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Two DCHS students accepted into Bowling Green's Gatton Academy

By Bobbie Hayse Messenger-Inquirer Apr 14, 2019



Kharley Redmon

The Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky has selected 96 students for its class of 2021, and two of them are Daviess County High School sophomores.

The Gatton Academy is based on Western Kentucky University's main campus in Bowling Green. It's an early college entrance program that enables high school juniors and seniors to live onsite and attend college courses full time while pursuing their high school diplomas.

Calvin Higdon, 15, of Whitesville, said he found the application process to be "pretty rigorous."

"We had to write several essays about our experiences and our lives in general, which took me a while to complete," he said. "Interview day was nerve-wracking, but I did manage to get to know a few fellow applicants, and we made a group chat on Snapchat for Gatton applicants."

He said he is excited to attend the academy and his entire family crowded around his computer when he opened the email informing him of his acceptance.

"It was wonderful, and my mom even started crying," he said. "I couldn't wait to tell my friends about it. I'm a little nervous about the difficulty of college classes, but I'm more than excited for the new freedoms and the new opportunities made available to me."

Kharley Redmon, 15, of Owensboro, agreed with Higdon that the application process is difficult and competitive.

"In order to apply for the academy you first achieve an ACT requirement and have a transcript that proves a high level of academic participation," she said. "The paper application required three essays, two teacher or community leader recommendations, and descriptions of various extracurricular activities for accomplishments."

The idea of being a full-time college student living away from home is "a bit intimidating," she said, but she is thankful for the opportunity.

"The Gatton Academy opens a lot of new doors and provides numerous, in-depth academic opportunities that aren't easily available in Owensboro. At the academy, I'll be able to figure out what I'm really interested in, do undergraduate research and even study abroad. I'm also very thankful for my family and friends because without their support I wouldn't have been able to pursue an opportunity like Gatton."



Applicants were evaluated based on ACT/SAT scores, high school grades, awards, extracurricular activities, responses to essay and short answer questions, and letters of recommendation, according to a press release sent by the academy. One hundred eighty-nine candidates also interviewed with Western Kentucky University faculty members, community leaders from across Kentucky and Gatton Academy alumni.

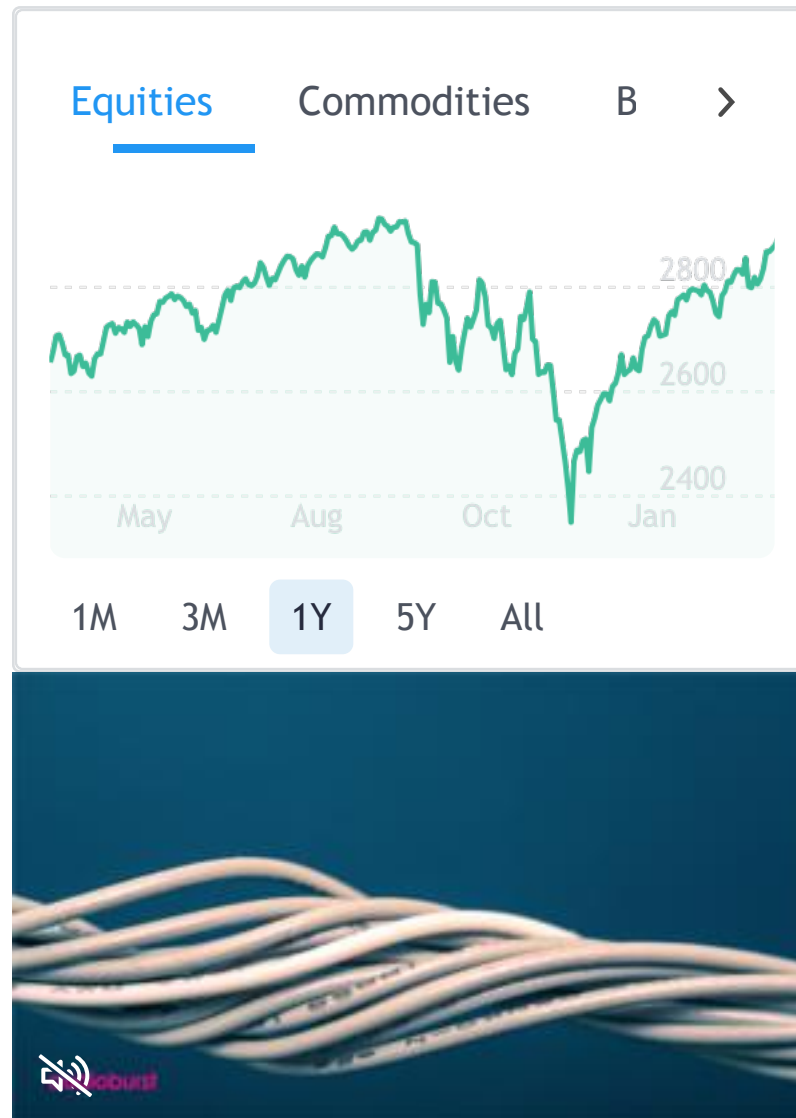
According to the release, the average ACT composite score of these 96 students chosen is 31.66, with an average mathematics score of 31.18. They represent 54 counties in the commonwealth.

Lynette Breedlove, director of the Bowling Green-based academy, said in the release this "remarkable group of students" hail from all across Kentucky.

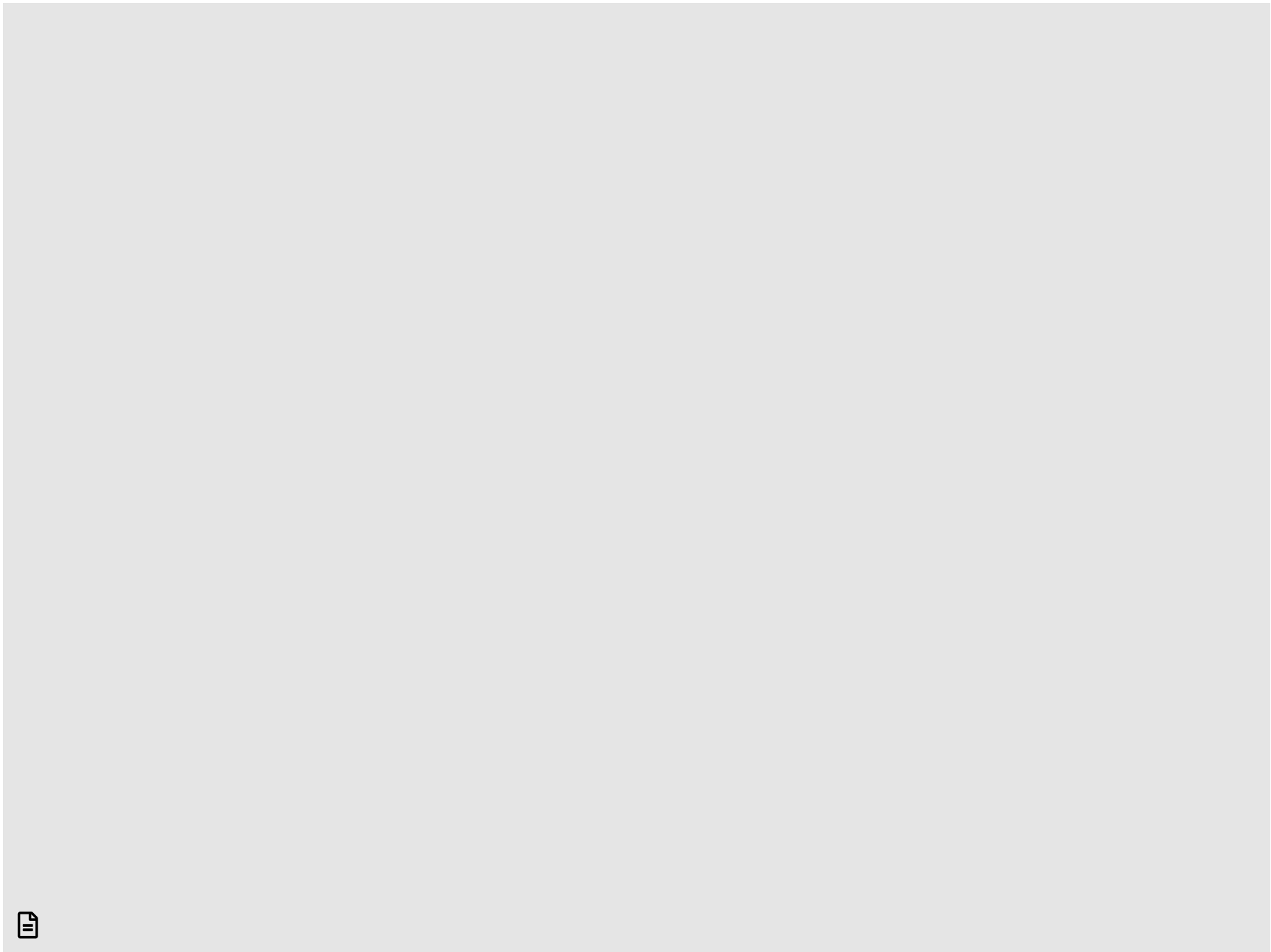
"Each year admissions decisions are difficult, as there are more exceptional students interested in STEM topics and advanced learning opportunities than we can serve," Breedlove said. "We appreciate the hard work in which public schools are engaging to find innovative ways to meet

the needs of their students.”

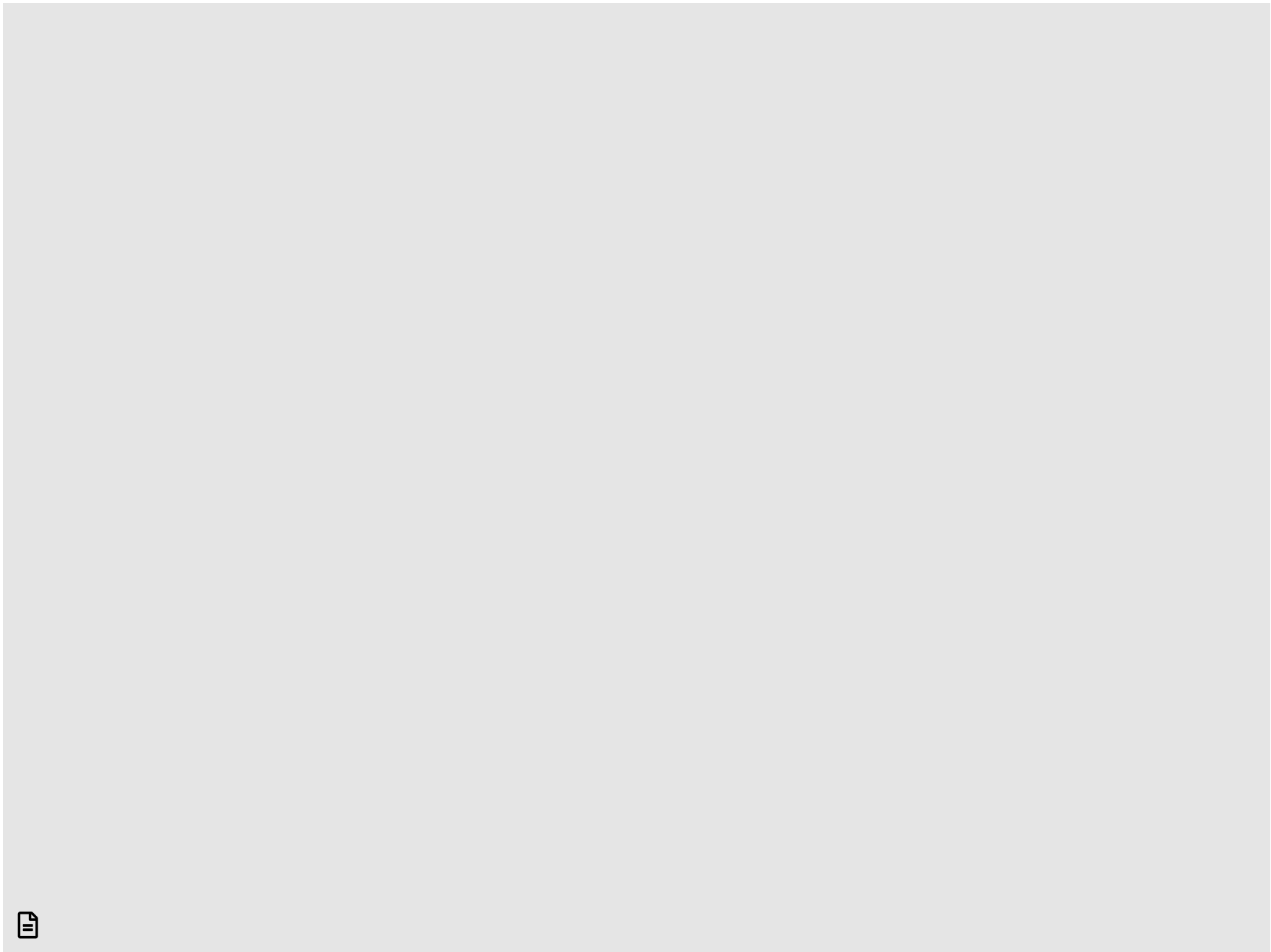
Bobbie Hayse, bhayse@messenger-inquirer.com, 270-691-7315.



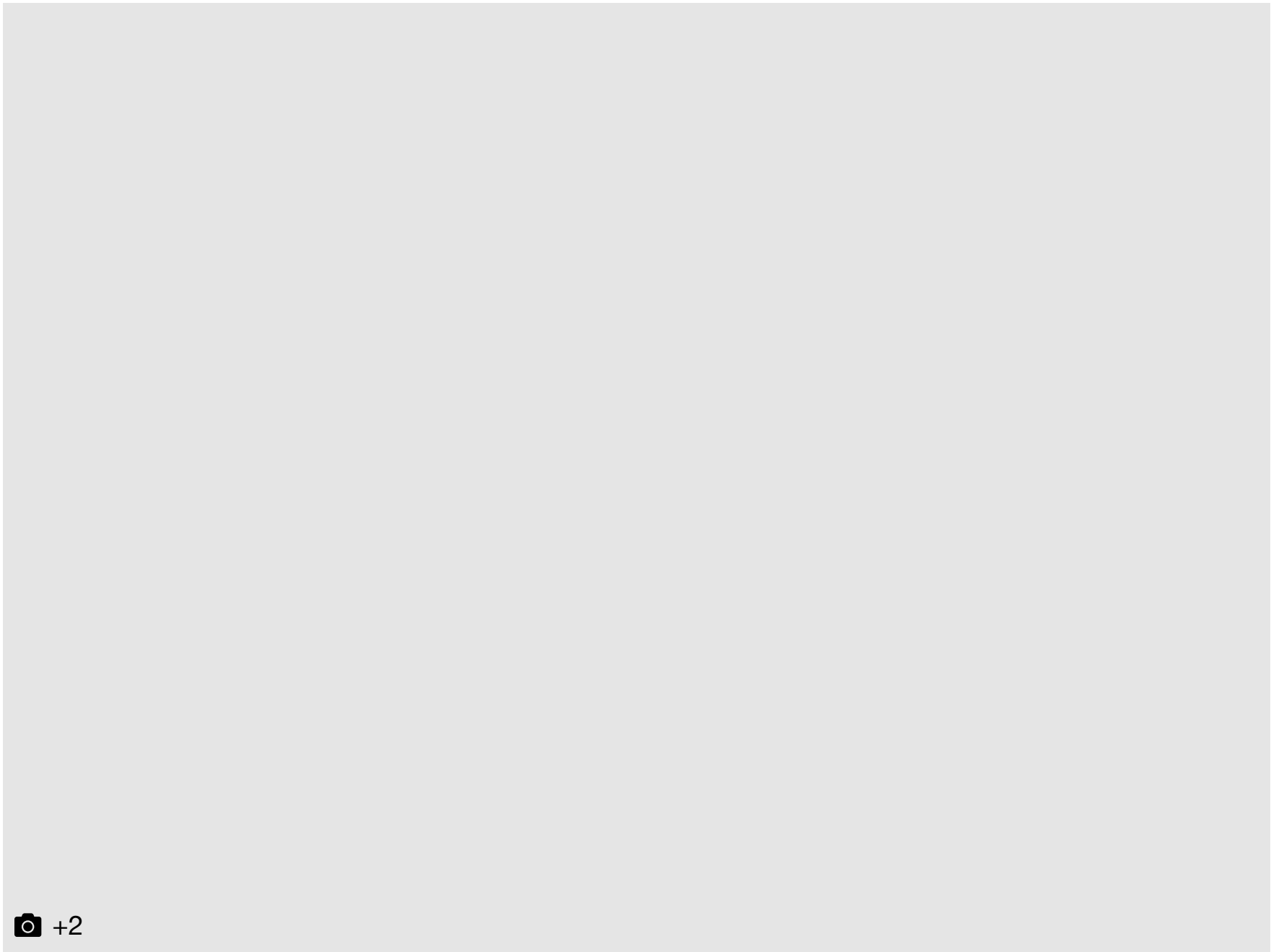
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2:43

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