



ROCKLIN ACADEMY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

TO: WESTERN SIERRA STUDENTS IN GRADES 6, 7, 8, AND 9

RE: ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH (ATS)

ATS is a non-profit program that offers over 120 courses each summer in both traditional and non-traditional subjects that are specially designed for two age groups: grades 6-9 and grades 4-5. Over the past 31 years, more than 39,000 students have participated in ATS. Last year, ATS granted over \$67,000 in financial support to students.

Students from all Rocklin Academy Family of Schools, grades 4-9 (grade level as of January 1, 2014) are invited to participate in Sacramento State's Academic Talent Search (ATS) Program, which provides current 4th-9th graders the opportunity to attend challenging, unique, and fun summer courses in a collegiate environment.

The Academic Talent Search Qualifying Exam will take place on Monday, February 1, 2014 at 1:00 pm, at our Western Sierra campus, 660 Menlo Drive, Rocklin. This is a minimum day so students should have enough time for lunch. Please arrive no later than 1:15pm! The test should last approximately one hour, but could vary depending on the student.

If interested, please fill out the enclosed registration form and return it to Western Sierra's office by the close of business on Friday, K

Each summer, more than 2,000 students take the opportunity to meet like-minded and motivated peers at ATS. Older students appreciate the opportunity to develop independence and responsibility, as ATS students have access to university facilities, like the library, student union, and bookstore.

A variety of subject areas are available for students in grades 6-9, including computer science, engineering, law, mathematics, performing arts, and the sciences. In some ATS math and foreign language classes, students can learn a year's worth of material in just five weeks. ATS recommends high school credit in some cases.

Students in grades 4-5 participate in compelling week-long courses designed to expand their knowledge and encourage their curiosity. Classes in algebra, chemistry, creative writing, critical thinking, engineering, and foreign languages are just a few of the offerings available to this age group.

For more information, visit the ATS website at <http://edweb.csus.edu/Projects/ats>, or find ATS on Facebook at [facebook.com/academictalentsearch](https://www.facebook.com/academictalentsearch).

Questions about registration?

Feel free to contact Jesenia Bomgardner at jbomgardner@rocklinacademy.org, or visit our website for more information, [Rocklin Academy, ATS](#).



California State University, Sacramento

Academic Talent Search (ATS)

Mailing Address: 6000 J Street • Sacramento, CA 95819-6098

Office Location: 7667 Folsom Blvd, Suite 2040 • Sacramento, CA 95826

Phone: (916) 278-7032 • Fax: (916) 278-5930 • Email: ats@csus.edu • edweb.csus.edu/ats



Like us on Facebook for up-to-date info and announcements! • facebook.com/academictalentsearch

Congratulations!

Your school has nominated you to participate in Academic Talent Search (ATS) at Sacramento State. ATS is a non-profit program sponsored by Sac State that receives no University, state, or federal funding. ATS offers exciting, challenging, and fun summer classes to academically advanced 4th through 9th grade students (grade level as of January 1, 2014). There are two separate programs: one for 4th & 5th graders and another for 6th–9th graders. In other words, a 4th grader will not be in classes with 9th graders. Since 1982, more than 40,500 students have taken advantage of the educational opportunities provided by ATS, and over 1,900 students applied last year to attend classes on the Sac State campus. In 2013, over \$59,000 in financial aid scholarships and fee waivers was granted.

To be eligible for ATS, all you need to do is be a current 4th through 9th grade student and take the ATS Qualifying Exam (*College Ability Test*). Students in 4th and 5th grade take the “intermediate” level exam, and 6th–9th graders take the “advanced” level test. It’s that easy! **Taking the test automatically qualifies you for ATS.** The test will assess your academic abilities and takes a little over an hour. **Test scores do NOT affect your school grades** and are mailed directly to your home three weeks after you take the test. Taking the test does not require you to attend ATS; it simply gives you the option to do so.

Your ATS School Representative (usually the person who gave you this form) can tell you when the test will be offered at your school. To register for the test, complete the back of this sheet and return it to your School Representative at least one week prior to the testing date. **On the day of the test, bring the \$15 processing fee with you (fees should not be submitted before the exam).** This fee covers the scoring of your exam and the mailing of your test results directly to your home. If you cannot afford the test processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Testing Fee Waiver*.

Again, congratulations on being nominated to participate in ATS! Additional information about ATS can be found on the *Information for Students and Parents* sheet (provided by your School Representative) or check out the ATS website. We hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity. If you have any questions, please call the ATS office at (916) 278-7032 or email ats@csus.edu.

Sincerely,

Scarlet P. Maurin
Director

Terry A. Thomas, Ph.D.
Executive Director

FYI

Because classes are filled top-score down, **ATS strongly encourages taking the test every year.** Your highest scores (from the appropriate level of the exam) will always be accepted, so there’s no risk in retesting!

*

Missed the test at your school?

Testing is also available on the Sac State campus (for a fee of \$15 per student) on the following Saturday mornings:

- February 8 • February 22
- March 1 • March 15

Have your parent/guardian complete the back side of this form so you can take the test.



- Return it to your ATS School Representative at least one week before the testing date.
- Don’t forget to bring \$15 cash, check* (payable to ATS), or money order to school ON the day of the test.

If you cannot afford the processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Testing Fee Waiver*.

* Please note: Returned checks are subject to penalty fees per University Enterprises, Inc.

What is the *College Ability Test*?

The *College Ability Test* is the same test that ATS has used for more than 25 years. Test results list data and rank comparisons that help identify special aptitudes which can be further developed. Students take the test level appropriate for their grade: current 4th and 5th graders take the “intermediate” level, and current 6th–9th graders take the “advanced” level.

If I have taken the test before, do I have to take it again?

If you are currently in grade 6 or above and last tested as a 4th or 5th grader, you will need to test again to take the “advanced” level exam this year. Because classes are filled top-score down, **ATS strongly encourages all students to take the test every year** (but it is not required). ATS will accept your highest scores from the appropriate level of the exam, so there is no risk in retesting!

How much does it cost to take the test?

There is a \$15 processing fee (payable to ATS **on** the day of the test) which covers the scoring of your exam and the mailing of your test results directly to your home. If you cannot afford the processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Testing Fee Waiver*.

About the *ATS Qualifying Exam* (College Ability Test)

The *College Ability Test* is a 40-minute, multiple-choice exam. There are two parts to the exam: a verbal section and a quantitative section. Each section has 50 questions, with 20 minutes allotted to complete each part. **The test is designed for older students, so you are not expected to know all of the answers or prepare for the test in any way.** The test helps assess your aptitude for learning—remember, the test results do not affect your school grades, so there is no risk in taking it.

• Verbal Section

The verbal section tests your knowledge of the meaning of words and your ability to identify relationships between pairs of words. You will be asked to find the pair of words that go together in the same way as the first two words.

Example

gym : exercise ::

a) cafeteria : eat

b) mall : sell

c) car : sit

d) auditorium : clap

Solution

To solve analogy questions, put the primary pair of words into a sentence which explains their relationship (“You go to a gym to exercise.”). Next, substitute the answer choices into your sentence until you create a sentence that makes sense. The correct answer is A: “Gym” is related to “exercise” as “cafeteria” is related to “eat.”

• Quantitative Section

The quantitative section tests how well you work with numbers. Each question has two parts (Column A and Column B). You must determine if the value presented in Column A is greater than the value presented in Column B, if the parts are equal, or if there is not enough information to decide.

Example

Column A

Value of 3 nickels
and 1 dime

Column B

Value of 2 dimes
and 1 nickel

A if the part in Column A is greater

B if the part in Column B is greater

C if the two parts are equal

D if not enough information is given for you to decide

Solution

The example is asking you to add. Since a nickel is 5 cents and a dime is 10 cents, in Column A, $5+5+5+10$ is equal to 25. This is the same answer as $10+10+5$ in Column B. Therefore, the answer to the question is C.



SACRAMENTO
STATE

ATS Test Sign-Up Form for 4th–9th graders

Parent(s): Please return this completed form to your School Representative at least 1 week before the test to secure your student’s spot.

Student Name:

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Mailing
Address:

Address

Apt #

City

State

Zip

Primary
Phone:

()

Parent
Email:

Current School:

Current Grade as of
Jan. 1, 2014 (circle):

4th

5th

6th

7th

8th

9th

Parent Name
(Printed):

Parent
Signature:



A message from your ATS School Representative:
