Welcome to Duke TIP! You should be very proud of what your child has accomplished to be invited to join the 2019–2020 7th Grade Talent Search. This opportunity probably also raises a lot of questions for you about how to best support your young scholar going forward. At TIP, we are not only here to serve academically talented students, but also their families.

Where Do I Go from Here?
As a talent search participant, your child will take either the ACT or SAT this academic year. Please review The Talent Search Experience for Students to learn how your child can get ready for this above-level testing experience.

After taking the ACT or SAT, students receive two reports to interpret their scores: one from the testing agency, which will compare scores to college-bound high schoolers; and, in June, a more detailed score results summary prepared by Duke TIP that allows families to understand how students performed relative to other seventh graders in the talent search. This score results summary offers suggestions for further academic development based on your child’s scores, should your child need more challenge. The above-level testing experience gives you valuable information when looking at educational options that may be appropriate and available to your child. To review last year’s report, please visit tip.duke.edu/7scores.

Educational Programming with Duke TIP
We know academically talented students often need more challenge and enrichment. We’ve developed a reputation as one of the leading organizations in the world for providing these students with accelerated academic programming. These programs also have associated fees, but need-based financial aid is available. Some of our programs also have a minimum ACT or SAT qualifying score requirement. Here’s an overview of some of our educational programs.

Summer Studies (grades 7–10) is a three-week residential summer program. It’s TIP’s longest-running and largest program, taking place on college campuses across the country. Advanced classes combine coursework and residential activities in order to meet the academic and social needs of gifted students.

eStudies (grades 7–10) is an innovative seven-week online summer program with small classes, live course meetings, and daily interaction with an expert teacher. It offers advanced academics through live chats, discussion boards, blogs, and email.

Scholar Weekends (grades 7–11) are intensive two-day weekend courses taking place during the academic year, giving students the chance to explore a topic not typically covered in school. There are no minimum score requirements and it is a great way to supplement classroom learning with accelerated coursework while allowing students to sample in-depth advanced topics in preparation for choosing a college major or career path.

Independent Learning (grades 4–12) allows students to challenge themselves academically, on their own time and at their own pace, in Algebra 1 or over twenty languages.

For more detailed information about TIP’s educational programs, including specific eligibility requirements, visit tip.duke.edu/programs.
Advanced Placement Courses

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is run by the College Board, which also administers the SAT. Students can take AP courses in one subject or many subjects, depending on their abilities and schedule. Currently, there are thirty-eight courses offered across a variety of subject areas. Typically, students take AP classes because they offer a higher level of instruction, accelerated learning, and may result in earning college credits, depending on the university they eventually attend. (Learn more at collegeboard.com/apcourses.)

International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers an education for students from age three to nineteen, comprising of four programs that focus on teaching students to think critically and independently, and how to inquire with care and logic. The IB prepares students to succeed in a world where facts and fiction merge in the news, and where asking the right questions is a crucial skill that will allow them to flourish long after they’ve left high school. IB programs are in almost 5,000 schools in over 150 countries around the world. (Learn more at ibo.org.)

Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment allows high school students to enroll in college courses while still in high school, simultaneously earning high school and college credits. The college-level coursework challenges students with rigorous content and pace, and allows them to experience a slice of college life while still living at home. Some dual enrollment programs are offered in traditional high school settings with regular classroom teachers serving as adjunct university faculty. Other programs take place on community college or university campuses. Personnel at your local high school should be able to tell you whether this option is offered in your area or not.

Help your student create an effective precollege academic plan: visit tip.duke.edu/readyforcollege.

Visit TIP’s Gifted Today blog at giftedtoday.org for recent research on gifted education and practical advice based on that research. Visit TIP’s Opportunity Guide at tip.duke.edu/opportunity-guide to find resources for contests, educational programs, and scholarships of interest to high-achieving students.