

Dear Parents:

Your child is invited to take part in the **Minnetonka Academic Talent Search Program** by taking the **SAT or ACT Test** as a 7th or 8th grader who is 13 years of age or older at time of registration. Your child has been selected for this opportunity because of her/his strong academic record and because he/she may benefit from above-grade level testing and other high-level academic opportunities available through this program. Only 7th and 8th graders who are 13 years of age and older *at the time of registration* may participate. This is the requirement of the testing organization.

#### The goals of Minnetonka Academic Talent Search are:

1. To provide students with an opportunity to discover more about their academic strengths and use this information when planning for academic pursuits.
2. To identify academically talented students who might benefit from additional enrichment program options and provide information about those options from Northwestern University.
3. To provide recognition and encouragement to those students with exceptional mathematical and/or verbal and/or writing ability.

Because we can no longer be a test site center for either exam you will benefit from taking either exam at a time and a site most convenient for your student's schedule. Below you will find the possible dates for each exam with a link to learn details of registration deadlines.

**ACT:** Dec. 11 – Feb. 12 <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/pdfs/Test-Date-Schedule-National-2021-2022.pdf>

**SAT:** Dec. 4 – March 12 <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

The family is responsible for the fees involved. This year there are no financial aid funds available for either exam as they are reserved for Juniors and Seniors.

#### Why should your child take part in the Minnetonka Academic Talent Search?

1. You and your child will receive a **more realistic appraisal of the student's math, verbal, and writing abilities** in comparison with other high ability students of the same age. After we receive our copy of the results, usually in early May, we will provide you with the current year's statistics by grade level and subject area in comparison to Minnetonka and Midwest 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who took the test.
2. Many grade level standardized tests do not discriminate well among academically talented students. The SAT and ACT, however, are very difficult tests and therefore allow students to showcase their academic talent areas.
3. Minnetonka students who score at or above the average scores of all students who participate in the **Midwest Academic Talent Search** will be **awarded certificates as Minnetonka Scholars** and recognized at an awards ceremony in late May.
4. Students identified as *Minnetonka Scholars* will receive information about **online and summer academic enrichment opportunities** from the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University.
5. Test results can also be used to **make decisions regarding future educational plans**.
6. Scores from this ACT/SAT **are not** used for Honors, Accelerated or Advanced Math courses in the Minnetonka Schools.

This year there are different procedures for registering. Students/Families will need to complete two-step registration; **STEP 1:** Register with the Center for Talent Development (CTD)-the assessment and program organization with whom we work, and **STEP 2:** Register with the ACT or SAT testing.

CTD also offers enrichment services for high ability students in the Midwest.

There are two fees:

SAT: the CTD Assessment Resource fee: \$50 and the SAT exam fee: \$55 = \$105.

ACT: the CTD Assessment Resource fee: \$50 and the ACT exam fee: \$60 = \$110

These fees do not differ from past years.

If your child is interested in registering for the ACT or SAT exam or both, please follow:

[CTD Registration Guide](#) (STEP 1)

[ACT Registration Guide](#) (STEP 2)

[SAT Registration Guide](#) (STEP 2)

These Guides can be found on the MME or MMW school website under Extracurricular and then Academic Talent Search.

This invitation is being sent to those students in the High Potential/Advanced Learner Program, Honors, Advanced Math and Accelerated courses and SHOULD NOT be shared with students other than those who have been invited. These invited students have met the established criteria given to us by the CTD organization. This is not an opportunity appropriate for any student. They must qualify and meet criteria.

**Students who have an IEP or a 504 plan** may apply to receive **special accommodations**. If this is of interest to you, please do not delay in registering. **Deadlines for special accommodations are 7 weeks prior to test date.** This is necessary to gather paperwork and fill out the application with the testing organization, enabling the testing institution to review the application and support documentation in order to grant accommodations.

***If your child applied and was approved last year for special accommodations with the ACT or SAT, you DO NOT need to reapply. However, PLEASE inform Deborah Zachman ASAP.*** Additionally, your child MUST be currently using the accommodations you are requesting and will need to be verified by school staff and the 504 coordinator or Special Education case manager.

**Please contact Deborah Zachman as soon as you register in order to begin gathering materials.**

Further information about:

1. **Above Grade Level Assessment** at CTD and Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) Program <https://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/sat-above-grade-level-testing>
2. **Center for Talent Development (CTD)** and their variety of programs <https://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/>
3. **ACT** <https://www.act.org/>
4. **SAT** <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>

If you need to contact one of us, please do so by email.

Thank you. Deborah

Deborah Zachman  
Minnetonka Academic Talent Search Coordinator  
[deborah.zachman@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:deborah.zachman@minnetonkaschools.org)

Margaret McDonald  
MMW Advanced Learning Coordinator  
[margaret.mcdonald@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:margaret.mcdonald@minnetonkaschools.org)

Gina Nelson  
MME Advanced Learning Coordinator  
[gina.nelson@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:gina.nelson@minnetonkaschools.org)