



St. Olaf College

TRIO Educational Talent Search

REPORTER

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TRIO ETS Visits the Minnesota National College Fair

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

On Wednesday, October 5th, TRIO ETS took a group of TRIO ETS juniors and seniors from our target schools to the Minnesota National College Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Minnesota National Fair is held each fall in Minneapolis. It is one of the largest fairs of its kind and annually attracts representatives from over 300 different colleges and universities. The event also includes workshops on such topics as financial aid, writing application essays, and comparing college options. The Minnesota National College Fair is sponsored by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and regional associations like Minnesota Association of College Admission Counseling (MACAC). The students had a great time at the college fair and afterwards enjoyed an awesome lunch at Old World Pizza in Inver Grove Heights. Take a look at a few photos below!



A Message from our Director

By: Juan Telles

These past couple of months, we have been working hard to connect earlier with the students, make each student's experience valuable to their grade, and to provide necessary information for their career development and college exploration. For middle school students, we worked on the presentations to encourage engagement; an example is the TRIO ETS currency. 6th through 8th graders get the opportunity to earn TRIO ETS currency and purchase a small token right away or save for something later. For high school students, we have been evaluating the curriculum for each school. One thing we have realized is that we are not a "one size fits all" program. Each school needs a different approach, and we need to provide additional information to build on what the schools have already presented to their students. In the coming months, we will continue evaluating and building our curriculum to work for our partner schools.

Winter Break is almost here! We wish you all a safe, warm, and happy winter break!

TRIO ETS Visits St Olaf College

By: Ben Xiong, Academic Advisor

On Thursday, October 20th, over MEA break, TRIO ETS advisors took senior students from Community of Peace Academy to St. Olaf College, located in Northfield, Minnesota. The students who attended the field trip had the opportunity to visit St. Olaf College and learn about the requirements, majors, and extracurricular activities. They also got a tour of the campus and had the opportunity to try food in the cafeteria. Students were excited to go on this college visit and some have applied to St. Olaf because of this visit! We hope to do more college visits like this in the near future. Take a look at some photos below!



Senior Winter Checklist

By: Kali Hickman, Academic Advisor

Hello ETS Seniors! With winter break around the corner we want to remind you of where we'd like you to be in the college and FAFSA application process. Remember, applying to colleges and filling out your FAFSA doesn't mean you have to go to college, but doing so ensures that you have that option available to you. All of the ETS advisors will continue to call seniors to our office to fill out college applications and FAFSA. Below is a brief timeline of deadlines:

December

1. If you haven't already, submit your college applications! Many institutions have January deadlines for applications, so make sure to get those in as soon as you can. Ideally, you will at least apply to a safety, target, and reach school.
2. Check your school email frequently to get updates from your ETS advisors.

January

1. Complete the FAFSA process. Before sitting down to complete 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, and takes up to 3 days to process. ETS advisors will be available to complete the entire process with you.

February

1. If you are selected for FAFSA verification, complete the necessary paperwork as soon as possible. You can reach out to your ETS advisor if you are unsure if you have been selected for verification.
2. Start researching different scholarships and their deadlines.

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. Start applying for scholarships! Even if you don't think you'll get it, apply anyway! The more scholarship money you get, the fewer loans you'll have to take out.

April

1. Decide which, if any, college you want 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 planning to live in dorms or other campus housing, another housing deposit may be required. If this is a hardship on your family, you can call the college to make different arrangements. They are flexible!*
2. If you are not planning on going to college, make sure you have an alternate plan. Be sure to talk this over with your caretakers and your ETS advisors. We are here to help!
3. Meet with your academic or ETS advisor to make sure you are on track to graduate high school.

May

1. Celebrate! Despite everything going on in your life and everything that has happened with Covid and virtual learning, you still managed to accomplish so much!
2. Figure out what high school transcripts will be sent to your future college and how they will need to be sent.
3. Find out about any TRIO SSS, multicultural, or student support programs at your future college and find out how to get involved! Let your ETS advisor know if you need help with this.

Tutoring Resources: Introducing Tutor.com

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

Hello TRIO ETS Students! Do you want FREE, anytime, anywhere anonymous homework or classwork help? We are excited to offer [tutor.com/stolafets](https://www.tutor.com/stolafets)! This is a great resource that is free because you are a TRIO ETS student. With [tutor.com/stolafets](https://www.tutor.com/stolafets), you can have:



- One-to-one anonymous homework help and tutoring online in real time
- Availability 24 hours/7 days/week online and on-demand access to get connected with an expert tutor in just a few minutes
- 200+ subjects are available including Math, Science, Computer Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Foreign Languages, AP (Advanced Placement), & more!
- 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

Your username is the first half of your email address.

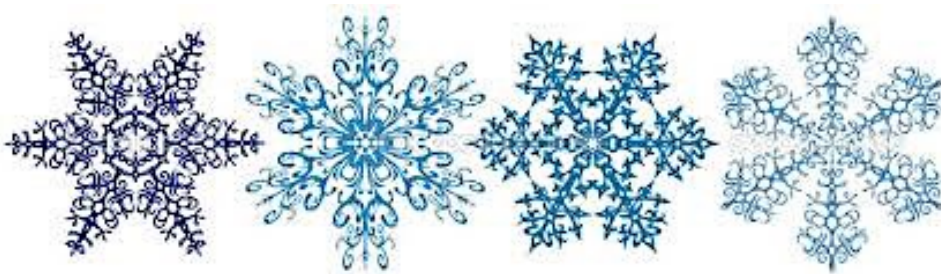
Your password is trioets

Please login and check out the website: www.tutor.com/stolafets

Please do not hesitate to email me at schmid22@stolaf.edu or text me at (612)-236-800 with any questions.

You may refer to these Youtube playlists to learn more about how to use the different functions of [tutor.com/stolafets](https://www.tutor.com/stolafets):

- [Student and Parent playlist](#)
- [Student Playlist](#)



Parents: Paying for College

By: Evelyn Aguilar-Her, Academic Advisor



Did you know that college students are graduating with an average of \$30,000 in school loan debt? That is hard to imagine, but that is a lot of money! Here are some steps you can take TODAY to reduce the cost of college for your student.

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

Some of these includes PSEO, CIS, AP, IB and Career and Technical Education classes. They are all **FREE** and they allow your student to earn high school and college **CREDIT** at the same time! Not sure on how to sign up for one of these classes or programs? No worries! All your student needs to do is talk to their school counselor or ETS advisor to get started!

Stay involved

Whether your student is in sports, yearbook club, Boys and Girls club, theatre or does 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.

Start a College fund

Instead of buying expensive gifts for birthdays, holidays and special occasions, consider opening a savings account for your student, and putting a portion of your money away for your their education.

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 and even your place of employment. These institutions often have scholarship funds available, you just have to ask and do some research.

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 nights!

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 which one they will attend.

TRIO ETS Mentoring Program Update

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

This year, TRIO Educational Talent Search has our mentoring program in two of our target schools, Humboldt High School and Community of Peace Academy (CPA). In total, we have approximately 50 wonderful St. Olaf College students volunteering as mentors for students in one class of 6th graders at Humboldt and one class of 9th graders at CPA! This has been a great opportunity for St. Olaf College students to get involved with TRIO ETS and for them to be college role models to our ETS students.

Mentors and mentees correspond with one another via letter writing each month. In their letters, mentors get to know their mentees and share their interests, backgrounds, and educational experiences. Mentors share information about what college is like, how you should prepare for it, and even how to pay for college. Throughout the year, mentors and mentees will meet face-to-face twice. During the first visit with our Humboldt 6th grade at the end of November, mentors traveled to the Science Museum of Minnesota. They spent the day participating in get-to-know-you ice-breakers, exploring different exhibits and science shows, and afterwards the mentors and mentees enjoyed a delicious lunch of pizza from Cossetta's Italian Market and Pizzeria, as well as homemade brownies made by our incredible 6th grade teacher Ms. Amy. Both the 6th graders and the St Olaf mentors had such a wonderful time! This makes us very excited for our upcoming field trip with our 9th grade CPA mentees, as well as our field trip in the spring when all the mentees will visit their mentors at St. Olaf College!



Spring 2023 ACT Tests

Minneapolis Locations

- **Breck School**
Center Code: 192780
Test Dates:
 - February 11th, 2023
 - June 10th, 2023
- **DeLaSalle High School**
Center Code: 204220
Test Dates:
 - April 15th, 2023
 - June 10th, 2023
- **Edison High School**
Center Code: 204030
Test Dates:
 - February 11th, 2023
- **Minnehaha Academy Upper School**
Center Code: 248420
Test Dates:
 - February 11th, 2023
- **Washburn High School**
Center Code: 196910
Test Dates:
 - February 11th, 2023
 - April 15th, 2023
 - June 10th, 2023
 - July 15th, 2023



Saint Paul Locations

- **Bethel University**
Center Code: 020880
Test Dates:
 - February 11th, 2023
 - April 15th, 2023
 - June 10th, 2023
 - July 15th, 2023
- **Concordia Academy**
Center Code: 163950
Test Dates:
 - April 15th, 2023
- **Mounds Park Academy**
Center Code: 222180
Test Dates:
 - April 15th, 2023
- **Saint Agnes School**
Center Code: 227860
Test Dates:
 - April 15th, 2023
- **St Paul Academy and Summit School**
Center Code: 161220
Test Dates:
 - February 11th, 2023
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TRIO ETS FAFSA/ Financial Aid Events November 2022

By: Ben Xiong and Anna Schmid, Academic Advisors

On Thursday, October 27th, TRIO ETS advisors hosted a FAFSA parent night at Community of Peace Academy for the seniors of CPA. It was a great turnout with the help of CPA counselor Ms. Hall, who widely promoted the event.

On Wednesday, November 16th, TRIO ETS director Juan Telles worked with the Humboldt counselors and Career Pathway Center Coordinator to host Humboldt's Senior Financial Aid Night. We had a great turnout with 11 of our TRIO ETS scholars attend out of the total 35 seniors who attended Humboldt's Financial Aid Night. This was so awesome that TRIO ETS scholars and their parents/guardians were 31% of the people who attended!



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<https://wp.stolaf.edu/ets>

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, and Minneapolis Edison Senior High School.

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