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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO KIMBERLY STUDENTS EARN PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIC HONORS AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Kimberly, Wis. – October 6, 2017 – Two [Kimberly Area School District](http://www.kimberly.k12.wi.us) students, eighth grader Vienna Melzl and seventh grader Marley Pozniak, were honored by the [Center for Talent Development \(CTD\)](#) at an award ceremony on September 9, 2017, to celebrate their achievements in [Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search \(NUMATS\)](#).

According to Ulli Balistreri, teacher and PACE Coordinator who works with both students, Vienna and Marley have much to be proud of as they pursue their potential by taking advantage of rigorous academic opportunities.

Vienna is an avid reader. She completed the [Mensa For Kids' Excellence in Reading](#) program, which involves reading 63 works of classical literature. “She also completed in-depth research using countless non-fiction sources for her National History Day Project,” said Balistreri. “She did it so well that she qualified for the national competition.” Additionally, Vienna is an accomplished math student who frequently wins honors at math meets.



Vienna Melzl



Marley Pozniak

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“Kimberly has had less than 10 students who have qualified for this award ceremony in the 22 years that I have been in the District,” said Balistreri. “Most of them have been selected in recent years.” This is the second year in a row that Marley was selected by the CTD – an extraordinary honor for a Kimberly student. “Marley's writing ability and her way with words are quite exceptional,” said Balistreri. “She has received several awards for her stories at regional and state writing competitions.”

NUMATS provides selected students in grades 6 through 9 with the opportunity to take the SAT[®] or ACT[®] assessments. Both of these tests are designed for high school juniors and seniors. Vienna and Marley were selected for this opportunity because of their outstanding academic achievement. Remarkably, top-scoring NUMATS students in middle school score as well as top-scoring high school seniors nationally.

CTD Associate Director Susan Corwith, who oversees the NUMATS program, explains, “By using the higher-level tests, NUMATS helps students, parents, and educators better understand the students’ academic ability and plan accordingly.” By identifying areas where the student is exceptionally advanced, schools and families can support their learning by offering more programming to help them reach their potential in that area.

Nationwide, over 12,000 students participated in the NUMATS program. Vienna and Marley were selected for recognition at the award ceremony because they were among the top 3 percent of participants. In recognition of their top performance, award winners received certificates, medals, and/or scholarships for the Center for Talent Development’s summer, online and weekend enrichment programs.

Through the program, NUMATS students are able to join an active, online community of like-minded peers. In addition, their parents receive course sequence suggestions based on test scores and access to an online community which, for parents, includes webinars, podcasts, and articles by experts in education as well as help with educational planning and the possibility of communicating online with other parents.

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 5,000 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.