

# REPORTER

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## Open Houses / Meet the Teachers Events

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

On Thursday, August 24th TRIO ETS Academic Advisors attended the Meet the Teacher events at Community of Peace Academy (CPA) and on Thursday, August 31st they attended open house events at Northeast Middle School (NEMS), Humboldt High School (HUM), and Edison High School (ED). It was so exciting to be reunited with all of our school's communities again and get the opportunity to see our students and meet with families. Take a quick peek at our TRIO ETS Academic Advisors table setups below!



Anna Schmid, ED



Junior Avalos, NEMS



Kali & Junior, CPA



Kali Hickman, HUM

## A Note From Our ETS Director

**By: Juan Telles**

Welcome to the 2023 - 2024 school year! We are excited that TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) will be in its 33rd year in partnership with St. Olaf College! We hope you had a fantastic summer, are recharged and ready to start the new school year!

The TRIO ETS team is excited to have two returning Advisors (Anna & Kali) and to introduce our newest member to the TRIO ETS team, Junior Avalos! In the winter newsletter, we will be introducing another new member. We are currently in the hiring process right now for a fourth TRIO ETS Academic Advisor.

The partnerships with Edison High School, Northeast Middle School in Minneapolis, Humboldt High/Middle School, and Community of Peace Academy in St. Paul are growing each year, with new ways to collaborate with each school. We are busy with event planning that focuses on college or career readiness, and with school events for both students and their parents/guardians. The TRIO ETS team is also ready to provide classroom presentations and small-group workshops, academic advising, financial aid, financial literacy events, virtual & in-person college visits, access to our mentor programs, online tutoring, and more.

We are here for you! Let us know how we can support you! We look forward to a fun and successful 2023 - 2024 school year!

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### Hello TRIO ETS family!

I'm Junior Avalos, and I'm absolutely thrilled to be joining the team as one of the new Academic Advisors. St. Olaf College holds a special place in my heart, where I proudly graduated in 2018, majoring in both Dance and Political Science. My journey post-graduation took me through several avenues: I've had the privilege to serve as an organizer and lobbyist for an LGBTQ rights organization, shape the narrative as a program manager for a voting rights group, and even dabble in the entertainment scene of the Twin Cities as an assistant show producer.

But, life's not all work and no play! When I'm not immersed in my professional roles, you'll find me lifting weights, sprinting on the rugby field, diving deep into the world of video games, or hiking trails. And of course, there's nothing like unwinding with my miniature maltipoo, Chilindrina, by my side.

I'm eager to bring my diverse experiences to TRIO ETS and am looking forward to getting to know each one of you. Let's share some video game recommendations or chat about the world of dance anytime!



# Study Skills

By: Junior Avalos, Academic Advisor

**Organization** - Staying organized will help you stay prepared for any upcoming tests/exams and will also help you know where older notes and materials are. Use a planner to help you stay organized in a timely manner. You won't be spending much time looking for information anymore!

**Note taking** - Write down any questions or comments that you may have about the material that you are learning. Refer back to your notes and connect concepts that you have learned. Make sure you are able to go back to your notes and be able to understand it. When tests/exams come you'll be able to look back at your notes and review them!

**Study Location, Different Locations** - Finding a location that you are allowed to study in will help you stay focused. Everyone likes to study in different settings and you know yourself best. Try studying in different environments to know what's best for you! Examples of this could be a quiet place at home, the library or somewhere with moderate noise like a coffee shop. You will be more productive in certain environments!

**Time Management** - Being able to use your time effectively will help make learning much easier. It allows you to know your schedule ahead of time and also helps you plan for the future. It also helps you prioritize what you need to get done first! This will help outside of school when you have to figure out a time to do homework.

**Taking Breaks** - Breaks are always needed otherwise it will fry your brain and you won't be retaining the things you learned. Breaks give you the opportunity to relax and do something other than studying. Take a break by finding something to snack on, taking a stroll or just drinking water and stretching.

**Think/Be Positive** - Always think about the pros and not the cons. Having a good and positive attitude will help you be more successful. Staying positive will keep you on track and keep you focused on your work.

**Switch Between Studying Different Topics** - Being able to rotate between different subjects will help you connect it to other subjects. It also gives you the opportunity to relax from the subject and refresh your mind on something new.

**Ask, Explain, Connect** - Ask yourself why this topic is important. Explain to yourself and others what it is used for and how it could impact you. Connect it to a real life situation and know that the things you are learning are important. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

**Words and Visuals** - Find words that you can easily associate with a visual, something that you see that would help you remember the concept. Examples of this would be the essay format! I associated this with a hamburger because the top bun would be the introduction paragraph, the meat would be the body/supporting paragraphs and the bottom bun would be the conclusion!



# Financial literacy in Jr. High

By: Kali Hickman, Academic Advisor

In today's day and age, money affects almost every aspect of our lives. Growing up in a low-income household I was not taught about financial literacy, and as I entered adulthood I struggled with managing my finances. Looking back I can see how valuable it would have been for me to be exposed to the idea of financial literacy at a much younger age. This would have allowed me to develop the knowledge to understand the value of money and create good financial habits. However, as much as I can see the value of financial literacy now I know that as a 6th grader my mind would have gone blank as soon as I heard a big term like that.

This got me thinking of how I could begin implementing the idea of financial literacy and good financial practices but do so in a way that would be fun and engaging to a middle schooler. From the many classroom presentations I have done I have found that there is nothing that catches the attention of students more than candy and chips. So I thought, why not incorporate that with the idea of financial literacy? That is how I came up with TRIO ETS currency. For \$1 of the TRIO ETS currency students can "purchase" a piece of candy and for \$3 they can "purchase" a bag of chips, with the maximum amount being \$15 to purchase a ticket to a pizza party! This encourages students to start thinking about the purpose behind saving: they can purchase what they really want. While the students can spend their TRIO currency right away for lower-level prizes, the longer they save up the better and the more worthwhile the prize will be.

Aside from the TRIO ETS currency being a fun transition into the idea of financial literacy, it also encourages responsibility and independence, as students will have to make sure they don't lose or damage their TRIO currency. Additionally, it will hopefully get students to participate more in our classroom presentations, as participation is how students will earn the ETS currency. We will begin implementing the TRIO ETS currency this year at Humboldt Middle School and Northeast Middle School.

Here is a sneak peek of what the currency will look like:





## Get FREE Homework Help



**Hello TRIO ETS Scholars!** Do you want FREE, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE, ANONYMOUS homework or classwork help???

We are excited to officially launch [tutor.com/stolafets](https://tutor.com/stolafets)! This is a great resource that is free because you are a TRIO ETS student. With [tutor.com/stolafets](https://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. Example: [schmid22@stolaf.edu](mailto:schmid22@stolaf.edu) my username would be schmid22

Password: Your password is **trioets**

Please login and check out the website: [www.tutor.com/stolafets](https://www.tutor.com/stolafets)

Please do not hesitate to email your TRIO ETS Academic Advisor with any questions you may have.

For the TRIO ETS video and more info check out the student and parent resources tab on our website: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/ets/student-parent-resources/>

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

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



# TRIO Educational Talent Search Mentoring Program Celebrates 30 Years

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

This year the St. Olaf TRIO ETS Mentoring Program celebrates its 30th year! Each year since 1993 St. Olaf College students have been paired with students from the TRIO ETS program target schools in the Twin Cities. We are so excited to make our own history this year!

TRIO Educational Talent Search is hosting our mentoring program at three of our four schools this year – at Humboldt High School, Edison High School, and Community of Peace Academy as a way to serve both Minneapolis and St. Paul, as well as both middle and high school students this year. We have begun training our St. Olaf mentors and still have more training sessions before pairing St. Olaf mentors with our wonderful TRIO ETS scholars.

We are again using the same digital mentoring program model via Google Classroom to allow St. Olaf college students to participate as mentors while they are studying abroad. This is a great opportunity for our college students to get involved with TRIO ETS and volunteer their time even while abroad, and for our ETS students to interact with college role models and learn more about the possibilities of continuing their education.

Mentors and mentees correspond with one another via digital letter writing once a month. In their letters, mentors share information about college, how you should prepare for it, and the transition from high school to college life. We plan on hosting two field trips this year. Mentees and mentors will participate in a service/cultural activity field trip in the fall semester; and then in the spring semester mentees will visit St. Olaf to meet mentors and tour the campus.

## **ACT Test Dates**

### **St Paul Locations**

#### **-Bethel University**

##### **-Center Code: 020880**

-Test Dates:  
-October 28th, 2023  
-December 9th, 2023  
-February 10th, 2024  
-April 13th, 2024  
-June 8th, 2024  
-July 13th, 2024

#### **-Concordia Academy**

##### **-Center Code: 163950**

-Test Dates:  
-October 28th, 2023

#### **-Mounds Park Academy**

##### **-Center Code: 222180**

-Test Dates:  
-April 13th, 2024

#### **-Saint Agnes School**

##### **-Center Code: 227860**

-Test Dates:  
-April 13th, 2024

#### **-St Paul Academy and Summit School**

##### **-Center Code: 161220**

-Test Dates:  
-February 10th, 2024

#### **-St Paul Public Schools**

##### **-Center Code: 255540**

-Test Dates:  
-December 9th, 2023

## **ACT Test Dates**

### **Minneapolis Locations**

#### **Breck School**

##### **Center Code: 192780**

-Test Dates:  
-June 8th, 2024

#### **-DeLaSalle High School**

##### **-Center Code: 204220**

-Test Dates:  
-April 13th, 2024  
-June 8th, 2024



#### **-Edison High School**

##### **-Center Code: 204030**

-Test Dates:  
-October 28th, 2023  
-December 9th, 2023  
-April 13th, 2024

#### **-Minnehaha Academy Upper School**

##### **-Center Code: 248420**

-Test Dates:  
-February 10th, 2024

#### **-Washburn High School**

##### **-Center Code: 196910**

-Test Dates:  
-October 28th, 2023  
-December 9th, 2023  
-February 10th, 2024  
-April 13th, 2024  
-June 8th, 2024  
-July 13th, 2024

St. Olaf College

1520 St. Olaf Avenue

Northfield, MN 55057-1098

(507) 786-6241 TOLL FREE: (800) 621-7601

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

### Address Service Requested

**Layout/Design**  
Fay Dacey, Administrative Assistant

## Layout/Design

Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

Kali Hickman, Academic Advisor

Junior Avalos, Academic Advisor

Fay Dacey, Administrative Assistant

Juan Telles, Director

**ETS Staff**

**TRIO 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.