

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Regular Meeting

December 19, 2022

Graduating Class Teams Will Follow Students, Strengthen Support

New Graduating Class Teams composed of an Assistant Principal, two Adviser Chairs, Advisers, and Student Services and Academic liaisons will follow students for all four years of high school, providing a more consistent and deeper support system for students and families.

Superintendent Paul Sally told the Board that the new structure responds to growth in the number of students needing support with complex issues such as school avoidance, anxiety and depression, chronic absence, executive functioning, and resilience. While New Trier has added specific support in areas including Social Work and Special Education over the past several years, this systemic change starting in the 2023-2024 school year will add capacity for the school to monitor and intervene early with individual students, setting up all students for success in high school and beyond.

At the core of the new student support system are Graduating Class Teams. 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 liaisons to student support programs change from year to year.

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 when needed. This will help build trust and partnership with families and students.

In addition to the Advisers and two Adviser Chairs, each team will have 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 other student support positions.

Much like with the current Adviser system, the Northfield Campus will have a slightly different structure, with the two Northfield Adviser Chairs remaining at that campus. The rest of the graduating class team will move with the graduating class all four years.

At Winnetka, much as Advisers do now, the whole team will follow students. The senior year Assistant Principal and liaisons will move to the Northfield Campus after graduation, and the Senior Adviser Chairs will join the new Sophomore graduating class coming over from Northfield. Click for the [Graduating Class Teams presentation](#).

New Trier Class of 2022 Adapts, Excels Despite Pandemic Disruptions

The Class of 2022 adapted to a number of pandemic-related learning environments and class schedules during their four years at New Trier, showing resilience as they prepared for their individual post-high school pathways.

Even with the pandemic disruptions, the Class of 2022 returned to more typical class-taking patterns than the previous graduating class, taking advantage of the full depth and breadth of New Trier's curriculum.

Assistant Superintendent Peter Tragos presented a Class Profile showing that the vast majority of the most recent graduates took a mix of class levels (college preparatory-2, honors-3, and high honors-4) during their four years at New Trier. Most students, 98%, chose to go to college directly after graduating, attending more than 200 different institutions.

About 90 percent of students in the Class of 2022 took core academic courses at a combination of different levels during their time at New Trier, and an analysis of college data found that institutions including highly selective colleges and universities admitted New Trier students across New Trier's academic levels.

Reflecting a return to taking a more full class schedule than the Class of 2021, the Class of 2022 saw a rebound in elective course-taking as well as an increase in the number of students taking 19 or more core academic courses in their four years. New Trier recommends that students take 4 to 5 core academic courses each year. For the Class of 2022, about 65% of students took 19 or more core academic courses.

Colleges across the country continued to see a spike in applications, leading to a decrease in acceptance rates, particularly at highly selective schools. Nationally, students submitted an average of 6.2 applications in the 2021-2022 admissions cycle, up from 4.63 in 2013-2014. At New Trier, the average number of applications for the Class of 2022 was 8.3 per student.

In addition, many schools have gone test-optional; 95% of schools that accept the Common Application did not require ACT or SAT scores in 2022. About 50% of students nationally submitted an ACT/SAT score last admissions cycle. At New Trier, 34.8% of students elected to apply test-optional to one or more schools. Click for the [Class of 2022 Profile](#).

Northfield Campus to Go Solar as Part of District Sustainability Plans

New Trier will install rooftop solar panels at the Northfield Campus this summer that are expected to generate 43% of the campus' annual energy usage as part of the District's sustainability plans.

Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson said the move to solar will pay for itself within 13 years, with rebates and other incentives decreasing costs and increasing the amount of energy savings over the first several years of the project.

Panels will be installed on the roofs of five of the six buildings on campus and then connected to the campus electrical system. That system will use the maximum amount of solar energy available and adjust the amount drawn from ComEd for remaining power needs, with no effect

on the reliability of electricity. If the system generates more power than needed during a given time period, the surplus power will automatically be sold back to ComEd.

The initial cost of installation is approximately \$4 million, with 40% of the payback occurring in the first year of operation. The entire payback period is estimated at 13 years, after which the District will see annual energy savings due to generation of its own power. Johnson said New Trier's faculty will collaborate on the educational opportunities of the project. In addition, the District will partner with the Village and community groups to promote environmental stewardship.

The solar project is one of many initiatives in the District's 15-year Facilities Plan aimed at improving the District's environmental impact. Other efforts have included the switch to LED lighting, composting and recycling, and seeking LEED Gold certification for the new building additions at the Winnetka Campus.

The project is expected to come online in the spring of 2024, accounting for an industry wide delay in production of electrical switch equipment needed to connect solar panels to existing systems. Click for the [Northfield Campus Solar Energy memo](#).

Other News from the December 19 Meeting

- The Board approved the District's tax levy for 2022, which is the primary funding source supporting New Trier's fiscal year 2022-23 and 2023-24 budgets. The District's ability to increase its tax extension is limited by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Act to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is less. The 2021 CPI was 7%, which means the levy is capped at 5%, and that capped increase will be used in the calculation of the tax extension (exclusive of new property). This increase will allow the District to continue to fund its excellent curricular and extracurricular programs while meeting its obligations amid rising costs in areas including Special Education, energy, transportation, and supplies. Johnson said that he expects the New Trier portion of the property tax bill to rise by 5% on average for property owners. Click for the [levy presentation](#).

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Full videos of Board meetings are available online at <https://nths.mediaspace.kaltura.com/category/BOARD+OF+EDUCATION/>

Information about Board of Education members, upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes, and other documents are available at <https://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation>