

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Wishing you and your family a joyful summer. To our new Winnetka families and the Class of 2027, we are delighted to have you join us this year. Your presence will surely enrich our school community. To our returning families, the Classes of 2026, 2025 and 2024, welcome back! We hope you are enjoying a well-deserved summer break. Our faculty and staff eagerly await the start of the new school year, where we will have the pleasure of welcoming approximately 3,690 students to New Trier.

We are thrilled to announce the completion of the east side project at the Winnetka Campus. This project brings an array of exciting new facilities to enhance our students' experience, including gyms, classrooms, an indoor track, weight facilities, a food service area, and climbing wall. We invite the community to join us in celebrating this milestone at the official dedication ceremony and open house on **Saturday, September 9, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** More information will be available closer to the date.

For a complete list of schedule information, books, iPads, transportation, Food Service, fees, athletics and performing arts, and more please see the [Back-to-School Information website](#).

## **GRADUATING CLASS TEAMS**

Starting this fall, every class of students will have a team of administrators, adviser chairs, and student services liaisons following their individual progress, providing support when needed, and communicating with families and teachers to help all students reach their goals.

The Graduating Class Teams are a new support structure New Trier implemented in response to the growing need for academic and social-emotional assistance among high school students.

Currently students stay together in Adviser Rooms all four years, and Advisers move with them at the Winnetka Campus. However, other roles such as Adviser Chairs and student services liaisons have typically changed each year as students moved from freshmen to seniors.

The new teams will follow students all four years of high school, strengthening the most important idea behind New Trier's Adviser Program - the Adviser at the center of the school/family/student connection. With the change, not only will the Adviser understand a student's needs as they move through high school, but that student and their family will have several other staff members following their experience and offering consistent support.

In addition to the Advisers and two Adviser Chairs, each team has a new position overseeing its work - an Assistant Principal specific to the graduating class - as well as liaisons from Social Work, School Psychologists, Post-High School Counseling, Special Education, and multi-tiered supports.

## **STUDENT SCHEDULE AND STUDENT GUIDEBOOK**

Your student's class schedule will be viewable through the [PowerSchool web portal](#) starting Friday, August 4. Student schedules will list courses by class period. Teacher names will be shared on the first day of school. Also, on the first day of school, families can begin to view schedule information on the PowerSchool mobile app. Gradebooks will not be viewable in PowerSchool until Monday, September 11.

The easiest way for students and families to keep track of their schedule, blue/green/anchor days, days off, and more is by using the ***New Trier Block Schedule app***, which is automatically downloaded to all student iPads and can be accessed through the App Store for [Apple](#) devices or the Google Play Store for [Android](#) devices. You can also search for “New Trier Block” in either app store. Students can input their individual schedules into the app.

We will distribute our *Student Guidebook* electronically to families in late August and post it on our website. The Student Guidebook contains information on student services, school policies and procedures, and students’ rights and responsibilities, along with other useful information. While the Guidebook is a useful reference, it does not include every District policy. Those policies, which may be added or changed during the year, can be found on our [Board of Education web page](#).

## **ATTENDANCE CHANGES**

We believe that students are most successful in achieving their personal and academic goals when they are present in school. This fall, each family will receive a copy of our *Attendance Handbook* which was created to help our Graduating Class Teams support consistent student attendance. Advisers will also review the expectations with students when they return to school. Students and families will receive increased communication from the school as absenteeism increases. For an overview please see [attendance information](#).

## **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL INFORMATION-August 21, 2023**

We are excited to announce that the [first day of school](#) for the upcoming year will be on **Monday, August 21**. It’s important to note that the schedule for the first day will differ for each grade level.

- **Class of 2027 (Freshman)** will begin their day at **8:00 a.m.** with a Special Adviser Room where they will participate in orientation and community building activities. Students will learn how to read their schedule and take a quick tour of the campus led by their senior helper. After the Special Adviser Room students will attend their classes, and a light lunch will be provided during period 5.
- **Class of 2026 (Sophomores)** will begin their day by reporting to their adviser room at **8:20 a.m.**, where they will have the opportunity to meet with their adviser. Following this, there will be an orientation program for the Class of 2026 to help familiarize them with the year ahead.
- **Class of 2025 and 2024 (Juniors and Seniors)**, will start their day by going directly to their adviser room at **9:15 a.m.** This will give them a chance to connect with their advisers and receive any necessary guidance.

**Please be aware that the first day will be an Anchor Day, Early Dismissal. School will end at 1:20 p.m. at Northfield and 1:40 p.m. at Winnetka.** We kindly request that you refer to the links provided for additional information regarding the [first day of school](#), the [school year calendar](#), [daily bell schedules](#) and [district calendars](#).

Traffic and parking can be confusing, especially during the first week. We appreciate your patience early in the year. Please review the [Winnetka Traffic and Parking](#) and [Northfield Traffic and Parking](#) maps if you are dropping your student off at school.

As students transition into the new academic year, it's normal for them to feel overwhelmed during the initial weeks. In such moments, we strongly encourage them to reach out to their advisers for support and guidance. Our dedicated staff is here to assist whenever they are unsure of what steps to take or where to seek help.

Throughout your student's journey at New Trier, they will encounter various challenges. Our sincere hope is that, with each experience, they will learn and grow both academically and personally.

This year, we encourage your students to embrace new opportunities, find their voice, consider different perspectives, lend a helping hand to those in need, laugh often, and prioritize their own happiness and well-being.

We eagerly await the return of our students for the start of the new year. Thank you for your support and partnership in working with your student, and we extend our best wishes for a fantastic year ahead!

Sincerely,

Denise Dubravec

Paul Waechtler

Principal/Assistant Superintendent

Principal

Winnetka Campus

Northfield Campus