



Danville School District No. 118
Motivating Academically Talented Students (MATS) Program Highlights

2015-2016 School Year

- Students may enter the MATS program beginning at grade three. Students may enter at third grade or any grade thereafter.
- The program is self-contained in grades third through eight.
- The *Pathways* and *What I Need* (WIN) initiatives provide prescriptive differentiation for every child.
- Currently, students in grades six through eight rotate through subject area teachers. They move as a cohort.
- Curriculum-related enrichment activities include field trips, guest-speakers, and participation in community projects.
- Many of the MATS teachers use the Curry-Samara model. Students participate in projects of their choosing that highlight a combination of complex thinking and learning styles.
- The MATS Family Council meets quarterly to collaborate on program improvement, to learn of program initiatives, and to highlight student achievement and special projects.
- Northwestern University was recently commissioned for a complete program review. Highlights include the MATS selection process, curriculum, teacher certification and program delivery. Northwestern University utilized surveys, focus groups, ACT tests and a review of documents to complete the report. A review of the recommendations will be available to the district by the end of April. The final product will be presented to the Board of Education at the end of May.