



GIFTED ADVOCATE

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Dear Worthington Families,

Happy 2020! It is hard to believe that we are now more than half way through the 2019-20 school year. I am sure that this second half of the year is going to go as quickly as the first half. When I reflect upon this first half of the year, I am grateful for the number of positive interactions I have had with parents, students, teachers, and administrators to support our gifted learners here in Worthington.

Over my years here in Worthington, I found that often times there is this belief that gifted must equal EPP and that if a student is not receiving services in EPP Math, then he or she must not be gifted. I often get questions when communications come from Gifted Services, such as why are you sending me this? My child is not in EPP. While, yes, a student must be identified as gifted in the areas of superior cognitive ability and math for service in EPP Math, we have a number of students within the district who are identified in superior cognitive ability, but not in math. Or a student may be identified as gifted in social studies or in the area of visual and performing arts. These students, whether served in formal programming or not, are still a part of the community of gifted learners here in Worthington. The information shared in this publication is intended to be a resource for you as the parent, administrator, or teacher of a gifted learner.

Often times, we will have parents and teachers reach out to the Gifted Services Department for recommendations about various after school or summer activities to help nurture the interests of our gifted learners. This issue of the Gifted Advocate will provide you with some great suggestions to accomplish just that.

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 2020!

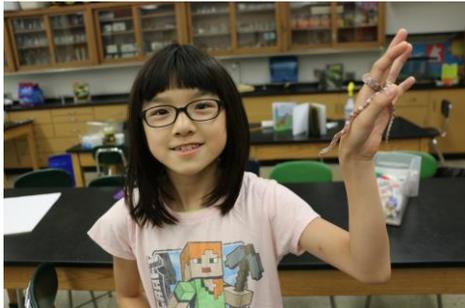
Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator

Summer Opportunities

For Elementary & Middle School

Sixth Annual Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy

We are excited to announce the return of the Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy for the sixth year in a row. We have experienced great growth and program enhancements over the last five summers. This one week program, open to all students currently in grades K-8, will be held the week of June 1-5, 2020. 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 Current 6th - 8th 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 6th, 7th, and 8th 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 7-12, 2020 – current 6th and 7th Grades
- June 14-19, 2020 – current 7th and 8th Grades
- June 21-26, 2020 – current 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 the School Form filled out for your child, however, please allow 48 hours response time for submission of that form. Tuition for the 2020 camp is \$680 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, 2020**. 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 7th Grade Females Only

B-Wiser Science Camp at The College of Wooster

B-Wiser Science Camp is offered at The College of Wooster to females who've just **completed the 7th grade**. The camp runs from Sunday, June 7th through Friday, June 12th, and is a residential camp with courses with a full laboratory experience in the areas of science and engineering. Campers will experience classes in robotics, physics, biology, chemistry, geology, and scientific model building. Cost of the program is \$515. Scholarships available for those who qualify for the federal reduced-lunch program. For more information, visit <https://bwiser.spaces.wooster.edu/>.

For High School Only

2020 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted **Applications due April 10, 2020**

The 2020 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 14-20, 2020

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@wsccloud.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 is a local non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide the opportunity for gifted students to participate in activities that families may not otherwise be able to afford. They will begin accepting applications for scholarships on February 1st. Deadline to submit an application will be **April 1st**. 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 15th**. You can find more information about this scholarship by visiting the [OAGC Scholarship](#) page of their 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, 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 15nd**, at the 7th 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.

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 for more information on required elements, including the student journal.

Destination Imagination Teams Formed



Gifted Services is very pleased to announce that **14** teams will represent Worthington Schools at the **March 7, 2020 Destination Imagination Region 4 Tournament 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 Teams coached by Linh Pham
Bluffsvew Team coached by Erin Lombard
Bluffsvew Team coached by Julie Lovegrove
Colonial Hills Team coached by Paul McCormick and Rosanne Nagel
Evening Street Team coached by Stephanie Rawlings
Evening Street Team coached by Anna Patituci
Evening Street Team coached by Chloe Beck
Wilson Hill Team coached by Diane Hundt, Alex Annarino, and Melissa Ogden
Wilson Hill Team coached by Katie Gast and Karrie Mowery, and Tracey Tashjian
Wilson Hill Team coached by Angie Decker
Wilson Hill Team coached by Melissa Parker
Worthington Hills Team coached by Darren Adams
Worthington Park Team coached by Christein Rees

Each team is required to secure a team appraiser. 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. 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 Late Registration – Due February 21, 2020

Advanced Placement exams will take place Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 15. **Students may still register for exams through their My Payments Plus accounts.** Cost for each exam is \$140 unless a student is on free/reduced lunch.



The deadline to submit applications to the College Board for **special accommodations** is **January 17th**. 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 860 exams were administered in Worthington and this year over 1000 exams have been ordered to date for the 2020 AP exam administration window.

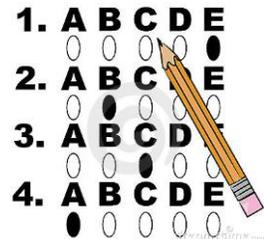
OAGC College Scholarship Award

The Ohio Association for Gifted Children (OAGC) is a non-profit organization with a mission to promote and support the development of gifted students. Each year OAGC awards college scholarships to Ohio students identified as gifted in one or more of the following areas: cognitive ability, specific academic ability, visual/performing arts, or creative thinking. Students must also be about to enroll fulltime in their first year of college or are currently enrolled fulltime in an undergraduate program of an accredited university. An ACT composite of 27 or higher or SAT composite of 1200 or higher is also required for students to be eligible to apply for the college scholarship. Information about the college scholarship can be found at: <http://oagc.com/scholarship.asp>. Applications for the scholarship are to be submitted no later than **April 15, 2020**.

Mark Your Calendars for these remaining 2020 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 8, 2020 at Thomas Worthington High School**
- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING – May 4 – May 15, 2020**
- **SAT HIGH SCHOOL TEST - June 6, 2020 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.

Special Viewing and Discussion of the Film *2E: Twice Exceptional*: January 22nd, 7:00 PM, Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road

2E: Twice Exceptional is an award-winning documentary following the journeys of middle and high school students who have been identified as twice exceptional (gifted with learning disabilities or differences) as they navigate the school system and their twice exceptionalities.

Summer Enrichment Fair: February 9th, 12-3, Shops at Worthington Place

SWEPP 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.

Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Colleen Boyle: March 26th, Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road

Topic To Be Determined – More Information to Come

For more information about SWEPP, please visit 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 2020-2021 school year.

- **Tuesday, January 21st, 6:30 PM**, we will host parents of 8th grade students who will be going to high school next fall
- **Thursday, January 23rd, 6:30 PM**, we will host parents of 6th 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.

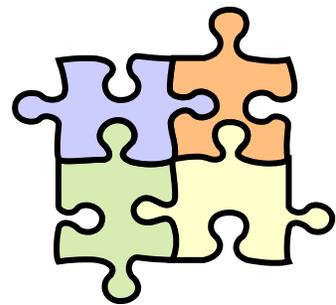
www.hoagiesgifted.org/hoagies_kids.htm - Lots of fun links to contests, reading lists, and more!

<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 - 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 - 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 – 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

National Association for Gifted Children – www.nagc.org

Hoagies Gifted Education Page – www.hoagiesgifted.org

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

Supporting Worthington’s Enrichment Programs and Parents www.swepp.org

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