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Local students accepted into prestigious Gatton Academy

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The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science at WKU is a residential two-year program for highly motivated high seniors who have demonstrated their interest in pursuing advanced careers in STEM fields. Multiple west Kentucky selected for the academy's class of 2027.

WKU photo

BOWLING GREEN — Multiple west Kentucky high school sophomores have been chosen for the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science's class of 2027.

The academy at Western Kentucky University is a residential two-year program for highly motivated high school juniors and seniors who have demonstrated their interest in pursuing advanced careers in STEM fields. In a news release, WKU said 98 Kentucky sophomores have

been chosen for the academy's 20th incoming class.

Three students from Caldwell and Trigg Counties were selected - Caldwell County High School's Landon Cunningham and Elijah Thomas, and Trigg County High School's Kat Tellez.

Other students from far western Kentucky who were chosen include:

MCCRACKEN COUNTY

- Paducah Tilghman High School student Hutch Brown
- St. Mary High School student Ryan Goins

Calloway County

- Murray High School's Nate Dyer and Kade Wideman.
- Calloway County High School's Divine Ezinma, Maya Muñoz and Sean Williams.

Graves County

- Graves County High School's Gwen May.

Marshall County

- Marshall County High School's Scarlett Gardner.

Academy applicants were assessed based on their ACT or SAT test scores, WKU said, as well as their high school grades, awards and accomplishments, extracurricular activities, responses to essay and short answer questions, and recommendation forms. Candidates

were also invited to interview with WKU faculty members, community leaders from across Kentucky and Gatton Academy alumni.

“The members of The Gatton Academy Class of 2027 are outstanding students from across the state. They have demonstrated interest in STEM careers and are motivated to pursue the most advanced academic opportunities available in Kentucky,” a statement from Gatton Academy Director Lynette Breedlove read. “We are so excited to launch them toward their infinite possibilities.”

Those incoming Gatton Academy students will live in WKU’s Florence Schneider Hall in Bowling Green while they complete their junior and senior years of high school. Once they complete the two-year program, WKU said the students will graduate from high school with at least 60 college credit hours under their belts — and with associate’s degrees in interdisciplinary studies from the university.

Gatton Academy Executive Director Julia Roberts shared her excitement in a statement welcoming the next class of students set to further their education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through the program.

“What a pleasure it is to welcome a new class of students to The Gatton Academy,” Roberts said. “These exceptional young scientists and mathematicians will learn in an environment that offers advanced educational opportunities and develop as future leaders for the Commonwealth.”