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## Local students selected for Gatton Academy

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The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science has selected 96 Kentucky sophomores for the Class of 2021, including four area students, according to a news release from the school.

Amadis Davis of North Hardin High School, Steven Reid Lunsford and Jazmine Moore of Elizabethtown High School and Jada Hunter-Hays of LaRue County High School will attend Gatton, located at Western Kentucky University.

Gatton Academy focuses on science, technology, engineering and math.

Applicants were evaluated based on ACT/SAT scores, high school grades, awards, extracurricular activities, responses to essay and short answer questions and letters of recommendation, the release said. The selected students scored an average composite of 31.66 on the ACT and 31.18 on the mathematics portion of the exam. The highest possible score is a 36. Both of these scores represent the highest for an incoming class in the school's history, the release said.

At the end of their two-year course of study, the students will graduate from high school with a minimum of 60 college credit hours. Gatton Academy is Kentucky's first state-supported, two-year residential program for high school students with interests in advanced science and math careers and is one of only 15 such programs in the nation.

Gatton Academy officials were excited about the incoming class.

"I am thrilled that each one of the 96 students has agreed to be a part of our community for the next two years," said Zack Ryle, assistant director for admissions and public relations at Gatton Academy. "The ability to offer this opportunity to these 96 bright students, which brings The

Gatton Academy to our funded capacity, is truly exciting. I look forward to seeing each student grow in immeasurable ways over their next two years and beyond.”