Thank you for everything you do. The work you do is among the most important in the world. We know you are facing some big challenges right now, but we know that the families of gifted kids need Duke TIP now more than ever as well.

We’re asking you to help us identify and notify academically talented students who would benefit from joining Duke TIP. Find everything you need inside.

You can also visit tip.duke.edu/foreducators to get started.
WHAT IS DUKE TIP?

We’re a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing academically talented students and fostering their intellectual and social growth. We’re part of Duke University and have been since our founding in 1980. In that time, we’ve helped over three million gifted students. We help them welcome new challenges that stretch their academic abilities. We help them forget about fear of failure and take academic risks. And we help them find new interests and learn more about current interests than they ever thought possible. All told, we help students take pride in their academic accomplishments and strive for ever greater achievements in the future.

Yes, Duke TIP is about helping gifted students reach their full potential through academic enrichment. But it’s also about a frame of mind, an attitude. To be a TIPster is to approach the world in a particular way—with openness, understanding, curiosity, and a drive to improve yourself and your community. In fact, our vision is a world where academically talented individuals flourish, transforming their communities and the world. That takes more than talent. That takes commitment—and TIPsters have both.

What is a TIPster? The simplest explanation is that a TIPster is what a student becomes when they join Duke TIP. The more nuanced definition is this:

**TIPster**

[ˈtipstәr] noun

Etymology: TIP n + -ster suffix

Origin: Formed within English, by derivation

1. Any one of the over three million people who has participated in the Duke University Talent Identification Program since 1980.
2. Any such person who embraces their academic talents and—by way of intellectual curiosity, risk-taking, perseverance, and an openness to different perspectives—applies them to improving their community and the world.

We depend on you to identify today’s TIPsters. See how on page 1.

WHAT’S NEW IN 2020–2021?

**Simplicity**

In past years, we had a 7th Grade Talent Search and we had a 4th–6th Grade Talent Search. This year, we’re excited to announce one talent search that serves all TIP students in grades 4–12 and is a single entry point into Duke TIP. Any eligible student in any grade between fourth and tenth can join Duke TIP at any time through our new combined Academic Talent Search. Enrollment is open all year round. Once a student enrolls, there is no need to ever re-enroll.

We’re also debuting a new enrollment system called My TIP. This doesn’t really change what we’re asking you to do, but it should make the enrollment process simpler and faster for families. Educators should not create a My TIP account to enroll students; parents must enroll their own child under their own account.

**Affordability**

In addition to fee waivers for families who participate in free or reduced lunch programs, or who receive any number of other forms of financial assistance, TIP has been working hard to make above-level testing and other services more affordable for TIP families. We have also significantly enhanced our inclusion policies so that all academically talented students, regardless of their economic background, can participate fully in TIP. See page 5 for details.

Families can now choose to enroll in Duke TIP through an optional program called TIP’s Savings+ Plan. This annual plan offers discounts on tests and educational programs and waives all program application fees—providing savings to families with multiple students or students who want to participate in multiple programs.

**Expanded Testing Choices**

In past years, taking the ACT or SAT was required for seventh-grade TIPsters. That’s changing this year. All above-grade-level tests will be optional add-on features, with need-based financial assistance for testing fees available. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders can take the PSAT 8/9. Seventh and eighth graders can take the ACT or the SAT. Ninth graders can take the ACT, but not the SAT.
WHAT ARE WE ASKING YOU TO DO?

We rely on educators like you to identify your academically talented students and notify them of the opportunity to join Duke TIP. Here’s how:

**IDENTIFY.** You can do this a couple of different ways:

» We are looking for students who have an excellent score on a state assessment (95th percentile and above).
» We are looking for students who have an excellent score on a grade-level, national standardized test (95th percentile or above).
» We are looking for students who have scored 125 or higher on an IQ test.
» We are looking for students who have been identified as gifted and talented in academic and intellectual ability through their school.
» Since many of these tests were canceled this past year, and since a test is not the only mark of academic talent, we also encourage you to refer any student you think would benefit from joining Duke TIP. Simply check the Educator Referral box on the letter you send home to parents.

**NOTIFY.** Use the invitation available for download at tip.duke.edu/educatortoolkit and send the good news home to all eligible students, either printed out or by email. Don’t worry if a student may already have joined Duke TIP before. The invitation provides important updated information on above-level testing opportunities and other benefits that they need to see. Once you’ve identified a student and notified their parents, it’s up to them to complete the process. They’ll do everything online at my.tip.duke.edu.

**CELEBRATE.** Many schools choose to hold local awards assemblies to honor their TIPsters. Head to tip.duke.edu/educatortoolkit to download a ceremony script, certificate template, and press release template.

**SHOW YOUR PRIDE.** Duke TIP provides participating schools with a web badge you can place on your school's website as well as other options for showing your surrounding community that your school stands for academic excellence.

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**Using Test Scores**

If you identify a student based on a state, national, or IQ test score, remember this:

- They only need to meet the criteria on one approved subtest-area to be eligible (e.g., Math or Verbal).
- They may qualify using scores from any time in the past two years—for example, a sixth grader may use scores from either fourth or fifth grade.
- You can go to tip.duke.edu/qtest to find the qualifying scores for any of our dozens of accepted tests.

**Using the Educator Referral Option**

If you’re considering the Educator Referral option for a student, you should ask yourself the following questions:

- Has the student demonstrated that they can successfully complete their regular grade-level coursework without much effort?
- Has the student demonstrated that they can perform academic tasks typically associated with older students?
- Has the student performed exceptionally well in academically demanding coursework in their school or homeschool?
- Has the student demonstrated a consistent need for additional academic challenge?

If the answer to one or more of these questions is “yes,” the student would probably benefit from joining Duke TIP.

Please note that we will not send printed materials to you via U.S. mail this year. All materials will be available in digital form only at tip.duke.edu/educatortoolkit.
ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

When the students you identify and notify join Duke TIP, they gain access to a whole range of special activities and resources. But we also provide resources to the public that students, families, and teachers everywhere can use free of charge. Joining Duke TIP means contributing to a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the state of gifted education for all.

FREE RESOURCES

Gifted Today
tip.duke.edu/giftedtoday
Featuring two decades’ worth of original research, news from the field of gifted education, plus advice on meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of academically talented students.

Teachers Workshop
tip.duke.edu/teachersworkshop
A blog for educators featuring advice on classroom challenges, best practices, tips, and free lesson plans.

Opportunity Guide
tip.duke.edu/opportunityguide
Provides students, parents, and educators with information on educational programs designed for academically talented youth as well as contests and competitions of interest to gifted students.

Just the Facts
tip.duke.edu/justthefacts
A series of research-based handouts that explain the core issues affecting gifted education programs in America today.

Research Bibliography
tip.duke.edu/researchbibliography
A compendium of books and articles written by Duke TIP’s research team, with sections on program evaluation, talent identification, characteristics of gifted youth, self-concept, gender, motivation, testing, and research methods.

EXCLUSIVE RESOURCES FOR TIP FAMILIES

All of these resources are available for TIP families once they join TIP and log on to my.tip.duke.edu.

Included when students join Duke TIP

Navigator
GRADeS 4 5 6
These online monthly publications explore new subjects through feature articles, interviews with experts, and opportunities for TIPsters to contribute.

Insights
GRADeS 7 8 9 10 11 12

Writing and Illustration Contests
GRADeS 4 5 6
Each year, we give students a writing prompt, and they blow us away with their creativity. Then, students submit illustrations based on the winning stories.

Book Club
GRADeS 4 5 6
Students read current, age-appropriate literature alongside other gifted and talented TIPsters. We provide activities and guided reading questions to help connect the book to other subjects, foster discussion, and develop critical thinking skills.

Continued on next page.
Academic 411

GRADES 4 5 6

Provides advice on how to navigate school as an academically talented student. It covers topics like making friends, bullying, and important skills.

Ready for College Blog

GRADES 7 8 9 10 11 12

Our college-prep blog, including advice directly from Duke University’s admissions office and scholarship opportunities for gifted students.

Benefits available to all TIP families for an additional cost

eInvestigators

GRADES 4 5 6

Crack the case! Students use innovative online tools to solve a real-life mystery over the course of four weeks—whether that means diagnosing a patient, taking part in a criminal trial, locating buried treasure, or more.

eStudies

GRADES 7 8 9 10

Our innovative take on distance learning, pairing the flexibility of digital platforms with the attentive feedback of a small classroom. Students form a community through group collaboration, independent study, and dialogue with peers and expert instructors in live sessions.

PSAT 8/9

GRADES 4 5 6

This test, designed for 8th and 9th graders, helps parents understand the extent of their children’s abilities. Starting this year, all above-grade-level tests are optional add-on features.

ACT

GRADES 7 8 9

These are the very same tests that high school students take as they prepare to apply for college. Taking these tests early can provide crucial insight into gifted students’ strengths and abilities. It’s also a low-stakes way to take these tests without having to send your results to any colleges or universities. Starting this year, all above-grade-level tests are optional add-on features.

CRISIS*

GRADES 4 5 6

Students join a “research team” to tackle a hypothetical community crisis. The week-long residential program combines this fun, engaging academic approach with supportive residential activities.

Summer Studies*

GRADES 7 8 9 10

A three-week residential program for high-achieving students that takes place at college campuses. Qualifying ACT or SAT score required.

Weekend Programs*

GRADES 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Daylong sessions for students looking to explore new subjects through hands-on and project-based learning.

*Please note that we canceled our in-person programs in 2020, including CRISIS and Summer Studies, to keep our families and staff safe and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. While we hope to be able to offer our weekend and residential programs again soon, we will continue to proceed with caution and follow guidelines set by government agencies and by Duke University.
HOW THE PSAT 8/9, ACT, AND SAT CAN HELP YOUR STUDENTS.

Starting this year, all above-grade-level tests are optional add-on features.

Grade-level exams can only measure whether students have mastered grade-level material—they can’t tell you how far above grade level a student’s abilities might go. But an above-grade-level test can.

That’s why Duke TIP offers its Academic Talent Search participants the opportunity to take the PSAT 8/9 (4th–6th graders), the SAT (7th–8th graders), or the ACT (7th–9th graders). These exams are an essential diagnostic tool for younger gifted students, often revealing important nuances about their academic strengths and educational needs. Read more about the tests, including how to choose which test to take, test center locations, and how students should prepare, at tip.duke.edu/testing.

Students who score exceptionally well on these tests receive certificates, medals, and/or pins to commemorate the achievement. Details on recognition levels are available at tip.duke.edu/recognition.

Special notice: To prevent the further spread of COVID-19, test centers will have limited capacity in the fall of 2020 and will have to prioritize testing for college-bound high school students. Duke TIP students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT 8/9, ACT, and SAT beginning in the winter and spring of 2021.

TEST DEADLINES

<table>
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<th>PSAT 8/9 (4th, 5th, and 6th graders)</th>
<th>ACT (7th, 8th, and 9th graders)</th>
<th>SAT (7th and 8th graders)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost: $45</td>
<td>Cost: $60</td>
<td>Cost: $57</td>
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Students who qualify for a fee waiver and join Duke TIP for free get one PSAT 8/9 test at a 50 percent discount and one free ACT or SAT test.

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<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Online Enrollment Deadline</th>
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<td>April 17, 2021</td>
<td>March 26, 2021</td>
<td>May 8, 2021</td>
<td>April 5, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COST AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Joining Duke TIP costs $50. That’s a nonrefundable, one-time fee that families pay regardless of what grade their child is in when they join.

This $50 fee does not include any above-grade-level testing. Fourth, fifth, and sixth graders can take the PSAT 8/9 for an additional $45. Seventh and eighth graders can take the SAT for $57. Seventh, eighth, and ninth graders can take the ACT for $60.

Both new and existing TIP families can choose to enroll in TIP’s Savings+ Plan. This optional add-on, which costs $150 annually, offers discounts on the PSAT 8/9, the ACT, the SAT, and educational programs, and also waives all program application fees. When a family enrolls in the plan for $150, they immediately receive $150 in credit that can be used toward Academic Talent Search enrollments, test fees, and program fees. The Savings+ Plan provides savings to families with multiple TIPsters or students who plan to participate in multiple TIP programs.

Joining Duke TIP is free for any student whose family qualifies for a free or reduced lunch program, receives Section 8 housing assistance, receives TANF assistance, receives SNAP assistance, or qualifies for an Earned Income Tax Credit. These students also receive one PSAT 8/9 test at a 50 percent discount, as well as one free ACT or SAT test. Families may simply confirm their eligibility while enrolling.

Gifted students from low-income backgrounds may also be eligible for financial aid awards for our educational programs, thanks to support from our donors and grant partners. Our support doesn’t end when students enroll. We believe that all academically talented students should be able to join Duke TIP and participate in our programs. A diverse and inclusive community of learners is a better community for everyone. As a nonprofit organization devoted to bettering gifted education for all, Duke TIP is aware that very real inequities exist in our field. We are deeply committed to ensuring equity in both access and opportunity for all academically talented students, regardless of their family’s economic background.

TITLE 1 AND SPECIAL FUNDING

Many schools choose to pay their students’ enrollment fees using local Title I or other special program funding. We’re offering a group enrollment system to make doing so even easier. Schools can request unique group codes that their students can enter when enrolling online. One code will be for the student’s initial enrollment into Duke TIP, and a second code will be for all test registrations. You’ll be able to indicate which fees your organization wishes to cover and track your students’ enrollments online—meaning you’ll be able to review and approve all students who use your code. To learn more, see the Group Enrollment instructions at tip.duke.edu/educatortoolkit.

Learn more about our mission and how you can support it at tip.duke.edu/give.
We encourage you to consider working for us! Visit tip.duke.edu/jobs to find out about our current seasonal positions.

To update your contact information or sign up for email announcements, visit tip.duke.edu/schoolupdate.

Please stay in touch!

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