

Local seventh-graders earn national honors for top scores on college entrance exams

Forty-one Alachua County Public School 7th-graders have been recognized for earning high scores on college entrance exams, including seventeen who were among the top performers in the nation.



The students all took either the SAT or the ACT as part of the annual Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). The prestigious program identifies and honors high-achieving middle school students from across the nation. Nearly 49,000 seventh-grade students took part in the Duke TIP this year.

On May 8th and 18th, the program will recognize students from Florida, including the 41 from Alachua County Public Schools, whose scores were as high as the top-performing 50% of high school seniors who took the same tests. Recognition ceremonies are being held at the University of South Florida, Florida Atlantic University, and St. Leo University.

On May 21st, seventeen of those students will be honored at the Grand Recognition Ceremony on the Duke University Campus in Durham, North Carolina. All seventeen earned scores equal to or better than 90% of the high school students who took the tests. This year just 2600 students nationwide achieved such high scores.

“We are extremely proud to recognize our remarkably talented students who have demonstrated key aspects of their academic potential by achieving scores on the ACT or SAT approximately equal to the 90th percentile for college-bound high school seniors taking these tests,” said Duke TIP Executive Director Shawna Young in a news release. “As an organization, we cherish the opportunity to celebrate each of our ceremonies’ honorees for such an outstanding accomplishment.”

The State Recognition level students came from middle schools throughout the county, including Bishop, Ft. Clarke, Lincoln, Oak View, Kanapaha and Westwood.

Grand Recognition level students this year include: Katherine Canev, Samuel Cohen, Nicholas Dang, Rishi, Gadikota, Angela Gao, Claire Kuntz, Elizabeth Matthais, Ruoxi Qian, McKayla Ro, Akash Verma, William Xu and Chris Zou of Lincoln Middle School; Nathalie Judkins Cooke and Kate Millinor of Bishop Middle School; Tyler Holland of Kanapaha Middle School; Tucker Shea of Oak View Middle School; Akshara Sisodiya of Ft. Clarke Middle School.

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