

Winter 2008 Saturday School Registration is Now Open!

Winter session classes will meet on Saturday mornings for 9 classes January 12 – March 15, 2008.

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| • December 15, 2007 | deadline for early winter registration |
| • January 4, 2008 | last day to register |
| • January 12, 2008 | start of winter 2008 classes |
| • January 14, 2008 | end of Minnesota Junior High Math League season |
| • February 2-9, 2008 | MATHCOUNTS Chapter Competitions |
| • February 11, 2008 | end of Minnesota High School Math League season |
| • February 12, 2008 | AMC 10 / AMC 12 contest date |
| • February 16, 2008 | no class President's Weekend |
| • February 27, 2008 | AMC 10 / AMC 12 alternate contest date |
| • March 10, 2008 | High School Math League State Tournament |
| • March 15, 2008 | end of winter session & |
| | deadline for early spring registration |
| • March 15, 2008 | last day to register for spring mini-session |
| • April 12, 2008 | start of spring mini-session |
| • May 17, 2008 | end of spring session |

We invite participants to take advantage of early registration! A 10% discount will be given for registrations received by December 15, 2007 for winter session. Students who drop anytime during the first two classes of any session will receive a full refund. Full course offerings and registration information is located on our website.

ecae Offers "Inside the MATS" Prep Course

The Midwest Academic Talent Search (MATS) uses the SAT or ACT test to analyze the academic abilities of 6th–9th graders who typically score in the top 5 percentile of standardized test takers. The test results are sent back to families and schools so they can better understand the abilities of the student and plan for their future academic needs. The scores are also used to qualify students to receive awards and scholarships to attend Northwestern University's summer programs for gifted students. The test is also an excellent way for students to gain earlier exposure to the SAT and ACT when nothing is yet

at stake. ecae has a few more openings left in the Saturday, Dec. 22nd class, "Inside the MATS" for 6th-9th graders. The class will be taught by recent Harvard graduate and CEO of Ivy Insiders Test Prep, Nick Green.

Register online at <http://www.ecae.net>.

American Mathematics Competition AMC in February

The contest will be offered in school districts on February 12, 2007 and February 27, 2007 (alternate)

ecae recommends that students take the appropriate level math contest. Note that the levels are not grade designations, but indicate the highest grade level of students who may participate in that contest. Therefore, younger students are always welcome to sit for the higher level contest if their scores on the lower contest are sufficiently high.

The AMC contests are nationally recognized competitions that are looked upon favorably by highly selective colleges and universities during the admission process. Students who participate in the AMC 8 and list continued participation in following years are considered in the same manner as students involved in other full-time extracurricular activities. Participating in math contests is a unique way to distinguish a student's application, as typically, very few students are able to compete in mathematics, while it is much more common for a student to be involved in sports!

ecae will offer 10 and 12 testing to students who are not able to access it in their own schools. To register for the upcoming AMC 10 or AMC 12, please email Karl Bunday no later than January 31, 2008 at kmbunday@ecae.net.

Time Management Issues Common Theme

The late middle school and early high school years are when bright students often find they need to be able to manage their time better. Gifted students have been accustomed to completing assignments at the last minute and getting good grades without having to plan ahead. All this changes as high school involves more activities, extracurricular commitments, long term projects, and social events. This is also the most critical time of a student's career, where they need to focus on planning for college, getting good grades and building their leadership skills. If your student could benefit from specific guidance and techniques on how to manage their time better, check out the new Time Management course offered during the upcoming session. Retired Edina teacher, Patty Carney-Bradley will share her program that has been successfully used with other gifted students.

Why "Competition" and Why "Saturday School"?

ecae classes are not your typical public or private school classrooms. Class sizes are kept small, ten or less students per class. Our instructors most likely NOT education school graduates, but instead, are employed professionals with advanced degrees in a specific field and passionate about the subject they teach.

The **ecae** teaching philosophy is based on the belief that knowledgeable and passionate adults are the best teachers for bright students. In addition, **ecae** believes that bright students thrive on competition with similar ability peers, and need meaningful recognition of their abilities to be able to develop to their full academic potential. Competition is used as a way to encourage and reward students to reach higher than the standard public school curriculum. As in other forms of competition, dedication towards practice and skill development is required by the student. As parents, we must understand that developing academic talent is no different than athletic talent. If we are willing to commit our students for twice weekly athletic practices and weekend contests (games), then it should be clear as to the value of attending additional Saturday schooling.

Tutoring for Acceleration

Most tutors are experienced in working with struggling students. An **ecae** tutor will assist a bright student to help him/her get ahead. If you are interested in accelerating your student in math or language arts, feel free to contact us. We can assist you to work with your school district, and accelerate your student using their required curriculum, textbooks and materials.

Academic Guidance

When is the right time for bright students to start academic planning? The answer is, NOW. Students who are advanced intellectually, will need to make choices about coursework selection sooner than typical students. Unfortunately, very little guidance is provided by public schools before grade 11. **ecae** believes all gifted students should have academic plans in place which serve as a road map for course taking beginning around 6th grade. Many students who wish to take advanced coursework in high school learn too late that they should have taken a prerequisite course sooner. Academic planning can avoid these kinds of situations. If you are considering having an Academic Counselor for your student, contact **ecae**.

Writing Tutorial Popular

Eight 7th, 8th and 9th graders were part of the Advanced Writing Tutorial this past fall. In five sessions, the students were required to read specific literary works, analyze them in writing, and continue to rewrite until their papers were of a sufficiently high level. The course was designed to prepare students for the AP level of writing that they would not encounter for several years. Both students and parents expressed their appreciation for being able to have retired Edina English teacher, Betsy Cussler tutor their students and edit their papers. Betsy is currently an AP consultant for the College Board and also an AP Language Arts trainer of teachers. She commented that unfortunately, most high school students do not have the writing skills necessary to be very successful in the AP level of English and literature. Her goal is to work with talented writers who are younger, and help them to develop their writing skills while there is still lots of time. **ecae** plans to offer a Spring and Summer session writing course taught by Betsy Cussler.

Students (and Parents) Get Head Start on a Global Language

Teacher Chen, (Chen Laoshi) leads the class in phonetic instruction this fall.

The Chinese I class has focused on phonetics and tonal sounds in its first session. Proper tones and pronunciation are critical to being understood in the Chinese language. Students also got a “taste” of Chinese culture which included many sweet treats such as Chinese mooncakes from the Autumn Festival and candies from Taiwan. The course is designed as a year long class that will cover the equivalent of a first year, introduction to Chinese language. The goal is to eventually take the students to the AP Chinese Language level. Parents are always welcome, along with their students, to sit in for the lessons. Teacher Grace (Chen) Bunday, is a native speaker who is also a piano teacher and mother of four in her spare time. New students are welcome to sign up for Winter Session Chinese I starting in January.