



TS EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE

Director's Message	1
Student Spotlight: Ismail	2
Letter to Graduating Seniors	3
Congratulations to Mayberry	4
How to Write a Personal Essay for Scholarships	5
Test-Taking Strategies for the ACT	6
Campus Visits 2022-2023	7
National TRIO Day	8
Summer (SEP)	9
Calendar Events	10

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As readers peruse this edition of the TRIO Talent Search newsletter, they will discover how the program teaches the students and communities it serves. From campus visits to academic tutoring, the program staff work with passion to ensure students realize the benefits of education. As spring approaches, the staff would like to remind students to finish the school year on a strong note. Now is not the time to relax. Students will have plenty of time to do that during the summer. Pay attention in class, do the homework, and dedicate at least an hour each night to just reading. Make these final days of school count. Finish school by giving more than before and feel good when summer begins.



Student Spotlight: Ismail



Middle School Summer
Enrichment Program (SEP) 2020

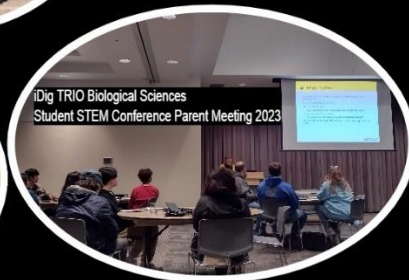
The Lion King
Theater Production 2022



College Jump Start 2022



SEP Talent Showcase
during the pandemic 2021



iDig TRIO Biological Sciences
Student STEM Conference Parent Meeting 2023

- Suresh Menon, Program Educational Advisor/ Mentoring-Career Coordinator

Ismail is a TRIO Talent Search senior at East High School who is currently enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program. He will be graduating this year. Ismail participates in Cross Country and golf at East High and loves to read in his spare time and learn about art history. He is interested in pursuing a career in research, namely in anthropology and paleontology. His two favorite courses are Chemistry and Biology. Ismail was among six WSU Talent Search students chosen to attend the iDig TRIO Biological Sciences Conference held in February at the University of Florida.

Ismail joined TRIO Talent Search when he was 11 years old and participated in the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program which he truly enjoyed. He credits his TRIO advisors for giving him advice, information, and assistance in completing scholarship and college applications, completing the FASFA, preparing for the ACT, and providing other relevant resources to successfully transition to college. He plans to attend Wichita State University in the fall.

“Success is no accident.

It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying,
sacrifice, and MOST of all, love of what you are doing.”

- Pele’

Letter to Graduating Seniors

- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist

Congratulations to the graduating seniors! It was a long road, but worth it! Now it is time to make decisions that will enhance adult life, elevate the finances, secure health, and create a more positive outlook for the future.

Start by investing in learning what career appeals most and take the steps necessary to achieve it. Work does not feel like work when it is something that is truly enjoyed. Check in with a Talent Search advisor or school counselor for guidance with the career search. Look online for career inventory tests. Explore the Talent Search website in the links and resources section. There are links to the Occupational Outlook Handbook, College Scorecard, CashCourse, Federal Student Aid, and The Stock Market Game.

Another piece of advice, keep the finances in order. Do not overextend the pocketbook with loans and credit card bills. Budget, save, and manage money wisely. Seek out scholarships to pay for college. Avoid high interest rates on credit cards and loans. Only borrow what is needed and what is able to be paid back in a timely manner.

Exercise self-care. This includes mind, body, and spirit. Becoming an adult comes with a lot of decision-making, so the mind needs to remain strong. Take advice from knowledgeable people, such as a mentor, who shares the vision. Get plenty of rest, exercise the mind and body, eat healthy, establish a support system (friends and family), and never stop learning. Strive to constantly be better today than yesterday. Finally, feed the spirit. Meditate, listen to soothing or motivational music, practice relaxation techniques, set boundaries with people who drain the energy, and exercise self-kindness. Don't dwell on mistakes. Learn from them. Grow from them. Then, be done with them and enjoy life.



Congratulations!

MAYBERRY CULTURAL AND
FINE ARTS MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL



- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

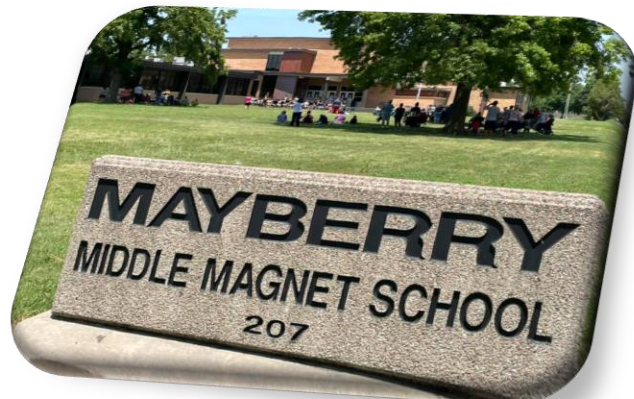
Kristina Murry, Principal

TRIO Talent Search is PROUD to be a community partner with Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet Middle School, under the leadership of Principal Kristina Murry. Stephanie Haynes, director of middle schools for TRIO Talent Search, provides services to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade AVID students. She has worked with students at Mayberry for over 16 years, providing skills to be successful today and in the future. Mayberry has been named a 2023 School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of Merit America.

The Magnet Schools of America Merit Award recognizes and honors member schools and magnet programs that demonstrate a high commitment to academic standards, curriculum, innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs, and parent and community involvement.

The Magnet School of Excellence is the top merit award category and is only awarded to a select group of magnet schools. **Mayberry is the only magnet school in the Wichita Public School system to receive the School of Excellence award and the only school awarded this year in Kansas!**

WAY to GO MAYBERRY!!



How to Write a Personal Essay for Scholarships

- Emily Roets-Estevez, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator



Many scholarships require students to write a short statement or essay describing who they are as a person and a student. This essay might include information about the student's strengths, hobbies, academic and career goals, and what motivates them to do their best. All students who apply for a scholarship provide the same information, such as their GPA and volunteer work, so the personal essay is what can set the individual apart from other high-achieving students. Additionally, the personal essay can be used to explain situations that may have negatively impacted the student, such as in the case of earning lower grades in classes taken online during the COVID-19 pandemic if the student was responsible for the care of younger siblings or did not have stable internet access at home.

Since the personal essay is such an important part of a scholarship application, it might sound overwhelming to write. However, if a student is applying for several scholarships at once, a trick is to write one general essay and edit it for the specific requirements of each scholarship. For example, if a scholarship is only open to first-generation students, it might be more impactful to write about the challenges of being the first person in the family to go to college rather than just listing the student's volunteer services.

Also, the student should double check that they used correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation in their essay. The student should be mindful of word-limits and have covered all required topics. Finally, the high school's college and career coordinator (CCC) or TRIO Talent Search advisor are available to proof-read personal essays to make sure the requirements of the scholarship are all addressed.





Test-Taking Strategies for The ACT

- Thip Phichith, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator

On February 28, 2023, the State of Kansas is providing a free ACT test to all 11th grade students in the USD 259 district. Students who are interested in the National ACT test can still take the test, which occurs once a month in September, October, December, February, April, June, and July. Below are five strategies from Education Corner (<https://www.educationcorner.com/act-test-taking-strategies.html>) to prepare for the ACT test.

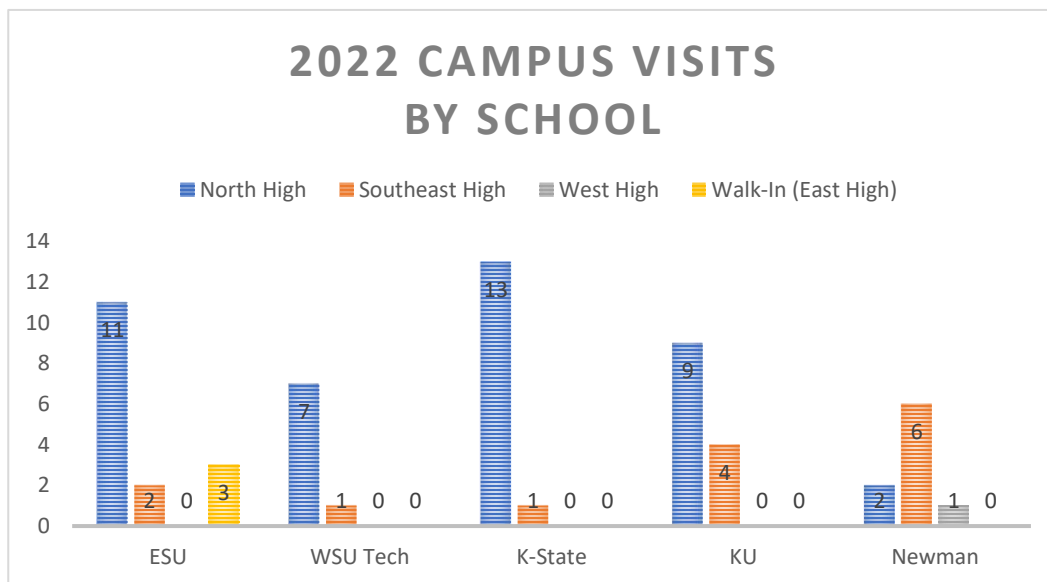
Five Test -Taking Strategies

1. **Answer the easy questions first:** Students should answer questions that they know the correct answer to first. After answering easier questions, then go back and answer the most difficult questions if there is enough time.
2. **Always review work before the section ends:** If the student finishes all the test questions before the time ends, they need to be sure to check their work.
3. **DO NOT leave any problems unanswered:** Guess if necessary (ACT does not take off points). Answer every question within the time allowed for each section.
4. **Be aware of the time remaining:** Avoid spending too much time on one question. Go on to the next questions and come back if there is time.
5. **Become familiar with the test:** Review the information in the test booklet and take the practice test well before the test day.

Campus Visits 2022-2023

- Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician

Talent Search collaborated with Talent Search-South for this year's campus visits. The programs agreed to visit Emporia State University, WSU Tech, Kansas State University, University of Kansas, Newman University, Wichita State University, Cowley College, Butler Community College, and Oklahoma State University. Breakfast was provided before each campus visit. Below is a chart of campuses that students have visited so far this year.



Please see below for the remaining campus visits for 2023:

College	Date	Breakfast	Departure
Wichita State University	Fri, March 10, 2023	8:30am	8:30am
Cowley College	Wed, March 22, 2023	8:30am	9:15am
Butler Community College	Mon, April 10, 2023	8:30am	9:15am
Oklahoma State University (Tentative)	Tues, April 18, 2023	7:00am	7:30am



Interested in attending a campus visit? To register, contact Mani Souriya at 316-978-6757 or scan the QR code. All campus visits start at Wichita State University, Brennan Hall 1 (2nd Floor), 1749 N Yale.

National TRIO Day 2023

- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



On February 24, 1986, a congressional resolution (H. Con. Res. 278) declared that Saturday, February 28, 1986, should be designated as “National TRIO Day” to commemorate the annual achievements of the Federal TRIO programs in communities across the country. Since then, the TRIO community has reserved the fourth Saturday in February as National TRIO Day (NTD). This day is an opportunity to focus the nation's "attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made" (Source: <https://coenet.org/national-trio-day-2/>).

For the Talent Search Program at Wichita State University, National TRIO Day has become an annual tradition that allows students and program staff to come together and share their accomplishments, perform acts of community service as a way to give back to their local communities, and raise awareness of the importance of educational opportunity for low-income, first-generation students.

For the second year in a row in honor of NTD and to combat the growing literacy crisis, Talent Search has chosen to support the Little Free Library whose mission is “to have a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader.” As volunteers share a book, they can take one for free. These book-sharing boxes provide 24/7 access to literature, inspiring readers, and building the underserved, underprivileged community (Source: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>).

As an added measure, Professional Educational Advisor and Mentoring-Career Coordinator Suresh Menon is working with the school guidance counselor at West High School to reconstruct the blessing box that was vandalized by students and erect a Little Free Library along-side it. Menon hopes that by collaborating with the school administration and students, a new blessing box and Little Free Library will create a sense of pride and accomplishment for the students who help to create it. His intention is to promote literacy and encourage a sense of ownership in the finished product that will lead to a respect of the property and its valuable place in the community.

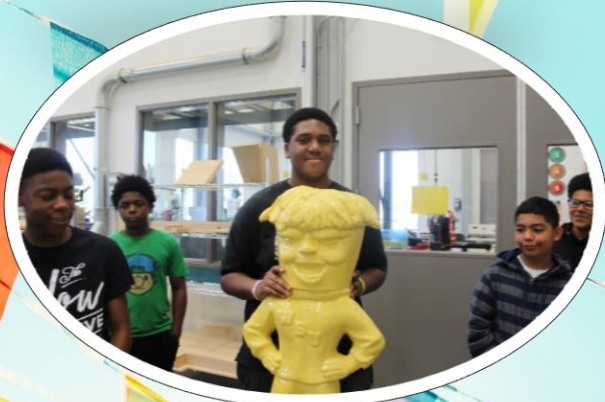
Summer



- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director



The TRIO Talent Search program is gearing up for its **Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (SEP)**. Applications are open to any student in middle school. Come and be a part of the opportunity to make new friends, eat a nutritious breakfast, dine at WSU's Shocker Hall, visit other college campuses, experience cultural activities, hear from motivational speakers, and enhance skills needed to be more successful in English and math. Classes also include financial literacy/life skills, theater arts, and computer science where students will learn how to code a robot. SEP begins on June 5th and concludes on July 14th. A talent showcase/awards and recognition ceremony will be held on July 7th. Applications are available until April 15th. Students can download an application online at www.wichita.edu/talentsearch or contact a Talent Search advisor at 316-978-3127. The cost to attend is **FREE!** Don't miss out on all the **FUN!!!**



Calendar Events

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the TRIO Talent Search program is to identify, encourage, and assist low income and potential first generation college students to complete a secondary education, enroll in post-secondary education, and complete a postsecondary program.

TRIO Talent Search

Wichita State University
Office of Special Programs
Division of Academic Affairs
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 96
Wichita, KS 67260-0096

Office: 316.978.3127 | Fax: 316.978.3527
<https://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch>

Notice of Nondiscrimination:

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Notice of Funding:

TRIO Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by WSU. Funding for 2022-2023 is \$646,284.

March 2023

- 3/10 | WSU Campus Visit
- 3/11 | SAT Administration
- 3/10-3/17 | No School (Spring Recess)
- 3/19 | Anastasia Theater Production, Century II. Convention Center
- 3/22 | Cowley Campus Visit
- 3/24 | National TRIO Virtual Career Conference

April 2023

- 4/07 | No School
- 4/10 | Butler Campus Visit; No School
- 4/15 | ACT Administration
- 4/18 | OSU Campus Visit (Tentative)

May 2023

- 5/06 | SAT Administration
- 5/24 | Last Day of School
- 5/29 | Memorial Day



Program Staff

Clockwise: Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician; Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director; Thip Phichith, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator; Emily Roets-Estevez, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator; Suresh Menon, Program Educational Advisor/Mentoring-Career Coordinator; Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist; and Larry Ramos, Executive Director