

Hey Juniors!

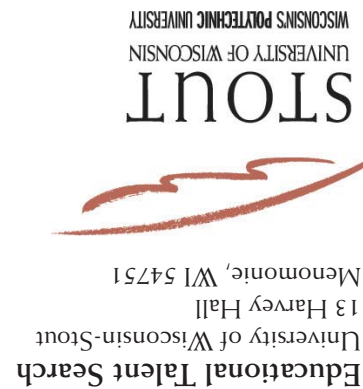
The best time to check out a school is when classes are in session. Plan visits for spring break or summer vacation to help with selecting where to send your applications in the fall. If you're seriously considering a school, schedule an interview and/or a campus tour. Afterward, send a thank you! Keep notes of your visits; it will help in making your final decision.

Do you want to learn how to save, invest, and manage your money better?

www.MyMoney.gov can help!

Under links, check out Paying for Education for tips, ideas and links to other helpful websites.

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



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The Connection



EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

is located at the:
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WINTER 2008 EDITION

A Look at the New Year....

An article in the USA Today wrote about the value of a high school diploma. I felt this topic need emphasizing for our students, parents, teachers and administration. The article stated that a generation ago, a high school diploma was a ticket to America's middle class. Unfortunately, that same ticket is far less likely to guarantee a solid career future. Increasing technology has elevated the need for training in jobs beyond high school.

During the 1970's, workers with college degrees earned 36% more on average than those with high school degrees. That gap has risen to 76%. Hundreds of jobs that pay salaries high enough to qualify for middle class are now requiring at least a two-year degree.

Educational Talent Search is all about getting students to realize the need to increase their "ticket value" by linking postsecondary education to worthwhile careers. The ETS program selects students with the potential to go on to college. We motivate high school students to go on for an education beyond high school.

We tell our high school students they need to realize the worth of owning their education. The sooner high school students realize that they do "own their education", the sooner they accept the responsibility for it. Helping students grasp the importance of course selection, grade point average, class rank, and school involvement are just a few of the ways the ETS program gets students motivated to obtain more mileage out of their "ticket", the high school diploma.

Labor-market economist Anthony Carnevale predicts by 2012 there will be a surplus of 3 million workers with only high school degrees. There will be a shortage of 7 million workers for jobs that require some college training. ETS is working to minimize that gap. We know this education is a wise asset, thus our goal is to help our students see the worthiness of that investment. This past June, 41 ETS seniors graduated and are now attending a postsecondary institution.

Best wishes for a successful 2008!

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AVOID THE SENIOR SLUMP



Let's face it, Seniors... you have been in the same building with the same classmates for the past three and a half years; you've turned in your college applications and now it feels like a waiting game; you are starting to dream about what your life will be like this coming fall and, overall, you are ready to move on. Though it is absolutely true that you have some amazing, life-changing events ahead, you don't want to want to miss the here and now. All too often seniors get stuck in what is known as the "senior slump", where grades and attitude begin to falter. Instead of focusing on today, you dream about tomorrow. You may think you are in the clear after sending those

college applications off this past fall, but the truth is, college admissions directors still expect you to perform well throughout senior year. In fact, a senior year with poor grades and lack of involvement may force a school to retract an acceptance.

Bottom line: You have a right to congratulate yourself for making it this far. You have earned the title of "SENIOR" for many good reasons. But don't let the senior slump grab hold of you! Your goal this second (and final) semester of high school should be to go out on top with solid grades and participation in school activities. Set a few goals for yourself that will serve as reminders to keep on track. Don't lose sight of all that is ahead, but also don't forget to make each day count as you finish your high school career.

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY

...a short biography of the Cook Family, all former ETS students at Menomonie High School.

Jodi went to UW-Eau Claire after high school and majored in organizational communications. She is now the manager for the clothing department of Harley Sport Motors.

Katie attended Drake University after MHS and then transferred to UW-Stout to become a packaging major. She is presently the owner and operator of Dough Boys Pizza in Hudson since 2005.

Lindsay attended UW-River Falls and graduated with a degree in Social Work. She is a licensed social worker for Minnesota and Wisconsin and works in Fairmont, Minn.

Cory was interested in the Wood Technicians Program at Chippewa Valley Technical College after high school. After working in construction independently, he now works for Cedar Falls Building Systems. Cory says his experience at CVTC was "the best thing I ever did."

Ashley is at UW-Stout in the Early Childhood Program. She works with elementary kids as a volunteer for the 'America Reads Program'.



Whitney is a UW-Stout student in the Business Department. She started at UW-Eau Claire and transferred after figuring out her major.

While superficially it appears that all six former ETS students are quite diverse and doing many different things, there is one common thread that these students share. Each devoted a part of their high school to getting prepared for postsecondary school options and career choices. Each of them took full advantage of the multitude of elective offerings, technology education classes, and college prep classes that challenged their learning and helped them shape their career pathways. They further developed leadership qualities, great work ethics and learned how to be team players through their involvement with extra curricular activities including football, volleyball, cross-country, and track and field.

CHECK US OUT!

Menomonie High School Students visit the College Fair at UW-Eau Claire



Middle school students investigate learning styles!



SAY WHAT ???

What Menomonie Middle School students liked best about ETS...

- "learning in a fun way"
- "the prizes and the pens"
- "all the activities and the games"

What Menomonie Middle School students said they learned during ETS...

- "the difference between hearing and listening"
- "even the simplest jobs require organization"
- "watch out for time stealers!"
- "don't monkey around with your education!"



THINK COLLEGE? ME? NOW?

The U.S. Department of Education has a variety of resources to help both students and parents plan for college. The website below refers to a handbook specifically for students in middle school and junior high school about making college preparations early. In it, you will find information about why college is important, opportunities

available to you with a degree, taking college prep classes, costs/fees and financial aid. Count yourself in. Think about going to college.

<http://www.ed.gov/students/prep/college/thinkcollege/early/students/thinkcollegehandbook.pdf>