extracurricular activities to your college application, and explore extracurricular activities. All SWEPP members and attendees will receive a free directory of Summer/Enrichment opportunities.

Mark Your Calendars for these remaining 2016 High School Test Dates

Below are the remaining test dates sponsored by our department. If for some reason our district SAT and ACT test dates conflict with your student's schedule, he/she is welcome to take these tests at any of our neighboring districts on alternate dates as long as they register in advance. PSAT testing is sponsored by the high school guidance departments. Please contact your high school for information about PSAT test dates.

- **ACT HIGH SCHOOL TEST – February 6, 2016 at Thomas Worthington High School**
- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING – May 2 – May 13, 2016 at the WEC**
- **SAT HIGH SCHOOL TEST - June 4, 2016 at Worthington Kilbourne High School**

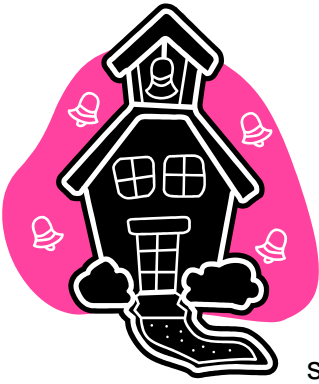


College Board to Launch New SAT



Beginning with the March 2016 administration, students will be taking the newly redesigned SAT. The new test will go from three sections to two: Math and Evidence Based Reading and Writing. The current required essay will now be optional and there will no longer be any penalty for answering questions. In addition, the odds will be better with answer choices going from five to four. College Board has partnered with [Khan Academy](#) to offer free on-line practice questions and test preparation information. For more information on the new SAT, [click here](#).

Parent Transition Nights Scheduled to Assist Parents with Planning for Next Year



This winter the Gifted Services Department is sponsoring two parent transition nights that will assist parents and their children with plans for the 2016-17 school year. On **Thursday, January 28th, 6:30 PM**, we will host parents of 6th grade middle school students who will be going to middle school next fall and on **Tuesday, February 2nd, 6:30 PM**, for parents of 8th grade students who will be going to high school next fall. Both transition nights will be held at the Worthington Education Center.



These transition nights provide an opportunity for parents to hear from various faculty members at the middle and high school levels regarding the social and emotional needs of the gifted adolescent and appropriate coursework including: Enriched English Language Arts, Honors and Advanced Placement courses, and Post-Secondary Options. A representative will speak about the middle school math program which is not part of the Gifted Services program. Faculty will give an overview of expectations and information, in addition to entertaining any questions from parents. These transition nights provide a smaller environment for parents to have dialogue about advanced learner issues before the formal scheduling process begins for students. Parents who are unable to attend may call 450-6056 to have copies of the handouts emailed to them after the scheduled meeting dates.

Visual and Performing Arts Gifted Identification



Under Ohio Revised Code 3324 we are mandated to identify students as gifted in the area of the visual and performing arts. We are currently accepting referrals for students in this area which includes the visual arts, music, dance, and theatre. While there is a mandate for gifted identification in the area of the arts, there is no mandate for gifted services in this area.

Students participating in this process will be evaluated using one to three different instruments. The first phase of the evaluation, which is the completion of a gifted trait checklist by an educator in the arts, will be completed in March. A teacher familiar with your child and the area in which he/she is being assessed will complete the checklist based on observations from the beginning of the school year.

Students meeting the state screening score, but not the state qualifying score, will be assessed with a second checklist. All families will be notified of the outcome of this checklist assessment by the beginning of April. Students who earn a qualifying score on the checklist assessment will be invited to participate in the second phase of assessment taking place early May. That is a display of talent using a portfolio of visual art or an original music, dance, or drama performance coupled with a display of requested technical skills as appropriate to the area being assessed. The full timeline for the assessment process and referral form can be found on the Gifted Services Website.



Great Sites for Students

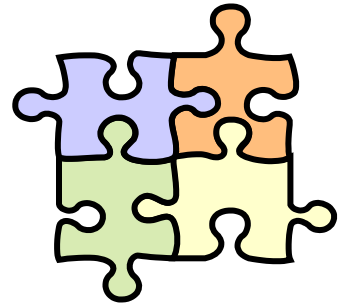
With the winter months, comes a lot of time indoors! Here are some great websites for students worth exploring.

www.hoagiesgifted.org/hoagies_kids.htm - Lots of fun links to contests, reading lists, and more!

www.mensaforkids.org - Link to sign up for a monthly e-newsletter which is full of fun games, logic puzzles, and other factoids designed to challenge students to think outside of the box. Challenging on-line games are also available on the site.

www.brainpop.com - While subscriptions are needed to access everything on this site, there is still plenty of free information available, including games, puzzles, movies for all content areas.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/mysteries/archive.html> - Get answers to some of your questions surrounding everyday mysteries.



Great Resources for Parents



Ohio Association for Gifted Children – www.oagc.com

National Association for Gifted Children – www.nagc.org

Hoagies Gifted Education Page – www.hoagiesgifted.org

Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted (SENG) – www.sengifted.org

Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) – Center for Talent Development – www.ctd.northwestern.edu