



What did YOU do last summer?

Background

The **HATS Program** was established to provide engaging and challenging opportunities to gifted and high achieving students. To date, over 15,000 Florida students have participated in the HATS Program.

Our primary focus has been on: **1) above-level testing through BESTS** (Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search) in partnership with the Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa; **2) summer programs**; and **3) scholarships**. Most recently, we are especially proud to have added **Hatterdays** (“the academic alternative to Saturdays”) and the **Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop** in Hannibal, Missouri.



HATS has expanded to Hannibal, MO



HATS participants can expect fun and challenging classes that provide opportunities for inquiry and investigation. Bring your imagination and curiosity!

HATS Program 2007

Stetson University

Opportunities for Gifted and High Achieving 4th - 9th Grade Students



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HATS Program

HATS Program



www.stetson.edu/hats

HATS High Five

1. BESTS

The HATS Program serves as the liaison to the **Belin-Blank International Center for Gifted Education** and Talent Development at the **University of Iowa**. Through this partnership we are able to offer gifted and high achieving 4th-9th grade students the opportunity to take ABOVE-LEVEL tests. This is an excellent way for parents and teachers to finally understand how much these children have learned beyond the standard grade level assessments. Registration for BESTS occurs in the fall, and testing occurs in January, February, and April. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 take the 8th grade level EXPLORE test, and students in grades 7, 8, and 9 take the college entrance ACT assessment. Any student who has scored at or above the 95th percentile on a standardized test (such as FCAT) is eligible. Finally, with BESTS, you can “see what’s inside” that bright child’s head!



2. Summer Programs

Week-long programs are held throughout the summer at various locations in Florida. (See website for locations.) Classes vary from site to site and range from robotics to forensic science to creative writing and beyond. Cost is \$260 per week (\$160 for students receiving free or reduced lunch), which includes materials and a HATS T-shirt. Whether analyzing fingerprints, using GPS to explore geocaches, or learning conversational Spanish, one thing is certain - students will be having a great time with others who are also seeking a fun and challenging class with an enthusiastic and expert instructor. And yes, students are allowed to sign up for more than one class!



Environmental Studies at the springs

3. Scholarships

We offer three types of scholarships. First, all students who participate in BESTS and/or HATS Programs will receive \$1,000 per year (\$4,000 total) if they apply to and are accepted at Stetson University. Visit our website to learn about students who have already taken advantage of this generous scholarship. Second, for students who participate in BESTS each year, the top scorers will receive a summer scholarship to participate in a HATS Summer Program of their choice. And third, the Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop is a full scholarship program. (Details below and online.)

4. Hatterdays

Parents have asked us for years to provide a mini-version of our summer programs throughout the academic year, so we are proud to offer “Hatterdays - the academic alternative to Saturdays” once a month on Stetson’s DeLand campus. Classes run from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Cost is \$50 (discounts available - see website). A free parent session is held from 9:30 to 11:30 and is facilitated by experts in gifted education, child psychology, and other related fields.

5. Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop

Our newest scholarship program is the Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop. Students in grades 5-8 submit writing samples, which are evaluated using a blind review process. Twelve boys and girls are selected for the workshop to be held in Mark Twain’s hometown of Hannibal, Missouri. Working in partnership with the Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum, participants in this workshop experience the setting of Twain’s childhood as they learn how the author turned real life experiences into classic literature. Students are housed at Hannibal-LaGrange College. Their adventures include a riverboat ride on the Mississippi River, exploring the cave where the fictional characters of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher were lost, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Mark Twain Museum. HATS Scholarships cover all expenses including travel.



The famous “whitewashed fence” from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* is here at Twain’s boyhood home.



An open letter...

At Stetson, we are dedicated to helping the brightest children reach their full potential. If you share these values, please consider supporting the HATS Program through a tax-deductible contribution. These children will grow up to change the world in wonderful ways. We believe they will seek and find a cure for paralysis, compose literature that uplifts the spirit, and restore honor and integrity to a society that has been sorely challenged throughout the ages. Will you please join us in supporting these high achieving and talented students? Their future is in our hands.

Thank you for your interest and support,

Cindy Lovell Oliver, Ph.D.
Director of the HATS Program



Your contributions to support our scholarships are deeply appreciated.

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