

**The Summer Gifted and Talented Program is intended for highly motivated and academically gifted/talented students entering grades 2-8 and 9-12 in the Fall. Courses are one-week long (9:30am-3pm, M-F), and there are 4 weeks of course offerings in Math, Science, Writing/Humanities, and Fine/Performing Arts, plus a HS week dedicated for rising 9-12th graders.**

Students may apply by **Test Scores** (submit nationally-normed standardized test score(s) in the 95%ile or above in the applied subject area), or by **Admissions Portfolio** (includes the addition of 1-2 teacher recommendation forms(s), report card, and sample work as applicable).

Not all schools identify for gifted and talented. Identification or participation in a gifted program is *not* required, but many participating students have been identified by their schools and/or the Midwest Academic Talent Search.

For **1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>** grade students, a combination of ability (IQ) and achievement tests can be submitted in lieu of standardized tests that haven't been administered at these grade levels.

Please refer to **question #5** for a sample list of acceptable ability and achievement tests.

**1. What are the REQUESTED program dates for Summer 2018?**

HIGH SCHOOL WEEK: June 11-15 *or* July 23-27

Week 1: June 18-22

Week 2: June 25-29

Week 3: July 9-13

Week 4: July 16-20

**2. How/When do I apply?**

In an effort to acknowledge and address the early deadlines that many area summer programs and camps have established, Summer Gifted will release Early Registration materials around mid-February. We recognize that in establishing an earlier registration, many students will not be able to submit current and nationally-normed standardized test scores with their application, and may need to submit additional supporting materials such as teacher recommendations (refer to Teacher Recommendation Form).

Early registration and Summer Program Application materials can be downloaded, printed and then *postal mailed only* to Dominican University. We do **not** accept faxed or emailed applications, and applications delivered in person will be processed in line with postal mail.

Applications are reviewed on a weekly and first come, first serve basis. Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing and review.

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Summer 2018 Program Application materials and details can be found on our website:  
[educate.dom.edu/gifted-talented](http://educate.dom.edu/gifted-talented).

The normal registration period takes place during Spring Break (end of March) when standardized test results are released to schools and Summer Gifted course descriptions and faculty biographies are provided online, [educate.dom.edu/academics/gifted-talented](http://educate.dom.edu/academics/gifted-talented)

**3. How much is tuition? Is there a discount for Dominican University employees?**

Each course/week is \$300. Students who participate all 4 weeks receive a tuition discount at \$1100 total.

Dominican University employees receive a 10% discount on tuition. There is a checkbox to indicate DU employment and a valid DU employee email is required for validation.

**4. My child is already a straight A student. Shouldn't I let her have a break from school when she's so bored by it in the first place?**

It is a common misconception that gifted students will be alright on their own because they are smart enough to just figure it out themselves. Unfortunately, this is truly not always the case! Gifted students need guidance and relevant opportunities to learn just as much as anyone else, *they just need it in different ways*.

It is also a misnomer that all gifted students learn alike- which is to say, quickly and at higher grade levels than their peers. While generally true, this does not capture the full picture. The learning styles of gifted students vary just as much as their same-aged peers or adult learners. Some are visual learners, while some are auditory. Perhaps some are kinesthetically or artistically inclined; maybe others are drawn towards numbers, have a way with words, and/or have a keen understanding that the world around them is complex and connected. Gifted does not necessarily mean well-rounded in all areas, or even, in more than one area. *Gifted does not necessarily mean motivated*.

It is important to tap into student interests, and allow them the independence to learn in a meaningful way. Students learn most effectively when they can apply their knowledge, and for the gifted student, *discovery-based learning* can unleash an infinite degree of conceptual and applied understanding, and develop critical thinking, logical reasoning and analytical skills, and the ability to draw important connections.

For the gifted child, school can be an isolating experience if they are not exposed to other like-minded peers, and not challenged by an appropriate level or pace of instruction. It is important to inspire the joy of learning, and develop healthy study skills, time management, and organization. Without guidance, a gifted student can just as easily fall through the cracks, develop low self-esteem and a fear of failure, or even struggle with learning difficult

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new tasks because they seldom had to apply themselves before, and now lack the confidence to try.

Whether she earns straight A's or straight F's, *if a student is bored*, then what does she ultimately take away from the learning experience?

**5. What kind of standardized test scores are acceptable for admissions consideration?**

Test scores should be standardized achievement tests with nationally-normed percentile rankings including but not limited to PARCC, ISAT, ITBS, Terra Nova, MAP NWEA, and/or off-level EXPLORE, SAT, and ACT tests.

For 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, evaluations by licensed testers consisting of ability and achievement testing, and assessment of social skills and maturity, can be submitted as Test Scores. IQ scores alone are NOT sufficient and should be supplemented with a teacher recommendation. Narrative evaluations from similar gifted and talented program participation (includes Summer, Saturday, or online academic programs for Gifted) CAN be submitted as a form of teacher recommendation.

Some common examples of IQ and achievement scores include (but is NOT limited to):

(IQ/Ability) → Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test; Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities-III; Cognitive Abilities Test or \*CoGAT; Otis-Lennon School Ability Test or OLSAT;

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children or WISC-IV; and Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scales V (Achievement); Weschler Individual Achievement Test or WIAT; Wide Range Achievement Test or WRAT; Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement; or Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Achievement-III

\*CoGAT can also provide predicted achievement scores when administered with the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

**6. As a rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, my child has not taken standardized tests at school. My child qualified for and participates in another summer gifted program with a reading score in the 99%ile and a math score in the 97%ile. Is it necessary to submit teacher recommendation forms?**

Many students in preK-3 do not have the opportunity for standardized achievement testing in their schools. The Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University offers gifted assessment testing for preK-3 grade students using the Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement with the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test. The combined report and special inventory of social skill development assessed in this test is ACCEPTED by the Summer Gifted and Talented Program at Dominican as a Test Score submission for preK-3 grade applicants. CTD offers testing in OPRF by appointment.

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If your preK-3 grade student has NOT been tested by CTD, then equivalent achievement and IQ scores provided by a licensed tester, psychologist, talent search, or child development center can be submitted. Please note that an IQ test without an achievement score will NOT be accepted as a test score alone, and will need to be accompanied with a teacher recommendation that speaks to the student's ability to successfully participate in/contribute to the selected course(s).

Please note that students without standardized test scores, or Talent Search scores/identification, should apply as Admissions Portfolio applicants, and provide 1-2 teacher recommendations and the most recent report card to support their eligibility for enrollment. Refer to question #5 for a sample list of acceptable tests and evaluations.

**7. I do not have an official score report for my child's standardized testing. What should I do?**

A school official (principal/office admin, counselor, or teacher) may simply confirm your child's test, test date, and scores by entering the scores on the application and providing a signature with contact information for confirmation.

**8. Does my child attend different classes each day? How do we select classes?**

Students are enrolled in ONE CLASS PER WEEK (generally assigned as Math, Science, or Verbal reasoning) based on their demonstrated academic area of strength, but may rank their preferences for classes or weeks, as some classes/weeks fill to capacity more quickly than others. If a student is approved but the class selections are closed, an alternate course choice/week will be recommended and/or the student will be placed on a selected wait list with notification.

While classes are primarily categorized to reflect Math, Science, and/or Verbal Reasoning skills, many of our courses are thematically integrated courses and often blend subject areas (for example, an architecture course with foundations in critical math and science principles, may also include activities in history, literature, and drafting/drawing, etc.)

**9. How do I select the appropriate grade band for my child?**

Our grade bands are based on the grade the student will enter in the Fall. Students will NOT be enrolled in courses that are below their grade band, as that would be considered remediation. The intention of Summer Gifted courses is to identify and develop academic strengths in highly motivated and gifted students while instilling the love of learning.

A rising 4<sup>th</sup> grader is eligible for courses in the 3/4 and 4/5 grade bands. Because Summer Gifted courses are geared towards students who are capable of working 1-2 grade levels above their chronological grade, it is not necessary to "inflate" student grade level for an appropriate selection.

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When considering whether to choose the “younger” or “older” grade band, take two main factors into consideration:

- (1) The course topic that most interests your child, including your child’s background knowledge of the course subject
- (2) Your child’s social maturity and subsequent ability to successfully participate and contribute to a class with mixed aged students

**10. Can I change a class after my child has been accepted?**

In order to switch classes, simply submit a written request to the Director or Gifted Office. If a seat is available in the newly requested course and the student qualifies, the switch will be honored if class has not started. At times, a class switch may require additional information and/or teacher approval.

Class switches during the program week are not guaranteed, and will be at the discretion of the Director and instructor(s) for approval.

**11. Is lunch provided?**

Students are required to bring their own non-perishable sack lunch, while we will provide a healthy daily snack and drink option. We discourage students from utilizing the University vending machine as it creates too much unnecessary distraction, so we appreciate parental support and cooperation in packing a nutritious and satisfying lunch that will fuel our students in a positive way. Snack time is often allotted during the class time, so consider providing your child with an extra snack for snack time or afterschool.

*Please be aware that there are a variety of food allergies amongst our students, including fatal dairy, shellfish, and nut allergies; please label lunch bags accordingly and refer to teacher notifications prior to class start!*

**12. My child took a class last summer and loved it. The class is offered again this summer and she still meets the grade band level. Can she take the class again?**

There are a few cases in which a student may repeat a class. Upon request, it will be determined whether or not the student will be able to participate, contribute, lead, and grow in repeating a specific course. Teacher approval is mandatory in the decision making process.

**13. We are working parents. What are drop off/pick up times, and are there extended hours available?**

We offer Early Morning Drop Off beginning at 8:15am for a nominal fee. Regular drop off time is at 9:15am, with class beginning at 9:30am after attendance and morning dismissal.

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Regular pick up time is at 3pm. An Extended Day Program option is available for students who participate in After School Chess and Games Club until 5pm for a fee. Extended Day participants meet their Instructor at the Pick Up Location to take attendance. Extended Day participants are escorted back to the Pick Up Location by 5pm.

**14. I heard about this program from my neighbor and would like to enroll my child. What if his school is not on the mailing list? How do I get more information?**

It is not necessary for students to apply through their schools, although a great majority of students do. Students may go directly to our website, download application forms and apply via Test Scores or Admissions Portfolio.

We are always expanding our school list and recruitment efforts to identify eligible students and grow our learning community. You and your school can contact the Gifted Office to be added to our mailing list and request program materials and/or school visit.

**15. What does a typical day look like at the Summer Gifted and Talented Program?**

8am	Summer Gifted Office Opens/Program Staff Arrive
8:15am	Early Morning Drop-Off at Igini Sports Forum
9:15am	Regular Morning Drop-Off at Igini Sports Forum
9:30am	Class Day Begins
10:15am	Physical Education (PE is staggered by grade level throughout the day)
11:30am	Lunch/Recess
12:30pm	Class Day Resumes
2:50pm	Classes dismiss to Igini Sports Forum (w/instructor supervision)
3:00pm	Afternoon Pick-Up
3:15pm	Extended Day Chess and Games Club takes attendance and dismisses
5:00pm	Extended Day Pick-Up

**16. I suspect my son is gifted but we go to a private school and unfortunately they cannot offer much in the way of differentiated learning. This year he took the MAPS test for the first time and his scores ranged from 93 and 98%. He is very skilled at solving all kinds of Rubik's cubes, he makes up complicated card tricks, and recently started coding on Python on his own. My husband and other sons love sports so we have no idea what to do with this kid and I want to make sure I'm giving him every advantage. Who do I ask? Should I have him tested and explore other opportunities for learning? Should I find another school for him? Please send me any resources or advice that may be helpful. Thank you so much.**

The gifted population represents 5% of our total population, so the fact that your son is scoring in the 93rd and 98th percentile on his standardized tests speaks loudly. There's no need for additional testing at this time.

It sounds like your son enjoys immersing himself in learning new things! Our summer **SUMMER GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM AT DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY**

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program will definitely offer courses that could be of great interest to him (Intro to Python & Pi; Genius of Geometry; Pi & the Great Pyramid; SketchUp Architecture; and Chess Masters).

Until then, be sure to check in with your child's teacher(s) about how he is doing in school and if he's being appropriately challenged. Perhaps there are ways his class assignments and projects can have more advanced objectives, for example. Continue to support and encourage his interests in puzzles, coding, and logic! There are numerous after school or Saturday programs that offer enrichment courses that may interest him, but be careful not to push too quickly - recognizing and feeding his natural interests will benefit him more than force feeding someone else's conceived interests.

Does he have like-minded friends? Are they classmates, or does he gravitate towards older students, or even adults? Does he enjoy going to school? School can be an isolating place for gifted students, and can sometimes lead to negative attitudes towards learning. At Summer Gifted, our singular mission is to foster the love of learning.

- 17. My daughter is milk, egg, fish, pork allergic, and self-carries an Epi-Pen and Benadryl. We are looking for a writing-based camp, perhaps drawing, so I can't imagine those camps would be using food as a teaching tool (let me know if I'm wrong). Are your counselors trained in giving Epi-Pen should that need arise? What is usually the healthy snack offered?**

Student Medical Notes can be detailed in the application form, providing program staff with critical information concerning food allergies, asthma, or daily medications. Each teacher receives a class roster that includes such medical notes, and precautions are taken accordingly. Classes with food allergies are notified ahead of time to refrain from packing foods that will trigger allergic reactions. Separate food bins are available for classroom as needed. A separate allergy free food table next to the teacher table is also available for students each program week. Families can detail in the Medical Notes whether students should sit at the allergy free food table, or whether they can be permitted to sit with friends and not share food.

During the program day, program staff act in loco parentis. There is no program nurse on duty. Epi-Pen and Auvi-Q trainers are provided to all teachers during Orientation for practice administration, and teachers are expected to identify a Plan of Action with applicable students on the first day of class, based on student age/maturity and family preferences. A medical bin is provided during PE classes for cool and safe keeping of supplies. The more details we receive regarding student issues (medical and academic), the more informed we are in making the best decisions!

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## SUMMER GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Students are required to bring their own non-perishable sack lunches so individual food allergies can be avoided. Each day, we provide healthy snack options such as apples, clementine oranges, carrot sticks, and fruit juice. Each Friday, fruit-based popsicles are served to celebrate our week of having fun while learning.

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