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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALLISON WEIHER EARNS PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIC HONOR AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Kimberly, Wis. – November 13, 2018 - Allison Weiher, student at [J.R. Gerritts Middle School](#) in the [Kimberly Area School District](#), was honored by [Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development \(CTD\)](#) to celebrate her achievement in Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS).

"I think this talent search was a great opportunity to be able to test myself to see what I was capable of," said Allison. "I wasn't quite sure what to expect and was very surprised when I received my results."

As a seventh grader, Allison took the ACT test and scored exceptionally well. "It means so much to me to be honored by them, knowing how many extremely talented students also participated," said Allison. "I am very grateful for the experience it provided."

Only 2 to 3 percent of more than 11,500 students who participate in the program each year are recognized for outstanding achievement. Remarkably, top-scoring NUMATS students in middle school score as well as top-scoring high school seniors nationally.

NUMATS provides high-achieving students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge by taking assessments designed for older students. NUMATS students in grades 3 through 6 took the PSAT™ 8/9 test, which is typically administered to students in grade 8 to determine placement in high school courses. NUMATS



Allison Weiher, student at J.R. Gerritts Middle School, was recognized by Northwestern University for her outstanding academic achievement.

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students in grades 6 through 9 took the SAT® or ACT® test, which most students take as high school seniors for college admission. Why is this type of assessment beneficial? CTD Associate Director Susan Corwith, who oversees the NUMATS program, explains, “By using the higher-level tests, NUMATS helps students, parents, and educators see more clearly what students know, understand, and are able to do and plan for their talent development accordingly.”

“The achievement tests students take in school generally focus on grade-level content. Schools and families know their students are doing well compared to other students their age, but they often cannot tell whether their student is a little ahead or exceptionally advanced in some area. Tests like those offered through NUMATS provide additional detail about what students understand and are able to do academically and inform programming that will help students reach full potential.”

For NUMATS, identifying academic talents is one goal and recognizing academic achievement is another. All NUMATS students are commended for taking the challenge of participating in the program. Students in the top 1-2% were invited to the annual Award Ceremony at Northwestern on September 29. All scorers in the top 3% received certificates and scholarships for CTD summer, weekend enrichment, and online programs, as recognition of their outstanding performance.

About the Kimberly Area School District

The Kimberly Area School District is a progressive public school district committed to providing the best possible education available to students. Its responsibility is to help lead the way in developing well-rounded students and future citizens. The District wants every student to be given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts and co-curricular activities. It encompasses approximately 17 square miles and serves over 5,100 students in one 4K center, four elementary schools (5K-4), two intermediate schools (5-6), one middle school (7-8) and one high school (9-12). To learn more about the Kimberly Area School District, call (920)788-7900 or visit www.kimberly.k12.wi.us.