Your students are invited to participate in
Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS),
the most prestigious program identifying, rewarding, and meeting the needs of gifted children throughout the Midwest.

What is NUMATS?
Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) is beginning its 36th year of providing a gateway to opportunity for high-ability students in grades 3-9. The program offers

- above-grade-level assessment via PSAT™8/9, SAT®, and ACT® that pinpoints what high-achieving students know and are ready to do academically
- access to a personalized, online MyCTD Toolbox account with
  - test preparation materials including NUMATS Student Guide
  - test scores and grade-level NUMATS comparison percentiles in a downloadable file
  - NUMATS Statistical Summary
  - guidelines for academic and career planning
  - resources to facilitate differentiated instruction (educators)
  - information about parenting gifted students (parents)
- student and teacher recognition
- access to CTD Backpack, an interactive online community for gifted students and their families

Why above-grade-level assessment through NUMATS?
Grade-level tests, including state and popular computer-adaptive exams, do not have sufficient ceiling to measure the full extent of high-achieving students’ knowledge. In contrast NUMATS assessments provide the data needed to accurately

- unmask exceptional potential
- determine zone of proximal development
- differentiate instruction
- match students with appropriate programs and opportunities

- monitor academic growth
- demonstrate the impact of services for accountability purposes

In addition, a survey of NUMATS parents indicated the top three reasons they registered their children for our program:

- gain practice on a high-stakes test
- find out more about the nature and extent of their abilities
- experience the intellectual challenge of taking an assessment designed for much older students

How can you help your students participate in NUMATS?
Seventy percent of NUMATS participants learned about our program from district/school personnel, so you have a very important role to play. Remember parents generally pay the cost of NUMATS participation. Also the tests take place on weekends; i.e., they do not take away from instructional time. Give your parents the opportunity to choose whether their children participate.

- Identify eligible students (see tables for criteria based on grade-level test results; additional eligibility criteria listed on our website).
- Complete, photocopy, and send our enclosed letter along with our NUMATS Family Fact Sheet 2017 to their parents (see tables for test dates, registration deadlines, and fees; a test center lookup is available on our website).
- Monitor registrations and access test results in your MyCTD Toolbox account.
- Remind students to take their test center admission ticket and, for SAT/ACT only, the student identification form to the test center.
- Distribute NUMATS recognition certificates in an awards assembly.
Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

Test Criteria to Determine NUMATS Eligibility*

* Other criteria are available on our website.

Nationally Normed Tests*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADE</th>
<th>VERBAL/READING, MATH, OR COMPOSITE (CATEGORIES OR SUBCATEGORIES)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>≥ 92nd percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-9</td>
<td>≥ 90th percentile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Examples include CogAT, ITBS, MAP, Terra Nova, etc.

State Achievement Tests*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE(S) WHEN TAKEN</th>
<th>ILLINOIS</th>
<th>INDIANA</th>
<th>MICHIGAN</th>
<th>MINNESOTA</th>
<th>NORTH DAKOTA</th>
<th>OHIO</th>
<th>SOUTH DAKOTA</th>
<th>WISCONSIN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PARCC LEVEL</td>
<td>ISTEP+ LEVEL</td>
<td>M-STEP LEVEL</td>
<td>MCA PERCENTILE</td>
<td>SBAC LEVEL</td>
<td>OHIO STATE TESTS LEVEL</td>
<td>SBAC LEVEL</td>
<td>FORWARD EXAM LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 - Exceeded</td>
<td>Pass+</td>
<td>PL 4 - Advanced</td>
<td>≥ 92th</td>
<td>4 - Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-8</td>
<td>5 - Exceeded</td>
<td>Pass+</td>
<td>PL 4 - Advanced</td>
<td>≥ 90th</td>
<td>4 - Advanced</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Verbal/reading or math results (categories or subcategories) may be used.
**Guide to Above-Grade-Level Assessments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADE</th>
<th>SHOULD TAKE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-6*</td>
<td>PSAT 8/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>SAT and/or ACT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Test recommendations for repeat participants in grade 6 are available on our website.

### Registration Deadlines, Test Dates, and Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEST</th>
<th>REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE</th>
<th>LATE REGISTRATION PERIOD</th>
<th>TEST DATES</th>
<th>REGULAR FEES²</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSAT 8/9</strong></td>
<td>October 23, 2016</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>December 10, 2016</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 4, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 14, 2017</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>January 15, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SAT³</strong></td>
<td>August 29, 2016</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
<td>October 1, 2016</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 4, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>November 5, 2016</td>
<td>$40 (Without Essay)</td>
<td>$45 (with Essay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October 31, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>December 3, 2016</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 18, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 21, 2017</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 7, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>March 11, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 4, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 6, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 4, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td>June 3, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT⁴</strong></td>
<td>August 3, 2016</td>
<td>August 4-16, 2016</td>
<td>September 10, 2016</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$82.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 14, 2016</td>
<td>September 15-27, 2016</td>
<td>October 22, 2016</td>
<td>$42.50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 2, 2016</td>
<td>November 3-15, 2016</td>
<td>December 10, 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 11, 2017</td>
<td>January 12-17, 2017</td>
<td>February 11, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 1, 2017</td>
<td>March 2-14, 2017</td>
<td>April 8, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 3, 2017</td>
<td>May 4-16, 2017</td>
<td>June 10, 2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ACT assesses a late fee of $27.50 during late registration periods.
²Refunds are not provided for regular fees or late fees.
³SAT Essay is optional and may be added in the NUMATS registration process; NUMATS percentiles are not provided.
⁴ACT Writing is optional but may be added by contacting the testing agency if the registration is completed by the regular deadline; cost is $16; NUMATS percentiles are not provided.

### Test Centers

Look up available test centers by location and date at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers.
How can NUMATS help your school and your students participate?
Full information on these and other services is available on our website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats.

School Test Centers
As a convenience to your students, you can establish a PSAT 8/9, SAT, or ACT test center at your school. Requirements and deadlines vary.

School Payment Plans
Some schools choose to pay the NUMATS fee and/or test fee for students who do not qualify for financial aid. To offer this option, complete and return a School Payment Form for either online (preferred) or paper registrations.

Financial Aid
Requests for financial aid are made in the registration process. It is available on a first-come first-served basis for one test per school year to students who qualify for a federally subsidized program such as free or reduced-price lunch. NUMATS fee waivers are available for all three tests. Test fee waivers are available for SAT and ACT only.

An eligibility letter stating that the student qualifies for financial aid, written on school letterhead and signed by a school official, is required to complete the registration. NUMATS must receive the letter by the regular registration deadline for the chosen test date.

Non-Saturday Testing
Requests for non-Saturday testing are made in the registration process. It is available to students whose religious observance prohibits Saturday testing. A letter from clergy requesting this option is required to complete the registration. NUMATS must receive the letter by the registration deadline for the chosen test date.

The January 15, 2017 PSAT 8/9 test date is open to all students in grades 3-6. Those who request this non-Saturday test date for religious reasons and submit a letter from clergy will qualify for priority seating.

Special Accommodations
Requests for special accommodations are made in the registration process, and registration deadlines can differ from those shown in the table. Special accommodations may be made for students with a disability that requires special testing tools or an exception to standard testing procedures. Testing agencies may require the submission of documentation; they determine allowable accommodation(s) and/or whether allowable accommodation(s) can be provided.

Grade 9 Registrations
Students in grade 9 who register for the ACT may do so in the one-step process; i.e., they are able to complete their registration for NUMATS and the test itself via the NUMATS registration process. Both NUMATS and test fee waivers are available for qualified students.

However, students in grade 9 who register for the SAT must do so in a two-step process; i.e., after completing their NUMATS registration, they must register for the test itself directly through the testing agency. Only NUMATS fee waivers are available for qualified students.

How can you find out more about NUMATS?
E-mail numats@ctd.northwestern.edu
Phone 847/491-3782 ext. 3
Fax 847/467-4283
Website www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats
MyCTD Toolbox https://my.ctd.northwestern.edu

Northwestern Center for Talent Development
School of Education and Social Policy