

CHAT Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2018

Gifted Summer Camps – Panel Discussion

These minutes reflect the key takeaways / notes from members of the CHAT Leadership Team who led the discussion on gifted summer camps and other augmentation strategies.

Peaks & Potentials (Experiential Camp)

<http://ato.montana.edu/peaks/>

- Peaks and Potentials is a one-week camp at Montana State University for those entering grades 5, 6, or 7 in Fall 2018. This year's camp is June 17-22 on the MSU campus. Registration opens at the end of March. Register early to get the best pick of classes offered.
- Peaks & Potentials gives high-potential students the opportunity to come to the MSU campus and explore special topics of interest while working with experts in various subject areas.
- Instructors are MSU faculty members, students and experienced professionals from the area. University students and professionals act as directors and counselors throughout the week.
- Students have the option of staying overnight in the campus resident halls or commuting from home each day. All classes emphasize personal instruction, small group interaction and a "hands-on" experiential approach. Academic, recreational and social activities offer students a chance to interact with their peers and sample campus life.
- Note: A signature from an appropriate school official is **NOT** required for the student's acceptance.
- Costs: Resident (lodging, all meals, activities): \$649
Commuter (5 lunches, 4 dinners, activities): \$473
Commuter (5 lunches, activities): \$434

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (Focused, Academic Camp)

<https://cty.jhu.edu/>

- Pioneer in the field of gifted education, founded at Johns Hopkins in 1979 to "challenge insatiable learners" – curious kids who never stop searching for answers to how the world works and then asking more questions
- They offer online classes, but the hallmark of their program is their summer camp, which serves kids from 2-12G
- 3 weeks of intensive study on a particular topic. There is a day camp for the younger kids and a residential camp for the older kids (after 5G). The camp is administered at various sites across the U.S. – mostly along both coasts, and in Hong Kong. In the day camp, it runs from 9am-4pm with 30 minutes of homework each night
- Classes are not something that you would find in your typical school curriculum. They include various topics across Humanities, Writing, Math & Computer Science, and Science. Example: a 4-5G class on "Inventions" where they learn about famous inventors, inventions and how things work. They build a variety of things from scratch to learn about the underlying physics principles – such as a solar powered car or a periscope. Content is generally high school level below 7G and college level thereafter
- Class size is generally 12-14 kids, with 1 head teacher & 1 assistant. Classes are extremely globally diverse
- To apply, your child has to achieve a qualifying score on a test – younger kids generally take the SCAT 2 grade levels ahead of their current grade (so a 4G child takes the 6-7G SCAT); in the 7G year, students typically take the SAT or ACT to qualify.

- Cost: Around \$2,500 for day camp, \$4,500 for residential camp. They offer substantial need-based financial scholarships, and are also focused on getting more girls into STEM – so some science & math offerings this summer have entire classes that are reserved for female applicants only

Carroll College Gifted Institute (Experiential Camp)

<https://www.carroll.edu/gifted-institute>

- A one-week residential camp for students entering 5th through 9th grade, located on the Carroll College Campus in Helena, MT. It is an experiential camp designed for gifted students, though no testing or proof of gifted identification is required
- Students prioritize among diverse sessions ranging from programming, arts, yoga, math and game strategy. It's a huge range. Students prioritize session interests for 4 sessions that are held each day from Monday-Friday. Additional activities are planned for afternoon and evening sessions. Emphasis is on exposure to new areas and social/emotional development. Students are assigned to a counselor and live together in the dorm for the camp.
- Dates for 2018 are July 8-14. Applications open May 1 and students need to apply very quickly if they expect to get their high priority classes. Applications include a form, \$50 deposit and two recommendation forms filled out by teachers/principals. Cost for camp is \$595 and includes room, board and all camp activities. A nominal amount of money for additional snacks is recommended. <https://www.carroll.edu/gifted-institute>

Robinson Center for Young Scholars at the U of Washington

<https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/about-us/>

The Washington Search for Young Scholars was created in 2003 to identify and work with Washington's most capable students, their families, and schools to develop more opportunities for academically gifted young people. Summer programs were first offered at the Robinson Center in the 1980's. The Robinson Center's summer programs have expanded to include classes for students in grades 5-10, and serve as a model for summer academic commuter programs.

Summer Stretch (Grades 7-10)

On **February 1st at 8 AM** registration for the [Summer Stretch](#) program opened Summer Stretch offers both accelerated courses (e.g. Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, Precalculus, Chemistry, etc.) and courses for enrichment (e.g. Urban Planning, American Literature, Debate, Physics of Robotics, Philosophy, Geography, etc.) for current 7th to 10th grade students. These courses provide in-depth, intensive learning experiences. The program runs from June 25th to July 26th for five weeks, three days a week from 9:00AM – 2:20PM, on the University of Washington Seattle campus. Students select their top three class preferences during registration, but are only accepted into one class. Classes are small, and instructors are all specialists in their field. Students must be committed to a substantial homework load; courses are graded and final transcripts are provided. To meet projected enrollment demands, we sometimes offer multiple sections of classes. While the core content is the same across sections, teachers may approach it differently based on their areas of expertise.

Students must be identified as Gifted and meet enrollment requirements (Details on web site).

Tuition for Summer Stretch will be \$1,000 for the 5 weeks + materials & excursion fee. There is a **non-refundable** \$50 registration fee.

Summer Challenge (Grades 5 and 6)

Registration for our [Summer Challenge](#) program, which serves current 5th and 6th graders, opens on **March 1st at 8 AM**. Summer Challenge is an **academically advanced summer camp for children who have completed the 5th or 6th grade. Its goal is to provide motivated students with an intensive, hands-on, fun educational experience in areas outside of the traditional school curriculum.**

The program runs in July for three weeks, five days a week from 9:00AM – 2:20PM, on the University of Washington Seattle campus. There is also an After-Class program available for an additional charge from 2:20 – 4:30PM. Students select their top three class preferences during registration, but are only accepted into one class. Classes are small, and instructors are all specialists in their field. While there are no grades, weekly progress reports are provided. There will be some homework, because of the breadth and depth of material covered.

Publications page (several research studies on early college entrance programs):

<https://robinsoncenter.uw.edu/research/publications/>

Other Camps / Ideas that were discussed:

- In addition to Peaks & Potentials, MSU is offering a Earth/Space camp, a Minecraft camp, and the Yellowstone Writer's Project writing camp
- Archie Bray clay camp in Helena: http://archiebray.org/workshops_classes/kids_classes.html
- Montana Learning Center in Canyon Ferry
- Equinox Theatre Camp in Bozeman
- Hiring an educator & creating your own summer program where they meet once a week
- www.edX.org – archived courses from top universities around the world
- www.khanacademy.org
- www.coursera.org and <https://www.udacity.com/>
- Sam Kean science books (science) at the Bozeman Public Library; as a general strategy, bringing kids up to adult non-fiction section in area of their choice and having them delve into areas that interest them.
- For younger kids, MOSS, Children's Museum or Museum of the Rockies; one strategy is to put them into "interest area" camps when they are on the young end of a grade band.
- Camp Invention through Children's museum.