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EDITOR'S PICK

FEATURED

Metcalfe County's Magana accepted to Gatton Academy

BY WILL PERKINS wperkins@glasgowdailytimes.com 14 hrs ago

Cesar Magana, a sophomore from Metcalfe County High School, is one of 96 students from across Kentucky to be accepted into The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, which is located on Western Kentucky University's main campus in Bowling Green.

WILL PERKINS / GLASGOW DAILY TIMES



EDMONTON — Cesar Magana, a sophomore at Metcalfe County High School, was recently one of 96 students from across the state to be accepted into The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science.

The Gatton Academy, which is located on Western Kentucky University's main campus in Bowling Green, 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," according to a post on the Metcalfe County Schools website. "At the end of their two-year course of study, students will graduate from high school with a minimum of 60 college credit hours."

Magana told the Glasgow Daily Times that he first became interested in The Gatton Academy when his aunt told him about The Summer Camp for Academically Talented Middle School Students (SCATS), a two-week summer camp where students take classes while staying in the Gatton dorms.

“They kind of introduce a lot of the campers that go there to Gatton while they’re there,” Magana said, adding that he attended the camp as a rising eighth-grader, and then a similar camp — VAMPY (The Summer Program for Verbally and Mathematically Precocious Youth) — on WKU’s campus before his freshman and sophomore years.

“It’s lot of fun,” he said.

During SCATS, he took multiple classes, but Magana said he preferred VAMPY because “you had one class and you took it for like seven hours a day.”

“It’s super interesting because I got to hang out with kids that are my age, and they didn’t really know me — so they didn’t have any preconceived notions,” he said. “They didn’t know a thing about me, and it was nice to be able to go and meet these people and learn about people who were interested in the same things as me.”

Magana said he’s very excited for the kinds of classes he’ll be able to take at The Gatton Academy.

“I’m really interested in computer science,” he said. “I guess I’ve always just had kind of an affinity towards computers and code.

“I’m taking a computer coding class right now (at MCHS), and it’s nice to be able to put in all the code and everything works exactly how you want it to — as long as you code it correctly — and you can usually find out exactly what the problem is if it doesn’t.”

Magana said he would really enjoy making video games at some point.

Blake Spires, an English teacher at MCHS, told the Daily Times that Magana is “the kind of student that makes you a better teacher.”

“Anything you throw at him, he can handle. He keeps me pushing him so that he doesn’t get bored,” Spires said of the sophomore student, adding that his work ethic “goes above and beyond.”

“It’s rare that you see a kid who’s that smart, but that’s also that driven to make sure that he’s showing you what he knows.”

Magana said he began reading at a young age.

“I think I kind of got a head start on things,” he said. “I can usually just focus in on a class and get what I need to get out of it and get the concept.”

The sophomore said he’s always looking forward to the social aspect of his future school.

“It’s going to be nice to have a bit more freedom and also a few more opportunities,” Magana said. “It’s going to be nice to meet a bunch of people and make friends with a bunch of people.”

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