



savy

SATURDAY
ACADEMY
AT VANDERBILT
FOR THE YOUNG

SPRING 2010 CATALOG
JANUARY 23–
FEBRUARY 27

*Vanderbilt University
Programs for Talented Youth*



Our Mission

Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth seeks to identify and aid academically talented youth from diverse educational, racial, and economic backgrounds by providing academic challenges and enrichment opportunities for this special population and those who work with them.

Founder

Camilla Persson Benbow,
Patricia and Rodes Hart Dean of
Education and Human Development

Director

Tamra Stambaugh, Ph.D.

Administrative Assistant and Fiscal Agent

Anne Wall

SAVY Program Coordinator

Kim Bundy

SAVY Assistant Coordinator

Mary Carter

VSA/WAVU Program Coordinators

Jay Watson
Jennifer Pitts

Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth has been serving the needs of highly gifted 8th–12th grade students from across the nation and abroad since 2000. In the spring of 2008, a new program, Saturday Academy at Vanderbilt for the Young (SAVY), was launched. We are now pleased to include SAVY as a consistent part of our menu of programs for gifted students in kindergarten through grade 6.

We invite highly qualified and motivated gifted students to the SAVY program where they can enjoy small classes (usually 12–15 students) held on University School of Nashville’s campus. Experienced teachers and faculty have been recruited to teach these lively, accelerated courses.

SAVY students will also receive the social, emotional, and intellectual benefits of being in a classroom of true academic peers. Our classes will engage and stimulate students, while also providing critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills. Our curriculum has been carefully selected based on empirical research of effectiveness for gifted learners or piloted and found to be effective in other Vanderbilt programs for talented students.

Research suggests that families play an important role in the development of talent in children, especially those who are gifted. Many parents of gifted children report feeling isolated and find solace when connecting with other like parents. To this end, we have included two different options for parents while SAVY is in session. All parents of participating SAVY children are invited to attend two SAVY Chats on issues related to parenting gifted children. These sessions will be held the first and last Saturdays of the program.

During the second through fifth Saturdays of SAVY, parents have the option to enroll in a SENG (Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted) discussion group led by licensed and trained counselors. This unique opportunity allows parents to talk about the joys and concerns of parenting a gifted child. A complimentary book will be provided to all who enroll.

Our staff at Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth is committed to providing rigorous and exciting extracurricular educational opportunities for gifted children as well as support for their parents. We look forward to seeing you on the University School campus this spring.

My best to each of you,



Tamra Stambaugh, Ph.D.

*Director, Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth
Research Assistant Professor in Special Education*



SAVY AT A GLANCE

WHO: Gifted students in kindergarten through 6th grade, specifically students who test at the 95th percentile and above on a standardized achievement or ability test.

WHAT: Small weekend classes designed for the exceptionally talented and motivated learner. Students choose one course for the entire session; class size is limited to approximately 12 students for K–2 and 15 students for grades 3–6.

Both a Master Teacher and a teaching assistant lead all classes. Teachers come from throughout the Middle Tennessee area and have been selected for their skill and experience in teaching gifted learners.

WHEN: SAVY is held six Saturday mornings in a row beginning January 23 through February 27, 2010, from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m.

WHERE: Classes will be held on the University School of Nashville's campus.

Admissions Policy

Classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. SAVY applications may be turned in early, but admission decision letters will not be mailed until December 1, 2009. Later applicants will be notified on a case-by-case basis. The deadline for applying for Spring SAVY is January 8, 2010.

Financial Assistance

We are committed to making our programs available to gifted students, regardless of ability to pay. About one-fifth of our students receive some form of need-based financial assistance to partially cover tuition costs.

If applying for financial assistance, please fill out the enclosed Financial Assistance form. Send only the \$25 nonrefundable application fee along with your most recent tax form or certification of eligibility for the Free Lunch Program.



Eligibility Screening and Assessment

We accept most standardized achievement or ability tests. These include, but are not limited to: MAT, CogAT, TCAP, ERB, Terra Nova, Stanford Achievement Test, OLSAT, Woodcock Johnson, Stanford Binet, and WISC. Returning SAVY students do not need to resubmit test scores. Students without test scores should work with their school or a local independent testing center for assessment. Although not endorsed or affiliated with Vanderbilt University or Programs for Talented Youth, Learning Matters, a nonprofit agency in the Nashville area, offers eligibility screening for a fee. Visit their Web site, www.learningmattersinc.org, for more information. Be sure to mention SAVY so the appropriate screening instruments will be used.

HOW MUCH: \$400 tuition includes six classes, classroom materials, t-shirt, and SAVY Chats for parents. Applications postmarked by December 16 will qualify for a 10% early bird discount of \$40.

HOW TO APPLY: Fill out the enclosed application form or download one from our Web site at pty.vanderbilt.edu. Enclose two checks, both made out to Vanderbilt University—one for the \$25 nonrefundable application fee, which will be cashed upon receipt, and the other for the \$400 tuition (less applicable discounts).

The tuition check will not be cashed until your child's class placement is secured. Also, be sure to include a copy of the student's test scores with the application. **Faxed applications will not be accepted.**

CLASSES FOR PARENTS: All parents may attend the SAVY Chats, held the first and last Saturday of SAVY, while children are in class. Led by local experts, these lectures are designed to provide information about the unique needs of gifted children and practical applications for parents.

For those parents who are interested in a more conversational experience, a SENG (Social-Emotional Needs of Gifted) discussion group may be appropriate. For a nominal fee of \$50 (\$75 for two adults from same family), parents may attend a parenting group, led by licensed and trained counselors, while their children are in SAVY classes. These popular sessions will be held the second through fifth Saturdays of SAVY from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All parents who enroll will receive a book. A registration form will be included with each student's letter of acceptance.

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Please let your child choose which course to take. If the first class is filled and your child is interested in taking the second choice, please rank the courses in order of preference. Choosing two classes increases your child's odds for admission to the SAVY program. Respect your child's choices if he or she is adamantly opposed to the second selection.

Classes are accelerated and specifically designed for gifted students. Class selections are best made when considering a student's areas of strength and interest.

Course Descriptions

SAVY classes are designed not only to provide information on interesting topics, but also to teach students higher-order thinking skills and to develop a conceptual framework for understanding new knowledge. Much of our curriculum has been designed by the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William & Mary or the University of Connecticut. Some units have been written by Vanderbilt graduate students or faculty. Many of these units have won Outstanding Curriculum Awards from the National Association of Gifted Children and have been well researched and proven to be effective with gifted learners.

KINDERGARTEN

BEYOND WORDS

Can words have more than one meaning? Can the meanings change with time? Are you an author? Using picture books and poetry, you will explore the ways writers use words to help us imagine and understand our world. Be prepared to write your own poems, stories, and haikus, just like the authors you study.

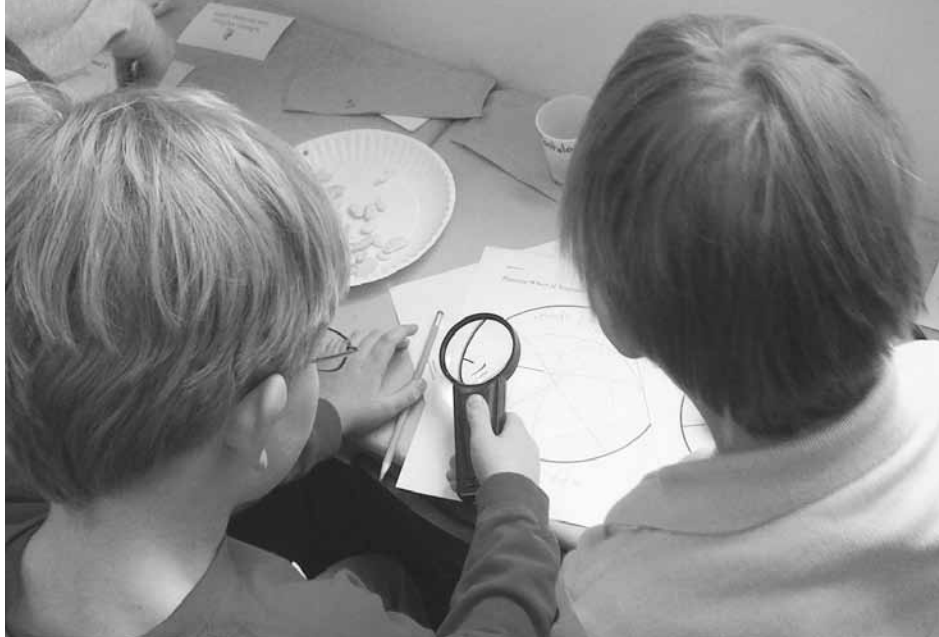
SURVIVE AND THRIVE

Have you ever wondered what animals do in a thunderstorm? How do they survive in the heat of summer and cold of winter? In this class you will study the habits of animals and learn more about their unique features and habitats. You never know what kinds of animals may show up in your classroom or on webcam! Bring your observation skills and get ready to think like a scientist.



savy
SATURDAY
ACADEMY
AT VANDERBILT
FOR THE YOUNG

Applications



GRADES 1 AND 2

MEASUREMENT RULES!

Did you know that if you hold your arms straight out from your sides and measure from the tips of your fingers you are as tall as you are wide? Do you know how to measure the amount of space or area an object takes up? Do you measure a box differently than a garden? Learn all the different ways you can measure your world.

Measurement rules!

WEATHER REPORTER

What causes a tornado? What is the difference between a hurricane and a typhoon? What types of instruments do meteorologists use? Answer these and other questions by observing, tracking, and analyzing weather. You will experience the work of a real scientist as you gather and measure data on weather phenomena and climate change. Get ready to be blown away!



GRADES 3 AND 4

MYTHBUSTERS AND SCIENCE SLEUTHS

Does it really take gum seven years to digest? Does lightning ever strike the same place twice? Develop the various skills necessary to become an active, curious member of the scientific community. Learn more about how to gather and analyze evidence, and design and conduct experiments. Then get ready to bust your very own scientific myth!

SHAPE UP!

Is a parallelogram a rectangle or a square? Or both? From stop signs to ice cream cones, our world is full of different shapes. In this class you will use puzzles, hidden pictures, and cool Web sites to test your theories about shapes and their properties. Get a jump on geometry by comparing and contrasting two and three-dimensional shapes. *Shape up!*

GRADES 5 AND 6

CREATIVE WRITING

Do you like to write? Do you find yourself dreaming up plots for stories? *Creative Writing* is a class designed for aspiring writers with a passion for the written word and a desire to perfect their skills. You will learn how to develop compelling story lines and creative characters. Through individual writing exercises, group discussion, and journaling, students will learn to think, and work, like a writer.



WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

Have you ever played games that seem unfair? How can you tell the difference between a fair game and an unfair one? Why do so many people lose at carnival or amusement park games? In *What Are the Odds?* you will play and analyze games, using mathematical equations to determine the fairness of each game. Chances are very good that you will have fun while learning about probability, in this hands-on, fast-paced class.

Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth aims to serve and support gifted children through all phases of their development.

For Students Currently in Grades K–6

SAVY—Saturday Academy at Vanderbilt for the Young

Weekend courses meet for six Saturdays in a row in the fall and spring semesters.

SAVY—Summer Academy at Vanderbilt for the Young

Weekday courses meet for five days in a row, for one or two weeks, in summer.

For Students Currently in Grades 7–10

WAVU—Weekend Academy at Vanderbilt University

These fast-paced, residential programs last one weekend and are taught by Vanderbilt faculty.

For Students Who Will be Entering Grades 8–12 with Exceptional SAT or ACT Scores

VSA—Vanderbilt Summer Academy

This residential program offers a full catalog of topics taught by Vanderbilt faculty and a roster of social and cultural activities.

For Parents and Educators of Gifted Children

- Parent Support Groups
- Lectures
- Tennessee Employment Standard in Gifted Education
- Professional Development Workshops





Vanderbilt University Programs for Talented Youth

Phone: (615) 322-8261

Fax: (615) 322-3457

E-mail: pty.peabody@vanderbilt.edu

Web: www.pty.vanderbilt.edu

If you would like to be notified as additional offerings become available, please send us your name, address, e-mail address, and phone number. We look forward to hearing about programs that particularly interest you.



VANDERBILT
UNIVERSITY

VANDERBILT
PROGRAMS FOR
TALENTED YOUTH

Peabody #506

230 Appleton Place

Nashville, TN 37203-5721