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# Central Hardin senior heads to MIT on scholarship

By AMY SMITH THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE  
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Central Hardin High School senior Cameron Miller attends WKU as a Gatton Academy scholarship recipient. This fall, he will enroll at MIT on a scholarship.

Submitted photos

### Getting to know Cameron Miller

Siblings: Two older brothers and one older sister

Favorite movie: "Pulp Fiction"

Favorite vacation spot: The beach

Favorite music: He is "all over the place."

Favorite video game: RoomScape

Favorite food: Orange chicken from Panda Express

Favorite season: Summer

Nominate a Tuesday's Teen To submit a nomination for a Tuesday's Teen, email [asmith@thenewsenterprise.com](mailto:asmith@thenewsenterprise.com).

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Earning not one but two scholarships, Central Hardin High School senior and Gatton Academy student Cameron Miller will be heading to MIT next fall.

Miller first earned a scholarship to Gatton Academy on the Western Kentucky University campus.

"I heard about the Gatton Academy program back in middle school," Miller said. "It's an application process and uses ACT scores. Then I had to write essays and get recommendations. It's pretty much a college admissions program for high school students."

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While at Gatton Academy, Miller is taking as many math courses as he can.

"I really enjoy doing high-level math," he said. "I love it because I'm able to take classes that are at a much higher level. I'm in classes that I'm sitting next to graduate students in."

Studying mathematics and computer science, Miller said although he still is considering a couple of career paths, he would like to be a programmer or a professor.

"I like that I'm surrounded by like-minded peers," he said. "There are lots of other people I can talk to about things in my classes which might be harder in other places."

Braydon Scott had faced Miller at academic team competitions but didn't know him personally until they found themselves attending Gatton Academy together.

"One of the things I admire the most about him is his ability to self-teach and then teach others material at an incredible level," Scott said. "Most students come into Gatton in Trigonometry but despite having never taken Calculus 2, Cameron tested out of it by teaching himself, and started Gatton in Calculus 3. Since then, he's accomplished some great things in math during his time here, while still balancing a social life."

Not wasting any time in adjusting to college life, since arriving last fall, Miller has joined the volleyball club, is co-president of the math club and even helped form a new club, Coding + +.

"This (club) teaches programming through a project-based lens instead of just doing problems," Miller said. "It started because other science clubs don't really teach (coding) in a project-based manner."

Having their own dorm on the WKU campus, Gatton Academy provides a place for Miller to connect with approximately 190 other gifted and talented students.

"There's a very deep community; that's one thing I love about it," he said. "It was perhaps a little intimidating at first, but I acclimated pretty quickly. I felt I was pretty into it by fall break of my first semester. It was adventurous."

Miller enjoys the convenience of campus life.

"As far as campus life, I enjoy how available everything is," he said. "I can just walk and don't have to worry about driving. It's a very walker-friendly place."

With the Commonwealth of Kentucky paying tuition, fees, room and board, Miller said it's a burden lifted from his parents.

According to Miller, about two thirds of Gatton Academy students apply for other scholarships once they arrive on campus.

"We follow the same college entrance process, except we have a bit more of support that helps us," he said. "I applied through QuestBridge for high achieving students and was accepted into MIT with a very good scholarship. I'm very excited."

Scott sees Miller's determination as the driving force behind his success.

"I think the reason he's accomplished what he has is his drive," he said. "He's not all work, but when he's working it's impressive to watch. He's always looking at what's next, what further step could advance him towards what he wants to achieve."

On a personal note, Scott said that Miller is, "a great friend, and someone that's always open to chat and just listen if you need to talk."

Still a student of Central Hardin, Miller continues to participate on the academic team, often virtually joining practices via video call. He and the team competed in the Governor's Cup district competition.

In his free time, he enjoys playing video games and reading.

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Amy Smith can be reached at 270-505-1416 or [asmith@thenewsenterprise.com](mailto:asmith@thenewsenterprise.com).

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**AmySmith**