

# A quick look at the Kent Academically Talented Youth Program (ATYP)

## What is Kent ATYP?

Kent ATYP is a *highly accelerated* Math or Language Arts program, providing students demonstrating unusual academic promise and passion for math or language arts an opportunity to study in greater depth and complexity, at a much faster pace, with students of similar abilities. It is based on the Johns Hopkins Talent Search model. Similar programs also are available at Western Michigan University, Hope College, Michigan State University, and Central Michigan University.

## How are students identified?

To qualify for Kent ATYP, students must meet SAT or ACT math and/or verbal or composite score requirements and commit to completing challenging (5 to 10 hour) homework assignments every week. Motivation to undertake this rigorous class is usually a determining factor for success in the ATYP. Students with scores at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on a nationally normed grade-level achievement test qualify to take the SAT or ACT with other middle school students through the Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (N.U.M.A.T.S.). In districts where no nationally normed standardized tests are given, MEAP scores (minimum required MEAP scores are in the NUMATS registration packet and website, [www.ctd.northwestern.edu](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu)), or parent or teacher nomination is sufficient. Students may elect to take the SAT or ACT with high school students without participating in NU Midwest Academic Talent Search, but parents must then take responsibility for making sure Kent ISD receives their student's scores, if Kent ATYP participation is a reason for testing.

## Scores that start the qualifying process:

### For Math

<i>With</i> prior Algebra:	SAT Math $\geq$ 560 Math+Verbal $\geq$ 1040 Not currently above 7th grade.	or	ACT Math $\geq$ 21 Composite $\geq$ 21
<i>Without</i> prior Algebra:	SAT Math $\geq$ 530 Math+Verbal $\geq$ 1010 Not currently above 7th grade	or	ACT Math $\geq$ 20 Composite $\geq$ 21

Due to the strong Algebra strand now included in the 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Level Content Expectations, qualifying scores were changed upward in 2009 and/or vary by student's current grade level. Starting spring 2009, to further qualify for ATYP math placement, a group normed problem solving test score will also be required. This test will be administered by Kent ISD ATYP staff in late May or early June.

### For Language Arts

SAT Critical Reading $\geq$ 520	or	ACT English + Reading $\geq$ 46 (English and Reading scores each at least 22)
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## What are the classes like?

Class instruction occurs in an intense two hour and ten minute class meeting each Wednesday during the school day, during the school year. Classes are held at the Kent Career Technical Center, 1655 East Beltline NE. **Math:** Content is offered as a three year sequence. Students beginning Algebra with Kent ATYP/Math complete enriched Algebra I and II courses in the first year and a greatly enhanced study of Geometry with additional topics rarely studied by high school students in the second year. In the third year, students do an expanded and enriched study of Pre-Calculus and Statistics with an introduction to Calculus and additional topics not usually studied in high school mathematics. All Math courses are designed to align with the High School Content Expectations (HSCE) a will align with the new Common Core for Mathematics, when course sequences are finalized. It is recommended that following ATYP students return to their base high school for AP Statistics and AP Calculus (BC recommended), usually followed by Dual Enrollment. Kent ATYP Math courses meet and exceed Michigan High School Content Expectations.

Coursework for Math includes lively group discussion with students of similar ability, regular five-ten hour weekly homework assignments to solidify concepts introduced in class, frequent quizzes, and both teacher

constructed and standardized achievement tests. Kent ATYP/Math students are supported by call-in tutoring available on Sunday and Tuesday nights and by optional study tables held at Kent ISD on Monday evenings.

**Language Arts:** Content is offered as a three year sequence concluding with an enriched 11<sup>th</sup> grade course developed around AP Language & Composition guidelines (English and world literature). Year I includes many elements of a college freshman writing course and meets or exceeds High School Content Expectations (HSCE) for grade 9 with an emphasis on American Literature. Year II builds on Year I with a continued focus on American Literature and meets or exceeds HSCE for Grades 10. Year III is a fast-paced AP-type course, which balances the students' need for challenge with age and level of maturity. In our first three years, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010, most ATYP Language Arts III students opted to take both the AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition exams and earned passing scores on both.

Coursework includes lively group discussion, exploration of age-appropriate, but stimulating, literature and the craft of writing as well as presentation skills. Challenging weekly writing and reading assignments are expected to be completed. All Language Arts students are supported by regular contact with the instructor and participate in movie and discussion nights one Monday per month. LA I students also have a Language Arts extension night one Monday per month.

### **Helpful timelines:**

**October to December 15<sup>th</sup>:** Register online for NUMATS testing.

**JANUARY to MAY:** All qualifying testing *must be completed by April for scores to arrive for consideration. We will no longer be able to accept scores for consideration after May 15th. Counselors are encouraged to inform potential ATYP students, who take an ACT or SAT outside of NUMATS, to provide a copy of their scores to Kent ISD ATYP staff for consideration in early May. Counselors and teachers will be contacted for input into the selection process in early May.*

**MID MAY:** Invitations to the next level of testing will be sent to potential ATYP students by Kent ISD ATYP staff in mid May.

**LATE MAY:** Parent meetings and problem solving testing date at Kent ISD.

**EARLY JUNE:** ATYP qualifiers will be notified in early June, while counselors are still available to help with scheduling and transportation issues.

**MID JUNE:** ATYP Registration Forms due to Kent ISD. Responsibility Agreement Forms due to Kent ISD.

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER:** Students and parents participate in a late August orientation night. ATYP classes begin the first week of school, September 5<sup>th</sup> in 2012.

For more information about Kent ATYP and Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search contact:

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For more information on NU Midwest Academic Talent Search contact:

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