



Money and Middle Schoolers

TheMint.org

Want to figure out when you will be a millionaire? Or maybe you'd like to know your credit card IQ? Perhaps you'd like to start keeping a money journal. Learn all of these things and more at **TheMint.org**

Anyone who watches the news knows the distressed financial situation our nation is in today. Launched in 1997, **TheMint.org** provides tools to help parents as well as educators teach children to **manage money wisely** and **develop good financial habits**: the building blocks for a secure future.

Fun topics for kids include tips on earning, saving, spending, investing, giving, and owing, along with some great activities about budgeting, writing checks and keeping a checkbook, and an entrepreneurial challenge. **TheMint.org** is an interactive, entertaining way to learn about money and become prepared for the financial responsibilities ahead!

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EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

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WINTER 2009 EDITION

Kudos to Our Kids

It seems like it was just June and our Seniors were graduating from high school. Now school is back in session and it is almost the New Year again. We are so excited for our new freshmen that are in college this fall. This has been our best ETS year ever. Out of 55 graduating ETS Seniors, 22 are going to technical colleges and 33 are going to a UW school. We couldn't be happier. ☺ = Ms. Hirsch, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Dahlke, Ms. Mertz

Best wishes for continued success this school year.

-Kathleen Hirsch, Director

Our Mission:
Educational Talent Search empowers students to make informed decisions on education by connecting school success with career choices.

Educational Talent Search
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Menomonie High School students explore career and college options

Growing up in the ETS Program



A unique group of 30 high school juniors had an outstanding hands-on tour of UW-Stout. These students are from Wittenberg-Biramwood High School (WBHS) and have been involved with the ETS program since 6th grade. On April 30th, 2008 these Juniors toured a few of the really cool "hands-on-learning" programs offered at Stout. The departments involved the students so they could gain a better understanding of how college life differs from high school. The tour highlights were:



- 1) Seeing the teaching done in the toddler lab for the Early Education Program.
- 2) Experiencing equipment used for disabled people through the Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- 3) Receiving a specialized catered meal created by college students in the Hospitality and Tourism program
- 4) Creating plastic products in the labs of the Engineering and Technology Program
- 5) Learning teamwork through rock climbing and game playing at the Stout Adventures Climbing Wall

Since 6th grade these Juniors have worked hard to fulfill their hopes and dreams of being able to enroll in postsecondary education. Turning secondary education into postsecondary goals will continue to be the key connection. This campus visit helped these students understand the link to college through the exceptional Stout staff representation and the Educational Talent Search Program.

The Advisors in the ETS program will continue to help you realize your potential, your dreams, and ways to succeed beyond the high school years. Stay involved with your Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program....."ETS" well worth it!



Chippewa Valley Technical College

College campus visits are an important part of sophomore and junior year of high school. Visiting a college while school is in session will give you a more accurate feel of campus life. Be on the lookout for information about upcoming campus visits hosted by ETS.

Juniors and Seniors- Do You Know What's Ahead?

It is requested that Juniors and Seniors meet with their ETS Advisor 6 times each year. These meetings may be to learn about opportunities presented through ETS such as field trips to educational sites and to receive help with financial aid. At these meetings we will also prepare for the ACT test and plan college visitations.

JUNIORS

As **Juniors**, you will go on college visitations while school is in session in order to get the real 'flavor' of the institution and campus life. Places we typically visit are CVTC in Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW- Stout, UW- LaCrosse, and UW- River Falls. These trips are provided at no cost to the student and provide free meals as needed.

Juniors then need to prepare for the ACT testing. To do this, many hard copy and on-line practice tests will be provided and instruction given as the students practice for the test. Application for ACT is made in February and March for the April test. Through ETS, the fee can be waived if requested. Typically the test is taken twice, and waivers are available for both.

SENIORS

As **Seniors**, the year starts with a rush to complete college applications by the end of October. Not only will ETS help with the application process, but we can provide application fee waivers (average \$44 each) for most applications.

In January **Seniors** must begin the FAFSA process of applying for financial aid. ETS counselors are experienced in filling out the long forms and will provide help to all ETS seniors. Finally, upon receipt of the package of aid from FAFSA, Mr. Dahlke will help you apply for the TIP Grant, which is a valuable and renewable grant available to many of our ETS students.

It is important that you keep track of these deadlines and take advantage of the services available through ETS. We're here to meet your every college preparation need!

The Dahlke Difference

Dear Mr. Dahlke,

I am thankful for everything that you do for your students. You really do try your hardest to make us all successful. I am very glad that there is the ETS program to help students who overall aren't able to afford college. I want to thank you for being here and helping us through many rough times with college applications and taking us on college tours. I really appreciate all the times you came to MHS and took the time to go through all the paperwork related to college and getting us prepared for college.

I understand that the ACT is a big part of high school and it takes a lot of time to get us prepared. You really took the time to sit down with us and walk us through it all. This is my last year in high school, and I will really miss all the opportunities that were given in school from this program. This has helped me so much and given me the opportunity to think about college and what I want to do in the future. Thank you for all you did for me and every other student that you've helped. I'm glad you are here for students in the coming years. They are lucky!

Sincerely,

Doua Song Yang. MHS Senior