

REPORTER

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TRIO ETS Senior Class of 2021

Our entire senior class of 2021 at Community of Peace Academy, Humboldt High School, and Washburn High School have done incredible things despite a challenging year. Please read a few highlights of some of our seniors below!

Abdirisak Mohamed, Washburn High School

Abdirisak has applied to Augsburg University and the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, and is planning to attend Augsburg this fall. One of Abdirisak's favorite memories with ETS is when he visited the U of M - Twin Cities his junior year because it was his first time seeing it and he was impressed by the beauty of the campus. Another great memory Abdirisak shared was filling out his FAFSA with his academic advisors because he really got to know them better. Because of his experience filling out the FAFSA, Abdirisak feels confident about completing it on his own in the coming years, and says he'll likely be able to help his friends do the same. Abdirisak says his ETS advisors made it so much easier to fill out college application paperwork, and it was more fun to work on it together. With graduation just around the corner, Abdirisak is looking forward to taking new college classes, meeting many new people at Augsburg, and the excitement of the adventures to come. Abdirisak's advice for younger ETS students is to stay as connected to your advisors as possible. He also reminds seniors not to wait to fill out important documents because it's such a good feeling to have everything turned in on time and enjoy your senior year.



Dynasty Negron, Community of Peace Academy

Dynasty has applied to St. Paul College, Augsburg University, St. Cloud State University, Metro State University and University of Northwestern. She's been accepted to all of them and is planning to attend St. Paul College. One of her favorite ETS memories is when she visited Winona State University. Something that Dynasty will miss most about ETS is the mentor program that she participated in, and the support she received from her TRIO ETS advisors as they helped her prepare for college. As Dynasty is getting ready to graduate this June, she is looking forward to becoming more independent by picking out her own classes and planning her schedule as a college student. One piece of advice Dynasty would like to share with her TRIO ETS classmates is that high school can be challenging but don't give up, "It will be over before you know it so always look at the bright side and continue to work hard!"



Lay Lay, Humboldt High School

Lay Lay has applied to Macalester, Stanford, and three branches of the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities, Rochester, and Duluth. She will be attending U of MN - Twin Cities this fall. One of her favorite memories was the overnight field trip to visit North Dakota State University, and Concordia College Moorhead. Lay Lay says she will miss all the awesome ETS advisors, as well as the field trips to volunteer with local charities, and visiting college campuses. Lay Lay's advice to all ETS scholars is to prioritize your education and choose internships that will give you connections to even more opportunities, "Also, remember to always have fun!" With so much to look forward to Lay Lay plans to enjoy her summer and officially start orientation for college!



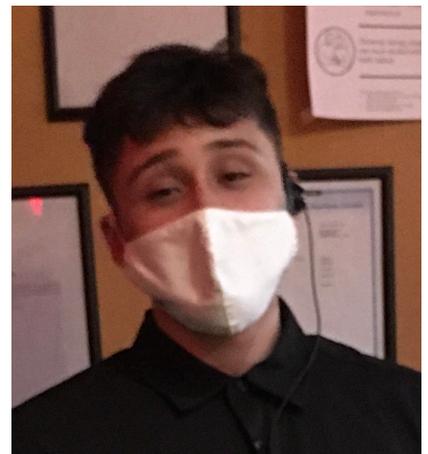
Let Let, Humboldt High School

Let Let has applied and been accepted to three branches of the University of Minnesota: Twin Cities, Rochester, and Duluth. She will be attending U of M - Twin Cities in the fall. She is so excited to join clubs and extracurricular activities in college, which is also her advice to all the other TRIO ETS scholars. "Make sure you are involved in many programs and clubs, be active and build communication skills, and also extend your connections." One of Let Let's favorite memories with ETS was also the overnight field trip to visit North Dakota State University and Concordia College Moorhead during her junior year. One of the things she is going to miss the most is the support from ETS advisors and how they regularly check in to see how students are doing. Let Let's advice to current ETS students is to remember the importance of connection, enjoy the moment while you can, and try and always have something new to look forward to!



Ryan Deutsch, Washburn High School

Ryan has applied to a wide range of colleges, including Seattle University, Augsburg University, New York University, Hamline University, Fordham University and the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. So far he has been accepted to Seattle University, Augsburg College, and Hamline University, and he's waiting to hear back from the rest of the schools he applied to before making his final decision. Ryan's favorite part about being an ETS scholar, and what he will miss most, is always having space to focus on preparing for college. Ryan has always been on the lookout for scholarships to help pay for college and his advice to all the younger ETS students is to pay attention to scholarship deadlines and apply to them as early as possible, but most importantly to remember life is too short to not have fun!



Congratulations!

Programing During Distance Learning

By: Anna Schmid and Aye Bra Tha, Academic Advisors



Distance learning has brought many challenges for our students this year. They have missed engaging with their peers and experiencing in-person education. During distance learning, ETS advisors have been working diligently to come up with new, fun, and creative ways to get students the resources and support to engage and enjoy learning about possible careers, options to continue their education, summer camps, tutoring, and so much more. Some of the ways ETS advisors have adapted for our students this year are...

Virtual classroom presentations

Advisors have been working with our target school teachers to organize monthly presentations via Zoom or Google Meet to virtually connect with middle school, freshman and sophomore classrooms. Each month, advisors have a new topic for each grade to keep students engaged, including lots of games and prizes!

One-on-one individual meetings via phone call/video chat

ETS advisors have been checking in with students by emailing, calling, or texting to schedule individual check-in meetings. These meetings have been the primary way advisors provide our upper class high school students with individualized support and services. These meetings range from resume help, scholarship or financial aid application assistance, job applications, letters of recommendation, tutoring referrals, summer opportunities, and college information.

Virtual small group workshops

Advisors have been meeting with our high school students in small groups via Zoom or Google Meet as another way to continue connecting with them beyond individual meetings. These sessions have offered students the chance to learn more about college and careers.

Mentor program letter exchange

This year, TRIO ETS continued our mentoring program completely virtually with 9th grade students at Humboldt High School and Community of Peace Academy. Students were paired with currently enrolled St. Olaf students as their mentors. Every week, our St. Olaf mentors and 9th grade mentees exchange letters to talk about college related topics. The goal of the mentor program is for 9th grade students to talk to someone who is currently enrolled in college, and to be introduced to college related topics. To read about one of our current St Olaf mentors check out page 4!

Virtual College Visits

Although TRIO ETS college visits field trips have looked a little different this year, it hasn't stopped ETS Advisors from offering our students the opportunities to continue to learn and explore colleges around Minnesota and beyond. Through our virtual college visits, students are able to explore and learn more about college and the types of options available to them. Since September 2020, ETS advisors have offered and provided a number of virtual college visits, including University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, St. Olaf College, the College of Saint Benedict / Saint John's University, and many more.

Mentor Spotlight



Since 1993, the St. Olaf College TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) program has successfully provided thousands of ETS students with a mentoring component that not only inspires the student, but also our Olaf mentors. ETS mentors are current St. Olaf students who volunteer their time to participate in weekly letter exchanges and annual mentor events. This month, we would like to introduce one of our mentors, Anna Lahr, a St. Olaf senior. Please read all about Anna below:

Anna Lahr is currently a St. Olaf senior, majoring in Kinesiology and Chinese. Originally from China, Anna shares that she was adopted and grew up in Monticello, Minnesota. Her family includes her mom, dad, and two older brothers. Anna's mom is a middle school science teacher and her dad works for an electrical company. Anna also has a sassy standard poodle named Flynn Rider (yes, he is named after the Tangled character).

Anna says she joined the mentoring program during her freshman year at St. Olaf. Initially, she didn't know much about the program, but when recruited during class she was very interested. Anna has been an ETS mentor for four years and has absolutely loved the experience. "I have been very attached to the kids that I have mentored and enjoyed learning all about them. The three field trips that we go on together help us strengthen the bond I share with my mentees." Anna feels she continuously learns so much from her mentees whenever she reads their weekly letters. Over the years, Anna has been a mentor to numerous 9th grade students, and with each she has enjoyed hearing all of the questions they have had about college and sharing her own experiences. This has been exciting for Anna as she has enjoyed being like an older sibling to them and sharing all kinds of advice. Anna shared that saying goodbye to her mentees at the end of each year has been sad because she feels really attached to them and appreciates the opportunity she's had to get to know them. Throughout the years, Anna has saved every letter she has received and loves going back and reading through them.

When asked why she mentors for ETS, Anna says, "I think it is so important to mentor for ETS because it is an easy way to learn more about other people who may have different backgrounds than your own." Anna has been able to learn so much about her mentees through their letter exchanges and field trips. "I think this is such a unique and fun idea to be able to be pen pals to 7th or 9th grade students. I wish I had been able to participate in something like this, to have a mentor who was in college that I could write to." Anna really enjoys being able to give advice to her mentees about college, or life in general, and feels like everything she says to them they take to heart and really try to use her advice. Anna loves the questions her mentees have asked her and loves being a role model to them.

Anna's advice to ETS students is to work hard in school and enjoy every day because it flies by in an instant. "I think it is important to work hard in school and to learn a lot in your classes so that you can be successful in anything you decide to do," she says, adding, "I cannot believe that I am already a senior in college and that I am about to graduate." Anna also asks students to remember to "Make sure to branch out and join lots of clubs and meet lots of people. It makes college more fun and interesting when you get to interact with all kinds of people and be a part of clubs where you share similar interests with people."

The ETS program would like to thank Anna for taking the time to share her mentoring experience with us and wish her well as she nears graduation!!

Quotes from St. Olaf Mentors

We asked our St. Olaf Mentors what they have enjoyed most about their experience with the TRIO Educational Talent Search Mentor program this year and here are a few things they shared! Thanks to all our mentors for their time and commitment to our TRIO ETS students!

"I have loved getting to know my mentee and sharing my knowledge and experiences while also learning so much from her."

-Karissa Neudorf, '24

"It's been great getting to know my mentee and I have enjoyed sharing information about college that I didn't get as a high schooler."

- Sara Barrows, '22

"Talking to my mentee about their future aspirations was really refreshing and awe-inspiring."

- Sang Lee, '24

"I feel like I've made a real connection with my mentee despite the distance."

-Kamila Cajiao, '22

"Through TRIO ETS mentoring I developed a strong friendship with my mentee while also being a role model."

-Jose Gonzalez Ramirez, '24

"I have enjoyed getting to know a high schooler who also wants to become a doctor and giving her advice that I wish I had when I was her age."

- Kayli Huber, '24

"Inspiring students to continue their education while building a trusting friendship"

-Olivia Keske, '21

"I enjoyed how my mentee answered my questions and he asked questions."

- Stephanie Sanchez, '23

"One thing I enjoyed was being able to connect with my mentee and telling them about my experiences in college."

- Kabao Xiong, '24

"I loved being able to connect with my mentee in both English and Spanish, helping them utilize and strengthen their writing and reading skills in both of their languages."

- Jasmine Alvarado, '21

"Giving some advice to and making memories with a new high schooler, no matter how brief, during this bizarre and unpredictable school year."

- Claire Breitenfeldt, '23

"I'm happy that I am able to connect and relate with a passionate individual."

-Sinthya Juviani, '23

Graduate Spotlight



Graduate spotlight: Eh Hser Taw
High School: Humboldt Senior High, TRIO ETS Scholar
College: St Olaf College, Class of 2021



Eh Hser Taw is an ETS alumni who graduated from Humboldt Senior High in 2017 and is currently a senior at St Olaf College. She will graduate in May with a degree in Economics and Chinese with an emphasis in Finance. Throughout her four years at St. Olaf she has been President of Hmong Dialogue and Leadership, a member of the Hmong Culture Outreach, and a participant in the TRIO SSS program on campus.

Eh Hser joined TRIO ETS as a 6th grader at Highland Park Middle School, and continued with the program when she entered Humboldt Senior High School. When asked how being a part of TRIO Educational Talent Search helped prepare her for college, Eh Hser says "The advisors helped me in so many ways, from researching the best schools, helping me with college applications, and providing me with resources." Ever since her freshman year at St. Olaf Eh Hser has also worked in the TRIO ETS office on campus and been such an important part of the team. "TRIO ETS has given me so much throughout my 10 years with the program." One of Eh Hser's favorite memories from her years in TRIO ETS were the college visits to different campuses throughout Minnesota, and the volunteering opportunities such as Feed My Starving Children for MLK Day of Service.

When asked if college was what she had expected it would be like, Eh Hser says "College has always been a priority for me, but it was totally different from what I had in mind. It has been hard and time consuming, but it has taught me so much about who I am." Eh Hser says that she knew it would be challenging, but she didn't know it would change her so much as a person. "College has taught me so many life lessons and opened my eyes to different perspectives. Some of these views were in line with mine, while some weren't. We just have to decide what's best for us."

Eh Hser's advice to current TRIO ETS seniors in high school is to "think about your passion and what you really want to do in life. Don't let others push you to do something they think is right, because this is your life. Always choose what is best for you. This is especially true when deciding on a college major." And she adds, "College will definitely be a roller coaster, but ride to your fullest potential and never give up!"

FAFSA Reminder! Attention to all seniors and parent(s)/guardian(s) of seniors who haven't completed the FAFSA:

It's that time of the year to begin comparing financial aid packages. If you haven't yet completed the FAFSA be sure to take a moment to start, finish, and/or submit it as soon as you can. Have you been selected for verification? Not sure? ETS Advisors are here to help. Remember that the FAFSA is the form used to determine how much free state and federal grant money will be awarded to a student. It is also used to establish eligibility for student work awards and many scholarships! You can do it right now by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov. There is no hard deadline to submit this application, but it's a good idea to submit it **ASAP**.

The FAFSA requires student and parents/guardians tax information from the previous year. Students can complete the FAFSA with tax information from 2019 (known as prior prior year taxes). If you need any assistance with completing your student's FAFSA, ETS Advisors are available to help. Call us at 1-800-621-7601 or send an email to your Academic Advisor.



Free Application for Federal Student Aid

REMEMBER: THE FAFSA DOES NOT COST ANYTHING TO FILE AND CAN BE FILED ON A PHONE OR COMPUTER AT:

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/> **OR** <https://fafsa.gov/>

What are you doing this summer?

By Anna Schmid and Aye Bra Tha, ETS Advisors

The following camps are both recreational and academic, and many of them offer scholarships. If you are interested in attending any, talk to your ETS Academic Advisor today. Please visit the camp websites for the latest updates regarding the following summer programs.



MACALESTER
COLLEGE



Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth (MITY) Expand Your Mind:

MITY Expand Your Mind is a 2-week in person or online academic enrichment program located at Macalester College in St. Paul for 7th-11th grade students. There is a 3.0 GPA requirement to attend. MITY will have one online session (June 14 - 25) and two in-person sessions (July 12 - 23 and July 26 - August 6). They are unable to host residential students this summer but they are offering on campus experience where students can commute to

Macalester College. In addition to taking a class, students enjoy fun recreational activities that foster friendships, build teamwork and generate opportunities for peer support and leadership development. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Interested? Applications are now being accepted. Go to their website to learn more: <https://mity.org/>

iD Tech Virtual Camps:

Virtual Tech Camps are the perfect way to sharpen your STEM skills and bond with new friends, all online from the comfort of your home. With the highest quality remote instruction provided by elite tech rock stars from universities like Stanford, Caltech and NYU, you'll unlock your brilliance and create an exciting project. iD Tech camps are for 7th-11th grade students who are interested in technology and want to learn new skills. You will learn about coding, game development such as Minecraft and Roblox, programming, and so much more! Due to COVID, most of the iD Tech university partners are delaying their decisions about on-campus programs until later this spring. Go to their website to learn more: <https://www.idtech.com/virtual>



iD Tech
CAMPS, ACADEMIES & ONLINE



Camp Innovation at The Bakken Museum:

Camp Innovation at The Bakken Museum is a week-long in- person commuter (camp hours 9 am-4 pm) summer program for 6th-9th grade students to design and build their inventions. This project-based

learning approach will flex their mental muscles, ignite problem-solving skills, and be a ton of fun. You will meet new people and enjoy developing confidence through skill-building. While the bulk of the camp week will be spent in the student makerspace accessing the tools and materials for their project, students will also take time to play games, get outside, and learn STEM-inspired tricks. Go to their website to learn more: <https://thebakken.org/summer-camp/>



More Summer Camp Opportunities!

Augsburg University Summer Speech and Debate Camp:

Speech and Debate Camp is for students entering 5th - 12th grade. If you are in a debate team or want to improve your public speaking skills, this is the

perfect opportunity for you! Augsburg University Summer Speech and Debate Camp provides a high quality, virtual summer camp experience to students in the Twin Cities Metro, and across the US. Both the middle school and high school camps are all completely online this year. Go to their website to learn more: <https://www.augsburg.edu/urbandebateleague/mdaw/>



ThreeSixty Journalism Camp:

ThreeSixty Journalism is geared toward high school students who are interested in learning more about journalism. Whether you dream of pursuing journalism, digital media arts, strategic communication, or you're just exploring, ThreeSixty helps prepare you for success. ThreeSixty Journalism summer camps are one week long and

have virtual, hybrid, or in-person options on the campus of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Start times for all camps will be 9:30 a.m. with end time ranging from 3:30 - 4:30, depending on the model. Go to their website to learn more:

<https://threesixty.stthomas.edu/join-360/journalism-summer-camps/>



Saint Paul College Day Camps:

Saint Paul College has four different summer programs for high school students ages 13-17 years old. Each program runs Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm and one week out of the summer in person on the Saint Paul College campus. Their four summer programs are the Scrubs Camp - Career Exploration in Healthcare, Video GameDesign Camp, Imagine It, Design It, Make It, and Cosmetology Camp - Summer Beauty Camp. Go to their website to learn more: <https://www.saintpaul.edu/wtce/highschoolcamps>



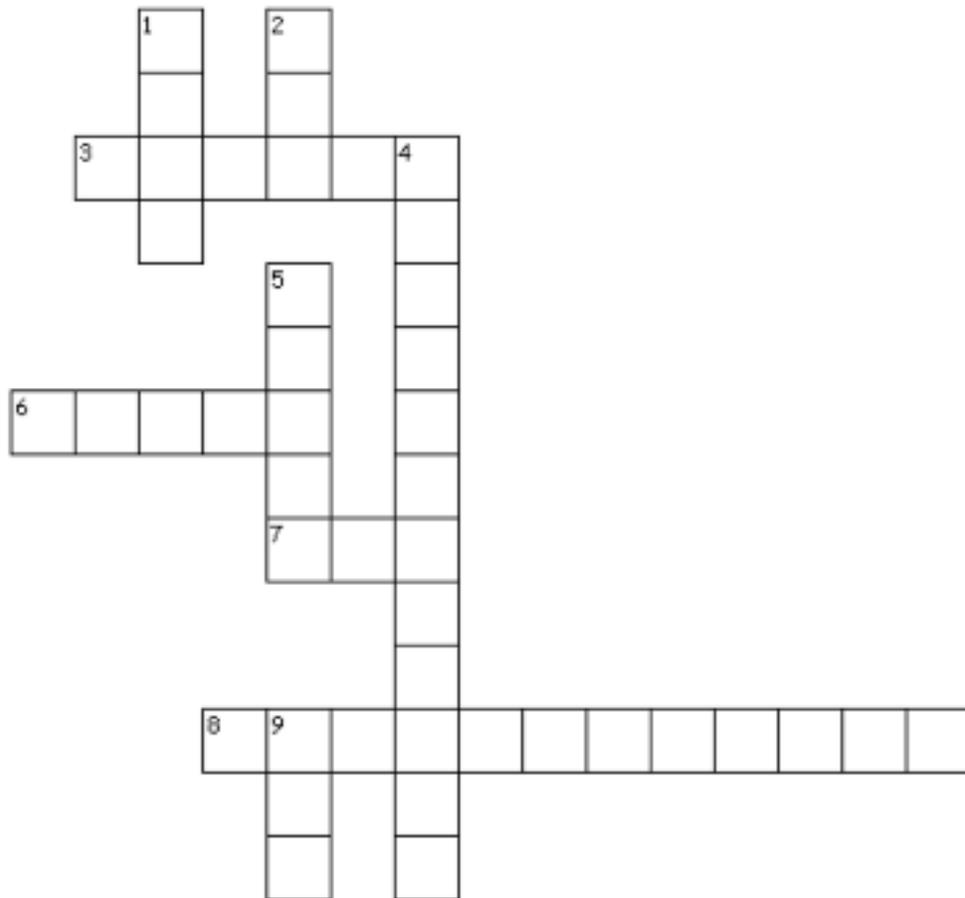
Articulture Teen Summer Camps:

Articulture Teen Summer Camps work with students from 7-12th grade for different week long camps from 9 am - 4 pm. Some of the classes offered are Creative printmaking, Journaling and Zines, Art and Social Justice, Comics and Animation Arts, and more! Beginners will receive guidance and learn technique, while advanced artists may want camaraderie and fresh incentives. Participants benefit from individual learning through a variety of skill-building projects while enjoying a supportive environment. Go to their website to learn more: <https://articulture.org/collections/teen-camps>



Financial Literacy Crossword

The first three students who complete this crossword puzzle and email or text it to ETS advisor Anna will **win a \$10 Target Gift Card!** Email or text a picture of the puzzle to schmid22@stolaf.edu or (612)-236-8000.



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 some families have to fill out to verify their earnings in order to receive financial aid. (*Hint: It starts with a V*)

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 you do not 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*).



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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 Edison High School, Minneapolis Northeast Middle School, and Minneapolis Washburn High School.

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