

TOPS PROGRAM

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ABOUT ME

- **SOFTWARE ENGINEERING @ UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO, CLASS OF 2020**
- **TOPS CLASS OF 2015**
- **WEB DEVELOPMENT, JAVA, COMPUTER CONTEST TEACHER @ OLYMPIADS SCHOOL**
- **FULL STACK DEVELOPER @ MATTERMOST, INC.**
- **FORMERLY IN CHARGE OF WWW.TOPSPROGRAM.CA**
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ABOUT TOPS

- **MATH, SCIENCE AND ENGLISH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**
- **MARC GARNEAU COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE**
- **60 STUDENTS PER YEAR**
- **HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOLARSHIP AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS**

APPLICATIONS

STUDENT PROFILE

EXAM

STUDENT PROFILE

- **WEIGHTED 50%**
- **ACTIVITIES WITHIN SCHOOL AND OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**
- **MAJOR CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS**
- **“WHY DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE TOPS PROGRAM” – ESSAY**
- **FOUND AT WWW.TOPSPROGRAM.CA**

ACTIVITIES LIST

- **RECENT ACTIVITIES**
- **NOT MORE THAN 3-4 YEARS IN THE PAST**
- **PLACE “STRONGER” ACTIVITIES FIRST**
- **SHOW BREADTH OVER DEPTH**

EXAMPLES

- **CLASSES AT OLYMPIADS**

- **MATH**
- **PROGRAMMING**

- **CLUBS**

- **CHESS**
- **ROBOTICS**

- **MUSIC/SPORTS**

- **SOCCER**
- **PIANO**

- **ORGANIZATIONS**

- **SCOUTS**
- **CADETS**

- **SPECIAL INTERESTS**

- **SCIENCE FAIR**

MAJOR CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

- **MATH CONTESTS**

- **GAUSS**
- **PASCAL**
- **CIMC**
- **AMC8**

- **MUSIC**

- **ARCT**

- **PROGRAMMING**

- **CANADIAN COMPUTING COMPETITION**

- **ARTS**

- **COMPETITIONS**

- **ESSAY COMPETITIONS**

ESSAY

- **“TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR INTERESTS. WHY DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE TOPS PROGRAM?”**
- **BE CREATIVE AND INTERESTING**
- **NO FORMULAIC ESSAY WRITING**
- **BE A LITTLE HUMBLE (TEACHERS LIKE FLATTERY!)**
- **WORD PROCESS**
- **NO GRAMMAR/STYLISTIC/SPELLING MISTAKES**

SAMPLE STRUCTURE

- **I LEARNED HOW TO BE A LEADER IN ACTIVITY X**
- **I DISCOVERED MY INTEREST IN MATHEMATICS/SCIENCE/ANYTHING IN ACTIVITY Y**
- **ANECDOTE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT CHANGED YOUR LIFE**
- **“I WANT TO JOIN THE TOPS PROGRAM BECAUSE...”**

EXTRAS

- **EXTRA MATERIAL CAN BE ATTACHED TO STUDENT PROFILES**
- **TO SHOWCASE SPECIAL INTERESTS**
- **SAMPLES OF WORK**
 - **PROGRAMMING**
 - **WEB DESIGN**
 - **ART**
 - **WRITTEN WORK (NO ESSAYS)**
- **NON-TEACHER REFERENCE LETTERS**
- **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS**

REPORT CARD

- **HIGH MARKS NOT NECESSARY**
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL MARKS ARE ARBITRARY**
- **LOW 80S GRADE 7 AVERAGE RECOMMENDED**
- **HIGHER MARKS IN CERTAIN COURSES HELP**
- **LEARNING SKILL EVALUATIONS PLAY A PART**

SELECTION COMMITTEE

- **PRIMARY DECISION MAKERS**
 - **MR. MCMASTER – CURRICULUM LEADER/MATH TEACHER**
 - **MR. VAN BEMMEL – PHYSICS TEACHER**
 - **MS. SPEIRS – ENGLISH TEACHER**
- **OTHER TEACHERS MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS**



EXAM

- **3 PARTS**
 - **MATH**
 - **SCIENCE**
 - **ENGLISH**
- **40 MINUTES EACH**
- **DESIGNED TO BE CHALLENGING**

REGISTRATION

WWW.TOPSPROGRAM.CA

WILL BE ACTIVE IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

TOPS Entrance Exam Registration 2014

First Name *

Last Name *

Gender *

☐ Male

☐ Female

Applicant's Email *

Parent's Email *

Address *

Apartment Number (0 if N/A) *

City *

Province *

Postal Code *

Phone *

School *

Submit

MATH

- **DESIGNED TO BE HIGHLY CHALLENGING**
- **MULTIPLE CHOICE “SCANTRON”**
- **NO CALCULATORS**
- **PENALIZES GUESSING**
- **CALCULUS**
- **VECTOR GEOMETRY**
- **EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRY**
- **TRIGONOMETRY**
- **FUNCTIONS**
- **COMBINATORICS**

SCIENCE

- **HUGE BREADTH OF TOPICS**
 - **MULTIPLE CHOICE “SCANTRON”**
 - **PENALIZES GUESSING**
 - **CAN BE PREPARED FOR**
- **ASTRONOMY**
 - **MOLECULAR BIOLOGY**
 - **MACROSCOPIC BIOLOGY**
 - **ELEMENTAL CHEMISTRY**
 - **ORGANIC CHEMISTRY**
 - **NEWTONIAN PHYSICS**
 - **ASTROPHYSICS**
 - **GEOGRAPHY**

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

- **NO GUARANTEES**
- **IMPROVES BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE**
- **WWW.SCIENCEDAILY.COM**
- **WWW.REDDIT.COM/R/SCIENCE**
- **WWW.REDDIT.COM/R/ASKSCIENCE**
- **WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG**
- **WWW.GIZMODO.COM**
- **GRADE 9/10 SCIENCE TEXTBOOK**

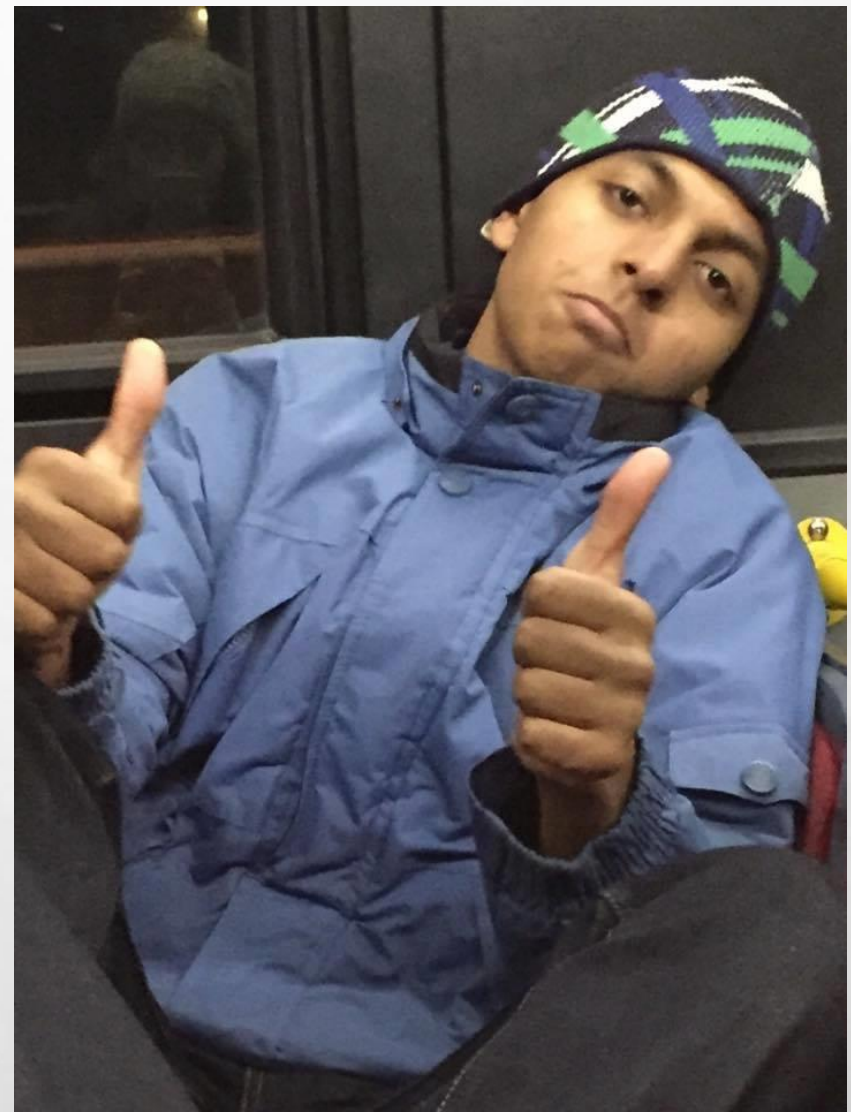
ENGLISH

- **RESPONSE WRITING**
- **TOPICS UNPREDICTABLE**
- **TOPIC FORMATS CAN VARY**
- **BE CREATIVE**
- **NO FORMULAIC WRITING**
- **NO “FILLER”**
- **ANECDOTAL LENGTH: 300-500 WORDS**



GENERAL TIPS

- **DO NOT RUSH**
- **STANDARD MULTIPLE CHOICE TEST PRACTICES APPLY**
- **SKIM THE EXAM BEFORE YOU START**
- **BE NICE TO YOUR PROCTORS**
- **NO ONE GETS PERFECT**
- **WRITE NEATLY (ENGLISH)**



PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **COME PREPARED WITH MATERIALS**

- **PEN(S)**
- **PENCIL(S)**
- **ERASER(S)**
- **NON-GRAPHING CALCULATOR(S)**

- **WORD PROCESS ENTIRE STUDENT PROFILE**

- **BRING REFRESHMENTS**

- **WATER**
- **SNACK(S)**

- **GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP**

- **EAT A NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST**

- **COFFEE (IF YOU DRINK IT)**

- **ARRIVE EARLY**

SUCCESS IN TOPS

- **TAKE ALL THE COURSES YOU WANT**
- **DO YOUR HOMEWORK**
- **DO NOT SLACK OFF EARLY**
- **ATTEND CLUBS, BE ACTIVE**
- **PICK YOUR FOCUS, AND WORK HARD**

QUESTIONS?

