



St. Olaf College  
TRIO Educational Talent Search



# REPORTER

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## Learning Through Baseball - Science Tour at Target Field

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

On Wednesday, March 6th, TRIO ETS advisors took 35 Northeast Middle School 7th grade students to the Learning Through Baseball - Science Tour with Ballpark Tours at Target Field. The students who attended the field trip had the opportunity to not only visit Target Field the baseball stadium where the Minnesota Twins a Major League Baseball team plays but also go on an extensive tour of the stadium where students got to go on the field, sit in the dugout where players sit, see the locker room, player facilities, administrative offices, concession stands, media facilities, and more!

Students also got to learn about how a baseball and baseball bat are made, the energy efficiency of Target Field, the physics and science of baseball, and more! They did some hands-on activities, such as reaction time, potential vs. kinetic energy, and got the opportunity to step to the plate and take a swing inside a major league batting cage!

We wrapped up the tour with a lunch of Jimmy Johns sandwiches, chips, and juice in the Minnesota Twins press box. This was our first year collaborating with Ballpark Tours at Target Field and we had such a fantastic time! Take a look at some photos below!



## A Note from our Director - Juan Telles

Greetings, TRIO scholars, parents, guardians, and partners!

We are starting to plan for the 2024 - 2025 school year this spring. We are more excited about our tailored curriculum for our individual partner schools! This will provide us the opportunity to collaborate better and enhance each school's already planned career and college readiness curriculum.

TRIO ETS scholars have kept busy this spring by participating in college planning workshops, completing college applications, attending college visits, practicing for ACT, preparing to complete high school coursework, and applying for FAFSA and scholarships.

TRIO ETS Scholars, contact your advisor.

**Seniors:** If you still need FAFSA help or need to complete your Permission to Release Record (PRR) form.

**Juniors:** If you still need to prepare for or need a waiver for the ACT.

**6th - 10th graders:** If you still need to make a plan for this summer and are interested in summer camps.

## ACT Events at Humboldt High School & Edison High School

By: Aztlan Thao, Anna Schmid, and Kali Hickman, Academic Advisors

On Thursday, February 29th, TRIO ETS advisors hosted an ACT Prep Workshop Session at Humboldt High School for all of the TRIO ETS juniors at Humboldt to attend to prepare them for the ACT for all junior event at Humboldt High School on March 12th. Wednesday, March 27th, TRIO ETS advisors hosted an ACT Prep Workshop Session during lunch at Edison High School for all of the TRIO ETS juniors at Edison to attend and prepare for the ACT for all juniors at Edison High School in April.

During both events, our TRIO ETS juniors enjoyed snacks at Humboldt and Domino's Pizza at Edison and worked as a group to focus on and review each section of the ACT Test. Students received general strategies and test-taking tips for the ACT. Each student was given 23-24 practice ACT tests to take home as a way to study.





# MAY FIRST! MAY FIRST! MAY FIRST!

REMEMBER THAT YOUR ETS ADVISORS ARE HERE TO HELP. SEE US IF YOU NEED HELP WITH THIS PROCESS.  
STOP BY THE TRIO ETS OFFICE AT YOUR SCHOOL!

## What's going on May 1st?

Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, is the last day seniors must notify colleges they've been accepted to whether they will accept or decline the offer of admission.

## How do I accept a college's offer of admission?

Most colleges mail you a deposit and/or housing deposit form with your acceptance materials. You accept this offer of admission by postmarking this form and your deposit payment back to the school by May 1st.

## What does postmarked mean?

This means your form must be in an addressed envelope, stamped, and at the post office, not just in a mailbox, by May 1st.

## What is a deposit?

A deposit is the amount of money requested by the college to save your spot—a down payment. It can range from \$100 to \$500, but many colleges will work with you if you cannot pay the full amount. Call your admissions person well before May 1st to ask about your options. Talk to your ETS Advisors if you need help on what to say.

## What happens if I don't do this by May 1st?

Your spot may be given up, and you might not be able to attend this college in the fall. Make sure you take care of this before Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

## 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 <https://fafsa.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 2023 (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.



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

<https://fafsa.gov/>



# Tutoring Resources for Final Exams and End of the Year: Tutor.com

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

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

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

Password: Your password is TrioTs91

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://www.tutor.com/stolafets):

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



# Attention Middle School Students:

## Here's what you can do NOW to get ready for college

By: Junior Avalos, Academic Advisor

Part of preparing for college is taking the right classes in middle school. Courses such as English, algebra, foreign language, and technology will better prepare you for more challenging courses in high school. But college preparation is about more than just classes and grades. It's also about developing the skills (such as good study habits, paying attention in class, and reading) that will help you succeed in college and life.

### Here's what you can do NOW to get ready for college

#### 6th Grade

- Speak with your school counselor, librarian and other adults (teachers, relatives, and family friends) about interesting jobs
  - Develop strong study habits that help you earn good grades and test scores
    - Read at least one book every month, just for fun
    - Participate in class activities

#### 7th Grade

- Begin taking advanced courses such as Algebra I and a beginning foreign language class (But remember, take only the most difficult courses you can handle)
- Talk to your counselor or teachers about courses you can take in high school

#### 8th Grade

- Keep doing your best in school—study hard, earn good grades, and participate in class
- Ask your counselor about challenging and interesting courses you can take in high school
  - Continue to explore different career options
  - Start saving money now to help pay for college
- Continue taking advanced courses such as Algebra II and an intermediate foreign language class
- Ask your older sisters, brothers, or other college students about their college experience. If you don't know any college students, ask your counselor to help you contact some students

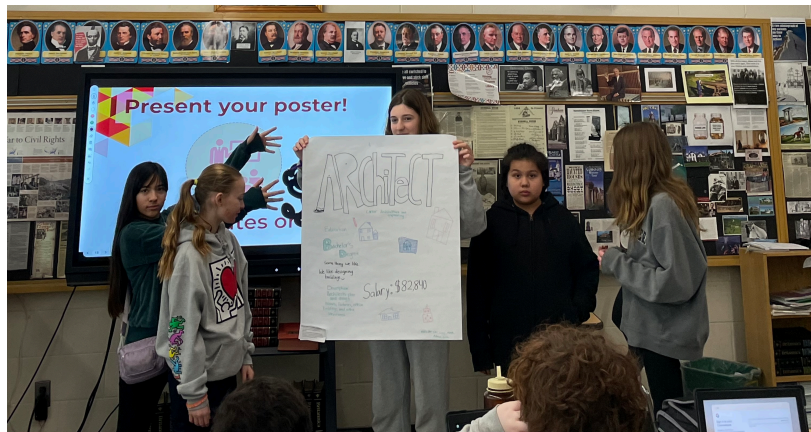
Want to find out more steps for college preparation? Visit [StudentAid.gov/](https://studentaid.gov/)  
College Preparation Checklist at:  
<https://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/checklists/middle-school>



# Career Posters Activity with Northeast 6th & 7th Graders

By: Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

On Thursday, February 15th, TRIO ETS advisors worked with the Northeast 7th graders. On Thursday, February 29th, TRIO ETS advisors worked with the Northeast 6th graders and did one of our all-time favorite workshops, the "Career Posters" activity! Students got to pick their groups of 3-5 students and researched several careers using the Occupational Outlook Handbook. After they had picked a career of their choosing, they selected a specific job within that career and had 15 minutes to create a career poster. In their career poster, they had to include the names of everyone in their group, the name of the career that they would earn in that job, a description of the job (in pictures or words), and one thing they like about the job. Students learned about the education for that career, average salary, and job outlook. After all the posters were created, we hung them around the classroom, and students presented their career posters to their classmates so that everyone could learn about multiple careers while also exercising their public speaking skills!



# TRIO Educational Talent Search 2024

## Spring Mentoring Program Updates

By: Anna Schmid & Junior Avalos, Academic Advisors



The TRIO Educational Talent Search mentoring program is running in three classrooms in two of our target schools this year: Humboldt High School and Community of Peace Academy (CPA) in St. Paul. At Humboldt High School, we are working with one 6th- and one 8th-grade class. At CPA, we are working with one 9th-grade class.

Mentors and mentees have continued to correspond with one another via letter writing each month. Our first visit with our CPA 9th-grade mentees and their mentors was on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024. We went to Sky Zone Trampoline Park in Oakdale. The mentors came down to CPA, and we started the day at CPA by

participating in get-to-know-you ice-breaker games and activities before getting on the bus to Sky Zone Trampoline Park. After a super fun time bouncing around and playing trampoline basketball together, we returned to CPA to enjoy a delicious lunch of pizza together. We will end all the mentoring programs this April when all the mentees visit their mentors at St. Olaf College.

## TRIO ETS Humboldt Middle School Field Trip To See The Movie "Migration"

By: Aztlan Thao and Kali Hickman, Academic Advisors

On Tuesday, February 13th, TRIO ETS advisors took the TRIO ETS Humboldt Middle Schoolers to the Woodbury Theatre to see the movie *Migration*. The movie is about a family of ducks and their journey to Jamaica. Students enjoyed lunch at the movie theater and learned more about why ducks migrate and the migration process for ducks in the U.S. We had such a fun day at the theater!





# ETS Advisor Attends Council for Opportunity in Education's Annual Policy Seminar in Washington, DC

By: Kali Hickman, Academic Advisor

The St. Olaf College TRIO ETS advisors attended the Council for Opportunity in Education's (COE) Annual Seminar this March 2024. This year's seminar was held on March 17th-20th, 2024, in Washington, DC, at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

During our week in Washington, DC, we worked to keep TRIO programs effective, efficient, and funded. We ended it with a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill to get Congress members and Senators to sign the TRIO annual funding letter for FY25, supporting a \$68 million increase to TRIO funding in addition to advocating for FAFSA and grant issues TRIO SSS programs are facing. Our team of TRIO ETS advisors was split into four groups and met with the offices of Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Congresswoman Angie Craig, Congressman Brad Finstad,



Academic Advisors Left to Right: Kali, Junior, Azi, and Anna

Congressman Dean Phillips, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Congressman Tom Emmer, Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, and Congressman Pete Stauber. The majority of these offices agreed to continue their strong support of TRIO programs and make TRIO programs a top priority. This support helps TRIO programs move closer to their goal of ensuring that our practitioners can continue to provide high-quality services in this more costly environment across the United States!

We want to congratulate Fay, our Administrative Assistant, on her new career opportunity with Carleton College! For the past six years, she has contributed to TRIO ETS in numerous ways. Thank you for your dedication to St. Olaf TRIO ETS!





# ACT INFORMATION FOR JUNIORS

Our TRIO ETS juniors have been busy prepping for the ACT this year! At Community of Peace Academy juniors participated in a practice ACT test with ETS Academic Advisors for multiple Wednesday during February. On February 29th, TRIO ETS Humboldt High School juniors attended a strategies and basic info session for the ACT test with ETS Academic Advisors. On March 12th, TRIO ETS Edison High School juniors attended a strategies and basic info session for the ACT test with ETS Academic Advisors.

Students, to help you alleviate some of the stress of preparing for college, you should start studying and practicing for the ACT now! You can do this by using PrepMe on Naviance or go to <http://www.actstudent.org/>. These tools will help you figure out what subjects in school you may need to improve on. The ACT is a timed test so doing a practice test will help you to manage your time well when taking the actual exam. You can register for the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). If you need a fee waiver, you can get one from your ETS Advisors. You've got this, juniors!

Tips on what to do before testing:

- **Prepare Physically** - Eat before testing (you don't want a growling stomach that will distract you during a test), use the restroom, and bring a bottle of water.
- **Review** - Go through notes or flashcards.
- **Calm Down** - Take calming breaths and relax. Getting anxious won't help you score your highest.
- **Flex** - Stretch and flex your muscles, this will also help you relax and feel more alert.
- **Chat** - If you are able to, talk with the people around you about the upcoming test, maybe they have a fact or tip that will be useful to you on the test. (Do NOT talk during the real test!)

Want more testing tips? Visit:

<http://testprep.about.com/od/tipsfortesting/tp/Day-Of-The-Test.htm>

## ACT Test Dates and Locations

### Minneapolis

#### Breck School

**Center Code: 192780**

- June 8, 2024

#### DeLaSalle High School

**Center Code: 204220**

- April 13, 2024
- June 8, 2024

#### Washburn High School

**Center Code: 196910**

- February 10, 2024
- April 13, 2024
- June 8, 2024
- July 13, 2024

### Edison High School

**Center Code: 204030**

- April 13, 2024

### St Paul

#### Bethel University

**Center Code: 020880**

- April 13, 2024
- June 8, 2024
- July 13, 2024

#### Mounds Park Academy

**Center Code: 222180**

- April 13, 2024

#### Saint Agnes School

**Center Code: 227860**

- April 13, 2024



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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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