

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY MIDWEST ACADEMIC SEARCH
NUMATS ~ WWW.CTD.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/PROGRAM/NUMATS
PSAT 8/9 AND SAT TESTS

In an effort to support our higher achieving student population, we have a partnership with Northwestern University Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) which supports our Gifted and Talented Program (GATE). NUMATS is a research-validated, above-grade-level testing program that offers the PSAT 8/9 and SAT tests to eligible students in grades 3 – 8. Data gathered and instruction provided is geared toward students receiving instruction on grade levels beyond their peers.

Students in grades 3 - 8 are identified as potential candidates for the program. Eligibility is based on at least two of three criteria: achievement test scores, nomination by a teacher and GATE program participant. Students currently enrolled in ELA or Math Accelerated classes at Colin Powell are eligible. The selected students are then provided online registration information and assessed using the PSAT 8/9 (for students in grades 3 - 6), or the SAT (for students in grades 7 and 8). The SAT has replaced the EXPLORE test that was previously offered. We will no longer take the ACT, as students now take the SAT test as juniors in the State of Illinois.

Studies show there are definite and large ability differences among students who score in the top 10 percent on grade-level tests. When these students take tests meant for older students, the differences are more apparent, and instruction can be better adapted to meet their individual needs. Although participation in NUMATS is voluntary, students like your child can benefit from:

- Information about their academic ability that grade-level tests do not provide
- Academic planning and resource options based on their scores
- Information about educational programs for gifted students
- Experience and practice taking the PSAT 8/9 and SAT, which are used for high school placement and college entrance

We are pleased to announce that again this year, Marya Yates School will be a test center for the PSAT 8/9 test on January 29, 2019, for 3rd through 6th grade students! If your 7th or 8th grade student will be taking the SAT test on December 1, 2018, the closest test center is Homewood Flossmoor High School. If your student would like to take the SAT on March 9, 2019, the test center will be located at Marian Catholic High School or Homewood Flossmoor High School. Please note that if your student is in 7th grade and wants to apply for the Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship through Northwestern University, the test must be taken in December to be considered.

If you have any questions concerning the testing process, or the value of participating, please contact Mrs. Lisa O'Donovan, GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Coach, at lodonovan@dist159.com.