



# GIFTED ADVOCATE

February 2021

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Dear Worthington Families,

Happy 2021! It is hard to believe that we are now more than half way through the 2020-2021 school year. Many of us are thankful to see 2020 in the rearview mirror and are optimistic that 2021 will bring a sense of normalcy that we have been missing. Despite the pandemic, the first half of the school year seemed to fly by and the second half of the year is going to go just as quickly. 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, especially given these unprecedented circumstances.

Over my years here in Worthington, I found that often times there is a belief that in order for a student to be gifted, that student must be participating in EPP math and that if a student is not 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 vice versa. 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 2021!

Suzanne Palmer, Gifted Services Coordinator

# Summer Opportunities

## ***For Elementary & Middle School***

### 7th Annual Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy

We are incredibly excited to announce the return of the Worthington Summer Enrichment Academy in 2021! While we had to take last summer off due to the pandemic, we are looking forward to hosting this amazing program once again! We have experienced great growth and program enhancements over the years and can't wait to welcome students back this summer, whether in person or virtually or both!

This one week program is open to all students currently in grades K-8. WSEA will be held the week of June 7-11, 2021. Due to the construction occurring at our middle schools, the location is to be determined.

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.

WSEA information, including registration details and course offerings, can be found by visiting the [Worthington Summer School website](#) in the coming weeks. Check back frequently for updates!

We hope to see you at WSEA this summer!



**For Current 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**OWjL Camp Registrations Available

Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 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 6-11, 2021 – current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Grades

June 13-18, 2021 – current 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

June 20-25, 2021 – current 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 2021 camp is \$680 with full and partial scholarships available, based on need.

Applications will be accepted through their OWjL Application Portal, found on their website: [OWjL Website and Application](#) .

**Applications must submitted on-line by February 28<sup>th</sup>.** 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade and includes courses with a full laboratory experience to empower their skills in both science and engineering.

Through cooperative learning, students take a full daily curriculum with classes in engineering, physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and scientific model building that boost their self-confidence in the sciences. The girls have the opportunity to interact with female career exemplars who share their journeys in many areas of science and then each evening the girls participate in hands-on experiments in programs involving boomerangs and physics.

The College of Wooster is currently working on plans for this summer. Given the fluctuating COVID situation, registration will be delayed until mid-February or possibly mid-March at the latest. We anticipate offering two shortened camp sessions from June 14-16 or June 18-20. Please check back again for updates. The cost of the program is \$350 with scholarships available based on need.

For more information, visit <https://bwiser.spaces.wooster.edu/>.



**Summer 2021**

The B-WISER Science Camp is a team-taught, hands-on residential experience in state-of-the-art science facilities for rising eighth grade girls.

**JUNE 14-16 or 18-20**



This premier camp, for girls who have just completed the seventh grade, includes courses with a full laboratory experience to empower their skills in both science and engineering.

Through cooperative learning, students take a full daily curriculum with classes in engineering, physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and model robotics building that boost their self-confidence in the sciences.

Each day the girls have the opportunity to interact with female career exemplars who share their journeys in many areas of science and the girls participate in hands-on experiments in programs involving boomerangs and physics.



Founded in 1990, B-WISER has inspired thousands of girls to pursue science courses and STEM

### APPLY NOW

BWISER.spaces.wooster.edu  
email: [mgrugel-watson@wooster.edu](mailto:mgrugel-watson@wooster.edu)

### Partnership & Scholarship

The B-WISER camp is an educational partnership of The College of Wooster, the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, and The Lubrizol Corp.

**APPLICATION  
DEADLINE  
MAY 10, 2021**

Additional funding for scholarships and programming is donated by the Noble Foundation, Dr. Lois Cook, the American Chemical Society Section #223, the Kathryn Rieder Fund, and United Titanium.

1189 Beall Ave., Wooster, OH 44691 • (330) 263-2105 • [BWISER.spaces.wooster.edu](https://bwiser.spaces.wooster.edu)

## **For High School Only**

### **2021 Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted and Talented™ Ashland University**

**WHO?** 2020-2021 high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors who **will be 2021-2022 sophomores, juniors, and seniors**

**WHAT?** The Martin W. Essex School for the Gifted and Talented™ at Ashland University is **TRANSITIONING** to a new home, moving from Otterbein University to Ashland University.

The design of the school is also **TRANSFORMING**, taking the best from the past Essex Schools and the past Governor's Summer Institutes.

**Each morning**, a keynote will set the stage for leadership experiences through the lens of change. The **afternoon** will be devoted to daily, in-depth small-group instruction in a topic of passion by an expert in the field. This mentorship will be carried throughout the afternoons of the 5 days of Essex. **Evening activities** will focus on Essexers telling their stories.

**WHEN?** **June 20-26, 2021**

**WHERE?** Virtually, with zoom and VirBELA platforms

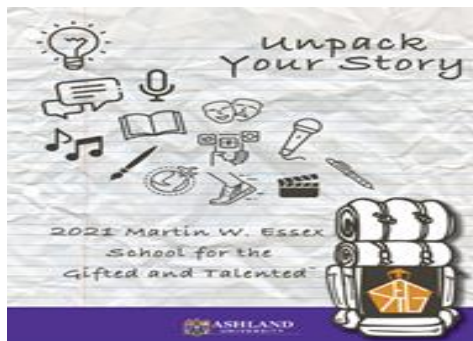
Check out VirBELA at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuOBgzJeQj0>

**HOW?** **Apply by March 15, 2021**

The application can be obtained by visiting the Worthington Gifted Services [website](#), or by contacting either of these directors:

**Dr. Jennifer Groman** at [essex@ashland.edu](mailto:essex@ashland.edu) or **Dr. Patricia Farrenkopf** at [pfarrenk@ashland.edu](mailto:pfarrenk@ashland.edu)

**The cost for the weeklong Essex experience is \$150; financial aid is available**



**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. Scholarships applications are now available online and the deadline to submit an application will be **April 30th**. 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.



## 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!

At this time, the [Invention League](#) is also planning a virtual Invention Convention for the regional and state level competitions. [Registration](#) for this free event will be from March 30th - April 30th, 2021. Judging will take place May 9th - 23rd.

While Worthington Schools will not be participating as a district this year, students are still welcome to participate by participating through the [2020-21 Ohio Independent Inventor Program](#). For more information visit the [Invention League](#) website.



## Destination Imagination Teams Formed



Destination Imagination, a program designed to encourage a team of students to be creative, curious and critical thinkers, has had to get creative and revamp its program in this time of a global pandemic. Gifted Services is very pleased to announce that **FIVE** teams will be participating in the virtual tournament this DI season.

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

**Bluffsvew** Team coached by Linh Pham

**Bluffsvew** Team coached by Julia Lee

**Evening Street** Team coached by Anna Patitucci

**McCord** Team coached by Joe Manning

**Worthington Park** Team coached by Lauren Southerland

## 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 26, 2021**



Advanced Placement exams will take place Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 14. **Students may still register for exams through their My Payments Plus accounts.** Students must also join their AP course code in the College Board Account in order for an exam to be ordered. Cost for each exam is \$140 unless a student is on free/reduced lunch. No exams can be ordered after February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **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, 2021**.

### **The Columbus Foundation Scholarship Opportunity**

The Columbus Foundation is proud to offer the ***Carol Strip Whitney Scholarship*** for gifted children. For more information, please check their website: <https://cfprograms.smapply.io/prog/whitney/>

- Candidates must be graduating high school seniors with a minimum 3.25 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale; or graduates with a 3.0 GPA in college.
- Candidates must be residents of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, or Ohio.
- Candidates must participate in extracurricular activities.
- Candidates must be considered gifted, as denoted by the parent ID letter from their school district.
- Candidates must demonstrate high moral character in his or her daily life.

Other scholarships are available through the Columbus Foundation. For more info, please click here: [www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarships](http://www.columbusfoundation.org/scholarships).



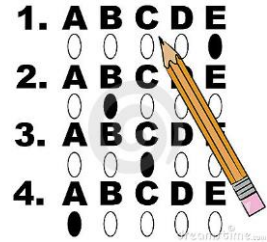
THE COLUMBUS  
FOUNDATION



## **Mark Your Calendars for these remaining 2021 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.

- **ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTING – May 3 – May 14, 2021**
- **SAT HIGH SCHOOL TEST - June 5, 2021 at Worthington Kilbourne High School**

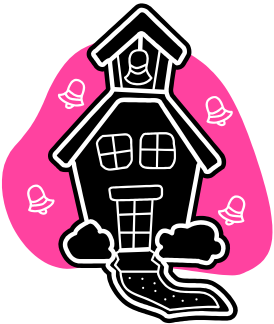


**For Parents**

# 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. SWEPP would really appreciate you taking part in a brief [SURVEY](#) to better help them support you as the parent or guardian of a gifted learner. Please take a couple of minutes to provide your feedback.



### **Parent Transition Informational Sessions** **Scheduled to Assist Parents with Planning for Next Year**

This winter the Gifted Services Department will release video presentations in lieu of in person transition nights due to the pandemic. These videos will assist parents and their children with plans for the 2021-2022 school year.

The videos can be accessed here: [Transition Night Presentations](#). Currently only the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Night videos are available. Once the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade videos are available parents/guardians of identified gifted 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will be notified.

These presentations 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 sessions 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 (and Covid), 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 box. Challenging on-line games are also available on the site.

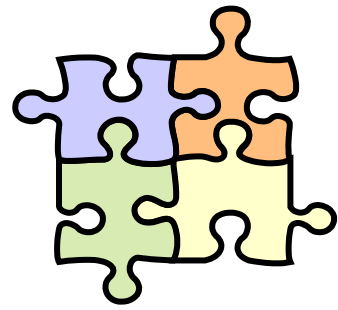
[www.brainpop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) - While subscriptions are needed to access everything on this site, there is still plenty of free information available, including games, puzzles, movies for all content areas.

<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)**

Be sure to check out the [Parent TIP Sheets](#) from NAGC. The Timely Information for Parents Sheets are available at no cost for parents to download and read. Research suggests that our gifted students can sometimes experience increased anxiety, sadness or intense feelings in times of change. [The Supporting Your Gifted Child During COVID-19](#) TIPS sheet is a great resource for helping parents to navigate this most challenging time.

**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)**