

Fall ETS Newsletter

Congratulations ETS!

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Special points of interest:

- The new ETS grant requirements and how they effect you!
- Des Moines Homework Help Center, Tuesday nights at the Des Moines Public Library
- Why your ETS coordinator doesn't want you to graduate high school early
- Check out the upcoming ETS events!

The Central College ETS Program has been awarded funding for five more years! The staff worked hard to write a renewal grant. Our efforts paid off in July when we were informed that our grant received a score that ensured continued funding.

With our new grant come a few changes.

Reduced Numbers:

While the ETS program was previously funded to serve 1,000 students, we are now funded to serve 874 students. By reducing the number of students we serve, the ETS Program can focus on students who are really interested in what we have to offer!

Post-Secondary Tracking:

The ETS Program used to make sure our students enrolled in post-secondary education and discontinued tracking students once we had confirmation. With our new grant, we are required to report on whether our students graduate from post



EDUCATIONAL Talent SEARCH

The Central College ETS Program has been awarded funding for an additional five years!

Rigorous curriculum means,

- *4 years English
- *3 Years Math
- *3 Years Science
- *3 Years Social Science
- * 2 Years Foreign
- ***Language

Rigorous curriculum is important for students planning to attend post-secondary education. Many colleges require students complete a rigorous curriculum before they can be admitted because it ensures they are ready for college curriculum. Certain grants are only awarded to students

-secondary school. ETS students have six years to earn a technical, two, or four year degree.

Rigorous Curriculum:

You may have heard your coordinator talk about rigorous curriculum. The ETS grant requires all ETS students complete a rigorous curriculum.

who have completed a rigorous curriculum. The ETS staff encourages students to remember that completing a rigorous curriculum is the *minimum* requirement. Taking four years of math, science, and social science will help you be even more prepared for college!

A special thanks to our Director, Dr. Louise Esveld for all the time and energy she put into writing the ETS grant!

Fall ETS Events!

The ETS Program has already hosted a number of successful events this fall! To kick off the year, we visited the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa in September. Junior and Senior ETS students had the opportunity to compare two of the three state schools!

Hiatt and Woodside Middle School visited Iowa State University, while

students from Hoyt Middle School visited Wartburg College in Waverly Iowa.

Congratulations to the students who were selected to attend the Iowa MAEOPP Student Leadership Conference, Faith Starr, Cassady Bennett, Megan Roozeboom, Keegan VanDeVender, Leslie Bernal-Perez, Alma Chavez, Aaron Hosman, Prisma Ruacho, and Kaitlin Stalkup.

Students had the opportunity to hear from two powerful speakers and attend break-out sessions related to leadership!

Keep your eyes and ears alert for the application to our annual cultural event. This year students will have the opportunity to see *West Side Story* on Saturday, February 11, 2012

Bueller? . . . Bueller?

By: Chantelle Wilson

One of the largest growing concerns in schools today is the increasing rates of truancy. Truancy, or being absent from school, may not seem like a huge concern, but the educational information missed puts a student behind those who attended class for the day. Missing school occasionally may not seem like a problem, especially if the missed school work can be made up, but in reality, missing instructional time is detrimental.

Attendance has become such a concern for so many schools around the United States that programs like "Get Schooled Attendance Challenge" have been created. The goal of these programs is to help increase attendance with incentives like scholarships for the students and money for school improvement. In order to get kids to school and make this campaign work, the creators want to hear from all sides (students, faculty, parents, etc.) so that they can get students to go to school and to *want* to go to school. East High School is the largest high school in Iowa and the only high school in Iowa that is participating in this nationwide program. East High faculty is working hard to make this campaign a success in their school as they have recognized the importance of improving their student academic achievement

and their graduation rates.

According to the National Education Association, only 68% of students who enter the 9th grade will graduate **on time** and **with the rest of their peers**. As a result of this shocking statistic, more and more schools have started implementing new attendance policies and have developed strategies on how to get students to school in order to increase their academic performance and, in effect, their graduation rates. One thing to keep in mind is that a family's socioeconomic status can have a direct result on the child's academic performance and attendance. A study conducted in 2000 reported that young adults from families in the lowest 20% of all family incomes were *six* times as likely as their peers that are from the top 20% of all family incomes to drop out of high school.

School Attendance is so important because it impacts the students' academic achievement, provides revenue enhancement, increases instructional time, and teaches real world work skills, all of which are beneficial to the future of the student. Getting an education is the foundation to success in life. On an average, the annual incomes of high school dropouts, high school

graduates, and college graduates, significantly differ.

The next time you are thinking about not attending school or that missing one day cannot make much of a difference in your schooling, think again! The ETS challenge for the remainder of the year is to only miss school when you absolutely have to miss school. Your teachers love to see your smiling face and so does your ETS coordinator!!!



Giving back to the community by collecting trash at Freshmen Leadership Weekend, Spring 2011.

Level of Education	Average Annual Income
High School Dropout	18,734
High School Graduate	27,915
College Graduate	51,206

Graduating Early?

By: Ellie Burns

The ETS Coordinators have noticed that many of our students are interested in graduating high school early. While we understand the desire to be done with high school, we highly recommend evaluating the situation with your coordinator prior to making a decision.

We can look at some simple math to see the benefits of taking **FREE** college credit classes in high school versus graduating early and taking the classes in college.

The average college credit is \$150. A three credit class would cost, \$450. If you take a full semester (12 credit hours), it would cost \$1800. Staying in high school for another semester could save a student \$1800, not to mention the amount you will save in additional fees and books. Staying in high school an extra year (2 semesters) could save a student over

\$3600! If graduating early is something you are considering, please talk with your ETS coordinator and/or your school counselor.

It is possible we could arrange for you to remain in high school and earn college credits, for **Free!**



Financial Aid Vocabulary - Important Information for All Students!

By: Katie Whipple

Worried about paying for college?!?

For most people, thinking about the cost of a college degree is scary. Grants, loans, scholarships, tuition, FAFSA, room, board, financial aid - there are enough terms to remember it can make your head spin! Here are some quick bits of info that can help you plan for financing your college education.

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid): THE MOST IMPORTANT FORM TO FILL OUT TO QUALIFY FOR FINANCIAL AID IN COLLEGE! This must be filled out every year that you go to school. File as soon as possible after Jan. 1 of your senior year of high school. Many schools will not give you scholarships unless you fill this out! <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
The FAFSA should **never cost money to complete. If the website is asking for payment, you are on an incorrect website.

Grant: FREE MONEY from the government. Do not have to pay this money back!!

Loan: Money that you **DO PAY-BACK!** Use with caution! Loans are one way to help finance your education as possible. Remember: you pay it back with interest, so you will end up paying back more money than you borrow.

Try this cool tool to get an idea of what is an appropriate amount of loans for you to take out: <http://www.studentloan.org/gameplan>

Work Study: Working at your college - you must qualify to get work study money by filing the FAFSA. It will pay you just like a regular job throughout the year as you work. The paychecks are usually small, though, so don't count on work study paying your entire tuition bill!

Scholarship: FREE MONEY based on doing something well - academics, sports, music, language, etc. You do not have to pay this money back either! There are tons of scholarships out there - you just need to find them! Try www.fastweb.com to get started!

You can't win scholarships unless you apply. Putting forth a good scholarship application takes time and effort. Start early so you can have essays and other application materials proof-read by your teachers, counselors, or ETS coordinators!

Look for Scholarships Early
You can't win scholarships unless you apply. Putting forth a good scholarship application takes time and effort. Start early so you can have essays and other application materials proof-read by your teachers, counselors, or ETS coordinators!

Be a Money-Savvy Student Save Early and Often

If you put \$20 per week into a savings account and don't touch that money until you use it to pay for college, you could save \$4,160 over your four years of high school!!

Create a Budget and Stick To It
Write down the amount of money you want to spend and save, based on how much money you make. Put savings away first, then prioritize items you would like to buy. Try this online budget calculator to help you determine a budget for yourself: http://www.icansucceed.org/en/high_school/manage_your_money/budgeting/

Take College Credit Courses in High School
These are FREE college credits! Think about entering your first year of college with a semester or even a year of college credits under your belt - that you haven't had to pay for! Paying for 3 or 3 ½ years of college is much cheaper than going the full four years!



Students participated in TRIO Day last year at the Capital. Thank you for your help spreading the word about TRIO and ETS!

Homework Help!

Central College ETS is teaming up with other TRIO programs and Gear Up to offer a homework help center for Des Moines Area students. Students can use the space to come and work on homework, but the added bonus is that there are tutors available in case you have any questions during the work time! We know there are many students facing challenges in chemistry, geometry, algebra, world history - you name it!

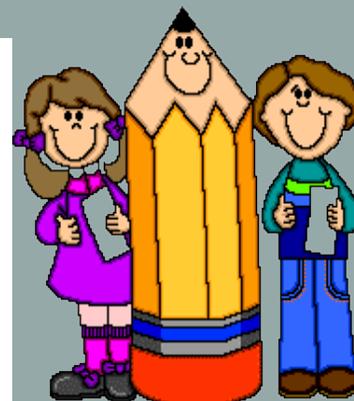
Don't struggle on your own - take advantage of FREE HELP!!
Here are the details:

Who: ETS Students in the Des Moines Area

What: Homework Help Center/ Tutoring

When: Tuesdays from 6pm-8pm

Where: Des Moines Downtown Public Library (2nd Floor Computer Lab)



What is TRiO?

TRiO is a group of federally funded programs, designed to help students enroll in and graduate from college! Initially, there were three programs which is why they were under the name TRiO. More programs have been added over the year, but the name TRiO has remained! **You** are part of TRiO because you are in ETS.

Additional TRiO Programs:

Upward Bound (UB): A program designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges, includes a 6-week summer residential component.

Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS): Assists high school students interested in pursuing a math or science field at a four-year college. Also includes the summer residential component.

Veterans' Upward Bound (VUB): A program that assists soldiers returning from service who are interested in pursuing a degree.

Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC): Provides counseling and information on college admissions to qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education.

Student Support Service (SSS): A program for college students that provides them with academic advising, tutoring, and motivates them to complete their postsecondary degree.

Ronald E. McNair (McNair): Designed to increase the number of under-represented students who pursue Doctoral Degrees.

****Central College hosts UB, UBMS, ETS, and SSS Programs****



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