



St. Olaf College
TRIO Educational Talent Search



REPORTER

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Virtual College Visit Highlights

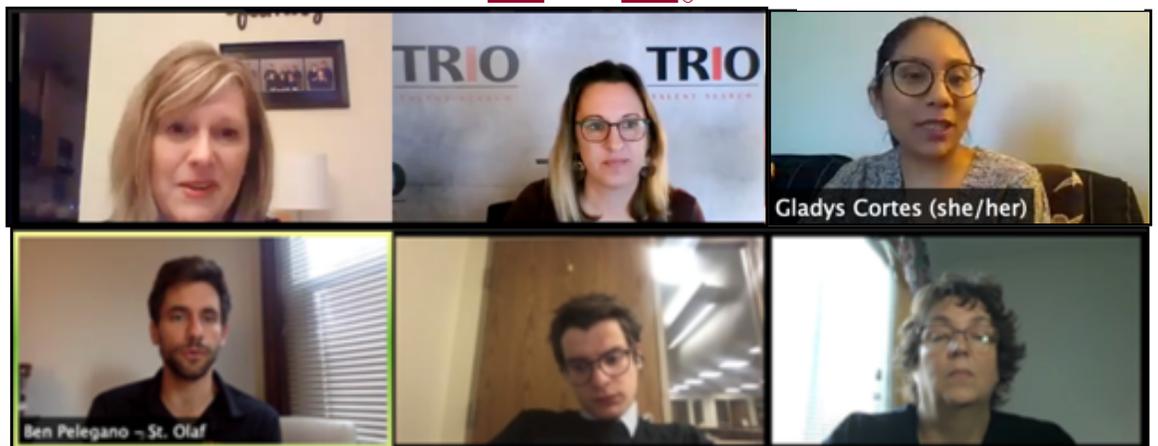
By: David Soto Reyes, Academic Advisor

Over the course of this semester, TRIO ETS organized and collaborated with other Minnesota ETS programs to organize several virtual college visits to:

- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- Bethany Lutheran College
- Riverland College
- University of Wisconsin-Stout
- St. Catherine University
- St. Olaf College
- Minnesota State University-Mankato
- The College of Scholastica
- University of Minnesota- Duluth



During these visits, students were able to meet with the admissions office to learn about the admissions process and go on a virtual tour. Students also had the chance to talk to college students and hear real college experiences. In some cases, students were even able to win scholarships for the college they visited. All students received a \$10 meal card as if we were on a real visit for any visit they attended. Check out a few photos from the virtual college tours below and see upcoming spring college visits on page 5!



Program Director Update

Heidi O'Hair, ETS Director

Happy 2021 from St. Olaf TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS)!

In this issue of the St. Olaf TRIO ETS Reporter, you will learn about past and upcoming virtual field trips and mentoring events. Also included is information about preparing to pay for college (especially important for seniors this time of year) and an activity to help test your financial knowledge. If you need extra help with work for a class, make sure to take a look at the FREE tutoring resources that are available in and around your school.

ETS is pleased to report that 99% of seniors in the class of 2020 graduated within the standard number of years and 67% confirmed enrollment in some form of postsecondary education this fall. We are so proud of their achievement, especially with the obstacles brought on with the start of the pandemic and finishing school in distance learning. ETS served a total of 711 students during the 19-20 school year and are working hard to change programming and meet the needs of students in 20-21!

Be sure to keep in touch with all the Academic Advisors at your schools to learn about upcoming events and ways to be involved. Although we are learning at a distance, we are still here for you and you are not alone on this journey through school and on to postsecondary education!

TRIO ETS Mentoring Update 2020-2021



Dear 9th Grade students and families,

TRIO ETS is excited to announce the start-up of our online mentoring program! In January, 9th grade students attending Community of Peace Academy and Humboldt High School will be given the opportunity to participate in the Mentor Program provided by St. Olaf College's TRIO Educational Talent Search Program. The Mentor Program has been an active part of our programming since 1993. From January through May, students will be exchanging weekly digital letters with a college student mentor at St. Olaf College as an opportunity to learn about the college experience.

TRIO ETS will be partnering with these English Language Arts teachers at each target high school:

Community of Peace Academy: [Megan Cina-Bernard](#)

Humboldt High School: Julie Christensen

Field Trips: In February, St. Olaf Mentors will virtually meet the students, and participate in a learning trivia activity. In March, mentors and mentees will attend an educational virtual experience together, and in April students will have the opportunity to virtual meet their mentors again along with a virtual tour of St. Olaf College. **All services are free of charge but students must have paperwork completed to participate (Student Intake+Parent/Guardian Form).**

TRIO ETS Advisors, partnering teachers, and other school staff members will be present during the virtual meetings with the students and mentors.

Please contact TRIO Educational Talent Search's Lead Mentor Coordinator, Rebekah Pitassi, at etsmentoring@stolaf.edu if you have any questions or concerns about this mentoring opportunity.

Thank You - St. Olaf TRIO Educational Talent Search

Senior Winter To-Do Checklist

By Anna Schmid, ETS Academic Advisor



Calling all Seniors! Can you believe it? There are only five more months of high school left! This time can be exciting and scary, especially while we are all working and schooling from home. It's okay if you don't have a perfect plan mapped out, or if you're still considering your options after high school. Wherever you're at in the process, know that your TRIO ETS Advisors are here to support you. Make sure you are checking your school email frequently with new information from your ETS advisors.

Below is a brief timeline of deadlines and a few tips for making sure you finish senior year with confidence:

JANUARY

1. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Before starting your FAFSA, be sure both you and your parent/guardian have created an FSA ID. This login will be what you both use to sign the FAFSA
 - You can find a FAFSA checklist at: <https://www.educationquest.org/pdfs/FAFSAchecklist.pdf>
2. Check your school email frequently with new information from your ETS advisors.

FEBRUARY

1. We are all sitting at home all day and it's dark and cold outside, which can really affect your mood and motivation to push through. Be mindful about how you start your day. Take the first five minutes after waking up to stretch, meditate, or whatever works best for you! Do your best to avoid your phone during this time :)
2. Complete the necessary paperwork if you are selected for FAFSA verification (reach out to your ETS advisors if you are unsure if you have been selected for verification)
3. Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
4. Check your school email frequently with new information from your ETS advisors.

MARCH

1. Check your school email and make an appointment with your ETS advisor to review your financial aid letters until you understand them completely
2. Continue to look and apply for scholarship opportunities. Check out <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships>. Apply Apply Apply!

APRIL

1. Make sure you have a solid plan for after high school and sit down with your family to discuss the plans.
2. Reach out and use your ETS Advisor as a resource when making this plan and telling your family.
3. Notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
4. Decide which college to attend, notify the school of your decision and send in a deposit by **MAY 1st!**
 - Note: A deposit is needed to secure your place in the class. If you are living on campus, another housing deposit is required. Call the college to make arrangements if these are a hardship for you and your family. They are flexible!

MAY

1. Celebrate how far you've come during this extremely difficult year.
2. Ask that your final senior transcript be sent to the college you will be attending.
3. Find out about any TRIO SSS, multicultural or student support programs at your future college and find out how to get involved! ETS Advisors will hand out a list at the ETS Senior Banquet/College Transitions Lunch so make sure to attend!



Free Tutoring



ANNOUNCING: FREE online access to tutor.com for TRIO ETS students in 6-12 grade!

- One-to-one anonymous homework help and tutoring online in real-time
- **24 hours/7 days/week** online and on-demand access to get connected with an expert tutor in just a few minutes
- 200+ subjects available including Math, Science, Computer Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Foreign Languages, AP (Advanced Placement), & IB (International Baccalaureate)
- Bilingual tutoring (Spanish & English) available for math, science and social studies.
- Drop-off review service for writing assignments and self-study practice quizzes are also included

Reach out to your ETS Advisor for your log-in code and check your school email/mail for more information!

Brainfuse HelpNow

- Free online tutoring **every day** from 1:00 – 11:00 pm
- All major subject areas are covered: Science, Social Studies, English / Language Arts, Writing and Reading
- All you need is a computer, Wi-Fi and a St. Paul or Minneapolis public library card!

St. Paul: Go to sppl.org, click the Services tab, click Homework Help, click Online homework help

Minneapolis: Go to hclib.org, click the Programs and Services tab, click Homework Help, click Get help from a tutor

Humboldt High School School

Flipside

This program is offered to students in grades 6-10. Students who would like to sign up for the program must complete a registration and class choice form, which will be emailed to students on January 15.

Program Coordinator Kristi Rogalla is available to answer any questions on Google Meet every Monday from 3-4pm with the Google Meet nickname: FlipsideHumboldt or email (kristi.rogalla@spps.org) or phone 612-427-7488. Class begins February 8th!



Washburn High School

Washburn Tutoring support is being offered by students in the National Honor Society. Please visit the Washburn website to fill out the form to request a tutor. <https://washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us>

Need to write an essay for your college or scholarship applications? Stuck or need help? The [Washburn Writing Lab](#) can help with pre-writing techniques and brainstorming, organizing and outlining rough drafts, proofreading for grammar and mechanics, editing form and style, work on citations, references, and bibliography / works cited pages and /or polishing final drafts to turn in. Contact the Writing Lab Coordinator Tara Mennitt, if you have any questions at Tara.Mennitt@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Northeast Middle School

Community Ed - Beacon's After School Program

Community Education at Northeast has paired with a few other MPS school sites (Jefferson, Anderson, Folwell, Anwatin) and are offering distance enrichment to students that signed up for Beacon's After School programming.

Next session stars January 19. Sign up today:

<https://sites.google.com/mps.k12.mn.us/afterschoolonline/home>

Edison High School

Distance Learning support 9am-3pm Monday-Friday
After school programs 3pm-5:30pm Monday-Thursday
Downtown YMCA-651 Nicollett Mall

Contact Roz Anderson for more information

Edison Beacons School Success Program Director

651-587-5814 | www.beaconsmn.org

roz.anderson@ymcamn.org

[Minneapolis Beacons Registration Forms 20202021.pdf](#)

Community of Peace Academy

All Teachers offer office hours 11-1 each school day. Check the top of Google Classroom for the teachers' Zoom link.

TRIO Educational Talent Search Upcoming Events

Winter 2021

Northeast Middle School

(NOTE: Middle School College Visits will start in February)

January

TRIO ETS Workshops:

6th Grade: 1/12/2020

7th Grade: 1/13/2020

8th Grade: 1/14/2020

Family Evening Session:

1/19/2020

February

TRIO ETS Workshops:

6th Grade: 2/2/2020

7th Grade: 2/3/2020

8th Grade: 2/4/2020

Family Evening Session:

2/9/2020

March

TRIO ETS Workshops:

6th Grade: 3/2/2020

7th Grade: 3/3/2020

8th Grade: 3/4/2020

Family Evening Session:

3/9/2020

April

TRIO ETS Workshops:

6th Grade: 4/13/2020

7th Grade: 4/14/2020

8th Grade: 4/15/2020

Family Evening Session:

4/20/2020

May

TRIO ETS Workshops:

6th Grade: 5/4/20

7th Grade: 5/5/2020

8th Grade: 5/6/2020

Family Evening Session:

5/11/20

All High School Events

(Check your school email for times and links and newly added events!)

January 18: MLK Jr. Day of Service: Making Cards for senior citizens

January 20: Hennepin Technical College Virtual Visit

January 27: College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University Virtual Visit

NOTE: Attend any virtual college visit with ETS and receive through email a \$10 meal gift card to Subway, Dominos, Dairy Queen, or Chipotle.

Community of Peace Academy

January 27 : College Knowledge Night

Edison High School

March 30 : ACT for All for Juniors (subject to cancellation)

Humboldt High School

February 1 : Right Track Summer Internship Application Opens

<https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/right-track>

Washburn High School

January 17: Free, remotely-monitored live ACT practice exam on Saturday

March 30 : ACT for All for Juniors (subject to cancellation)



COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY



RIGHT
TRACK

ACT[®]



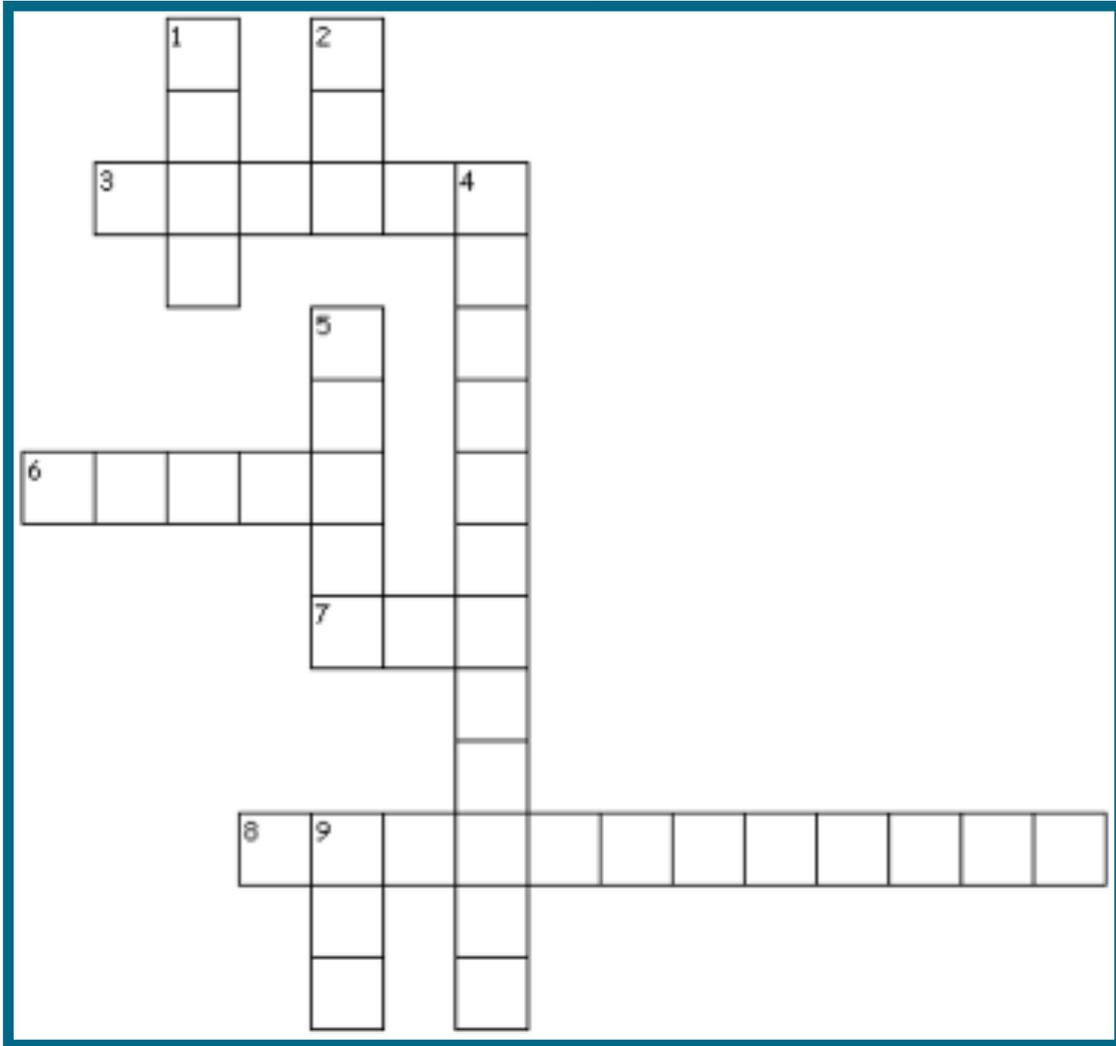
Remembering those feeling
isolated and forgotten



Financial Literacy Crossword

Test your financial aid knowledge!

(answers on page 7)



Across

3. This type of financial aid is free money given to students based on family income.
6. An acronym for the process of applying for financial aid help. (Hint: Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
7. An acronym that stands for the report you receive that summarizes all the information you provided on your FAFSA. (Hint: Student Aid Report)
8. A _____ Form is a document that about 30% of families each year will have to fill out to verify their earnings in order to receive financial aid.

Down

1. _____ Study is a financial aid program that allows students to take a part-time campus job as part of their financial aid package.
2. An acronym for a four digit number that can act as your signature for the FAFSA. (Hint: Personal Identification Number)
4. This type of financial aid doesn't have to be paid back. It may be awarded based on merit or proven academic/athletic ability.
5. This type of financial aid is borrowed money that gains interest and must be paid back when you leave school.
9. An acronym for a phrase that measures your family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law. (Hint: Expected Family Contribution).

Parents: Paying for College

By Aye Bra Tha, Academic Advisor



Did you know that college students graduate with an average of \$30,000 in school loan debt? That is hard to imagine on paper, but that is a lot of money! Here are some steps you can take TODAY to make sure you are not in over your head with college debt once you graduate.

1. Encourage your student to take classes in high school that will count towards a college degree!

These include PSEO, CIS, AP, IB and Career and Technical Education classes. They are all **FREE** and they all allow you to earn high school AND college credit at the same time! Not sure how to sign up for one of these classes or programs? Talk to your counselor or ETS advisor and we will help you get started.

2. Stay involved!

Whether your student is in sports, yearbook club, Boys and Girls club, theatre or volunteering to give back to the community, they all count! Being involved in extracurricular activities will make your student a great candidate for their colleges and scholarship applications.

3. Start a College Fund

Instead of buying expensive gifts for holidays or special occasions, consider putting part of your money away for your student's future and opening a savings account at your local bank.

4. APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!!!

Encourage your student to talk to their school counselor, teachers or an ETS advisor to find out more about what scholarships are available. Scholarships can come from religious communities, local banks or even your place of employment. These institutions often have scholarship funds available, you just have to ask and do some research.

5. Complete your FAFSA in a timely manner!

Filing your taxes and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during your student's senior year are the first steps to receiving any type of federal financial aid. Many scholarships, such as the Power of You, require it and your student can't qualify for grants or aid unless you submit your FAFSA. ETS collaborates with high schools for annual FAFSA night; where we help students and their families to complete their FAFSA application and go over the financial aid process. Have your student talk to their school counselor or an ETS advisor about upcoming FAFSA night!

6. Review your Financial Aid Package with an ETS advisor!

ETS is here to help your student! Do not be afraid to set up a meeting with an ETS advisor to review financial aid award letters; we will explain what everything means and answer any of your questions. We can also help you compare the costs of the various colleges your students have applied to so that they can make an informed decision about what college they will attend.

Want to know all about scholarships? Check out this resource:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships>

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Address Service Requested

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by St. Olaf College. The ETS program annually assists 700 middle and high school students as they explore their academic and vocational options and set goals for the future. ETS Academic Advisors, in cooperation with school counselors and teachers, provide college preparatory services through workshops, classroom activities, and group and individual counseling sessions. St. Olaf College Educational Talent Search works at the following five schools: St. Paul Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul Humboldt High School, Minneapolis Northeast Middle School, Minneapolis Edison Senior High School, and Minneapolis Washburn High School.

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