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Gifted



# GIFTED ADVOCATE

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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 and Healthy 2019!*

*Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator*

## Meet Amy Reynolds, Administrative Assistant for Gifted Services

If you have ever called into the Gifted Services Office, most likely you have been greeted by Mrs. Amy Reynolds, Administrative Assistant for Gifted Services. Amy has been with the Worthington Schools Gifted Services Department for a little over a year, however, she is no stranger to the district as she is a Worthington graduate. Mrs. Reynolds resides in Powell, with her husband, two daughters, and Labradoodle, Buddy.

Amy has quickly settled into this role and is very efficient in getting any questions answered for staff and parents. She is always ready to greet you with a friendly hello and willing to listen and provide whatever support she can. Amy can provide you with more information about gifted referrals, acceleration, gifted service placements, AP exams, and summer enrichment.

# Summer Opportunities

*For Elementary & Middle School*

## Fifth Annual Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy

We are excited to announce the return of the Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy for the fifth year in a row. We have experienced great growth and program enhancements over the last four summers. This one week program, open to all students currently in grades K-8, will be held the week of June 3-7, 2019. The morning session runs from 9:30 – 11:30 AM, and the afternoon session runs from 12:30 – 2:30 PM. We offer a supervised lunch hour for an additional fee for those students participating in both the morning and afternoon session. More information, including registration information and course offerings, can be found by visiting the [Worthington Summer School website](#) at the beginning of February. Check back frequently for updated information and course offerings.



*For 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students*

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The program 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 9-14, 2019 – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades

June 16 - 21, 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

June 23 – June 28, 2019 – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades

To qualify, students must meet the state definition of giftedness by scoring in at least the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on standard measures of achievement/ability or otherwise demonstrate talent or creativity. Contact our Gifted Services office at 450-6056 if you need the School Form filled out for your child, however, please allow 48 hours response time for submission of that form. Tuition for the 2019 camp is \$675 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 or submitted on-line by January 31, 2019**. 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.

*For Middle School & High School*

## 2019 THINK Summer Institute – Applications Available

The Davidson Institute is seeking **profoundly** gifted students, ages 13 to 16, who are interested in attending the 2019 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 2019 THINK Summer Institute will run from July 13 through August 3, 2019. Tuition is \$3,950 and covers course credits, room and board and the cost of planned programs and activities. Need-based scholarships are available.

To be considered for the program, a student must:

- Be 13 to 16 years of age during the program dates
- Be a US citizen or permanent US resident living in US
- Submit a SAT or ACT score
- Receive one positive nomination as specified in the application
- Commit to being a full-time student during the program, which does not allow absences

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](http://www.davidsongifted.org/THINK) or call (775) 852-3483 ext. 6.

*For High School Only*

## 2019 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted Applications due April 15, 2019

The 2019 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](http://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 16-22, 2019

**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, 614-450-6055, [spalmer@wscloud.org](mailto:spalmer@wscloud.org) or [click here](#) for more information.

*For ALL*

## Scholarship Opportunities for Summer Programs

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. Both Support for Talented Students (STS) and the Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) provide this need-based financial support for families of gifted identified students.



Support for Talented Students, 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, is accepting applications for scholarships now through **March 10<sup>th</sup>**. For more information on this organization and how to apply for a scholarship, please visit the Support for Talented Students [website](#).

OAGC, also a non-profit organization, has a mission to promote and support the development of gifted students. They, too, offer a scholarship to gifted students, K-12, for special activities that extend their special talent/interest areas. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. You can find more information about this scholarship by visiting the [OAGC Scholarship](#) page of their website.

For ALL



## 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, a part of Invention League, 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 scholarships 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.

Invention Convention is open to **all** students in grades K-12. Gifted Identification is **not** required. Students must first compete in the district Invention Convention to be held on **Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Worthington Science Day in order to have the opportunity to advance to the Ohio Invention Convention to be held this summer at the Ohio State Fair. For more information on the Worthington Science Day or to sign-up to participate, please visit: [www.worthington.k12.oh.us/scienceday](http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us/scienceday).

In order to be considered for advancement to the state-wide event, students must meet all criteria established by Invention Convention. Visit [www.inventionleague.org](http://www.inventionleague.org) for more information on required elements, including the student journal.

## Destination Imagination Teams Formed



Gifted Services is very pleased to announce that **20** teams will represent Worthington Schools at the **March 2, 2019 Destination Imagination Region 4 Tournament this school year at Circleville HS/MS**. The DI season is approximately 17 weeks long and consists of a small group of students working together to approach a challenge that encourages creativity, curiosity, and courage.

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

**Bluffsvew** Team coached by Sarah Cofer and Linh Pham with Team Appraiser Sarah Pham  
**Bluffsvew** Team coached by Linh Pham with Team Appraiser Emily Pham

**Bluffsvew** Team coached by Ed VanWinkle with Team Appraiser Rebecca Grabosky  
**Bluffsvew and Wilson Hill** Team coached by Erin Lombard & Melissa Parker with Team Appraiser TBD  
**Bluffsvew and Evening Street** Team coached by Julie Lovegrove with Team Appraiser Melissa Rupert  
**Colonial Hills** Team coached by Erica Hitzhusen with Team Appraiser TBD  
**Evening Street** Team coached by Stephanie Rawlings with Team Appraiser Katherine Pepperney  
**Evening Street** Team coached by Michelle Garrett with Team Appraiser Ty Wait  
**Evening Street** Team coached by Chloe Beck with Team Appraiser Mary Rykowski  
**Kilbourne Middle** Team coached by Annemarie McCallister with Team Appraiser Laura McCallister  
**Liberty** Team coached by Jessica Swisher with Team Appraiser TBD  
**Wilson Hill** Team coached by Tasha O'Neill with Team Appraiser Melissa Hagmaier  
**Wilson Hill** Team coached by Katie Gast and Karrie Mowery with Team Appraiser Meghan Davis  
**Worthington Estates** Team coached by Monica Peters and Kyle Sarver with Team Appraiser Deb Cannon  
**Worthington Hills** Team coached by Shawn Amer with Team Appraiser Joshua Amer  
**Worthington Hills** Team coached by Tanya Bomsta with Team Appraiser TBD  
**Worthington Hills** Team coached by Joseph Kim with Team Appraiser Laura Sturm  
**Worthington Hills** Team coached by Shannon Navin with Team Appraiser Allie Seiling  
**Worthington Hills** Team coached by Kelly Yotebieng with Team Appraiser Marcel Yotebieng  
**Worthington Park** Team coached by Shanna Schmeising with Team Appraiser Kathy Cermak

We want to express our sincerest thanks to those who have volunteered to serve as a team appraiser on the day of the tournament. While this is a fun day for our appraisers, it can also be a long day for them as they are there from start to finish at the tournament. So we are most appreciative of the time they are giving.

## 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 who are referred for evaluation in this area of gifted identification, will be evaluated using one to three different instruments. The first phase of the evaluation is the completion of a state approved checklist of gifted traits in the arts. An arts educator who is 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 who meet the state screening score, but not the state qualifying score, will be assessed with a second checklist. Students who earn a qualifying score on either checklist assessment will be invited to participate in the second phase of assessment. This phase 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. A full explanation of the process and the referral form can be found on the [Gifted Services Website](#).





*For High School Only*

Advanced Placement Exam Registration -  
Due Friday, March 8, 2019



Advanced Placement exams will take place Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 17. **Students will register for exams through their My Payments Plus accounts.** Cost for each exam is \$100 unless a student is on free/reduced lunch. Due to College Board deadlines and spring break, registration on My Payments Plus will not be available after March 8<sup>th</sup>, so please plan accordingly and get registered as soon as possible.

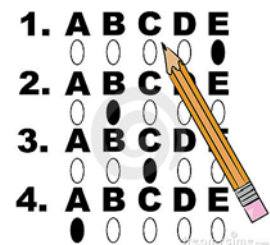
The deadline to submit applications to the College Board for **special accommodations** is **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. You must contact the guidance department at your child's school about the process to request special accommodations if your child's disability impacts his/her participation in standardized testing. The College Board [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) approve the requests **NOT** Worthington Schools. All accommodations must be approved through College Board before they can be provided.

Last year a total of 942 exams were administered in Worthington with 77.2% of those exams resulting in a score of 3 or higher.

Mark Your Calendars for these remaining 2019  
High School Test Dates

Below are the remaining National 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 9, 2019 at Thomas Worthington High School**
- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING – May 6 – May 17, 2019**
- **SAT HIGH SCHOOL TEST - June 1, 2019 at Worthington Kilbourne High School**



*For Parents*

# SWEPP

## SWEPP

SWEPP (Supporting Worthington's Enrichment Programs and Parents) is a parent/community organization to support academically-talented students and quality education in Worthington Schools. They are currently offering a couple of opportunities for parents.

**Gifted Overexcitabilities Presentation: January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road**

*Gifted children can be complex and intense due to overexcitabilities, or heightened sensitivities to the world around them. In this session we will unpack the overexcitabilities a student and family might face and the skills required to turn a struggle into a success for the gifted learner.*

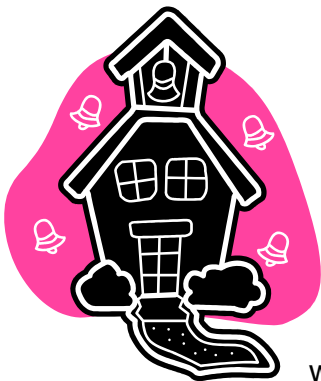
The session is presented by Dr. Colleen Boyle, an educator of gifted children for more than 20 years and currently coordinates gifted services for a Central Ohio district. Her educational background includes gifted education and educational administration with doctoral work in clinical, school, and educational psychology. Her research interests are the assessment of gifted children and social-emotional development of gifted learners.

**Summer Enrichment Fair: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 12-3, Shops at Worthington Place**

SWEPP (Supporting Worthington's Enriched Placement Program) is hosting its annual 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. All SWEPP members and attendees will receive a free directory of Summer/Enrichment opportunities.

For more information about SWEPP, please visit [www.swepp.org](http://www.swepp.org).

## 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 2019-2020 school year. On **Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM**, we will host parents of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be going to high school next fall, and on **Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM**, we will host parents of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be going to middle school next fall. Both transition nights will be held at the Worthington Education Center.



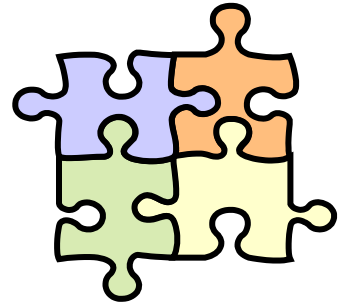
These transition nights provide an opportunity for parents to hear from various faculty members at the middle and high school levels regarding the social and emotional needs of the gifted adolescent and appropriate coursework and opportunities for gifted learners at each level. A representative will speak about the middle school math program which is not part of the Gifted Services program. These transition nights provide a smaller environment for parents to have dialogue about advanced learner issues before the formal scheduling process begins for students.

## 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](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/hoagies_kids.htm) - Lots of fun links to contests, reading lists, and more!

<https://www.setgame.com/> - Daily puzzle challenges to look for a “set of three cards” that are either all the same OR all different. Each card contains four attributes: color, shape, number, and shading. This is a fun game for the whole family to play>



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

[www.brainpop.com](http://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.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/> - Various educational videos and games on a variety of topics as well as a section designated specifically to animals and science experiments. Students can also visit this site for homework help.

<https://www.neok12.com/> - Collection of educational videos (including How It Is Made Videos), games, quizzes, diagrams and puzzles students will love

<https://ed.ted.com> – TED-Ed is an offshoot of TEDTalks. In a student section students learn about a number of brief videos on a variety of topics in all content areas. Each video is accompanied by multiple choice questions and open-ended questions as well as a “Dig Deeper” section.

[www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com) – The site encourages students to learn about what they want, when they want and at their own pace through a series of video lessons and tutorials.

## Great Resources for Parents



**Ohio Association for Gifted Children – [www.oagc.com](http://www.oagc.com)**

**National Association for Gifted Children – [www.nagc.org](http://www.nagc.org)**

**Hoagies Gifted Education Page – [www.hoagiesgifted.org](http://www.hoagiesgifted.org)**

**Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted (SENG) – [www.sengifted.org](http://www.sengifted.org)**

**Supporting Worthington's Enrichment Programs and Parents [www.swepp.org](http://www.swepp.org)**

**Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) – Center for Talent Development – [www.ctd.northwestern.edu](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu)**