

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Regular Meeting

August 21, 2023

2023-2024 Kickoff Includes Programs, Policies to Support Student Success

New Trier is committed to helping every student find their own pathway to success in high school and beyond, and a number of new programs and policies in the 2023-2024 school year focus on making sure all students feel safe, supported, and ready to learn.

The new Graduating Class Teams will follow students' individual progress, providing support when needed and communicating with families and teachers to help students reach their goals.

One focus of support will be getting students to class consistently and making sure they make up work promptly, a partnership with parents outlined in the new Attendance Handbook. The handbook lists potential supportive measures and consequences for students who miss school regularly or do not make up work in a timely manner.

In addition to these important structural and policy changes, administrators outlined some highlights for the 2023-2024 school year:

School Safety

New Trier starts the school year with its first dedicated Director of Campus Safety, a position meant to help centralize New Trier's safety and security planning with community partners and to continually review physical safety and procedures at both campuses.

The district also continues to partner with local law enforcement and mental health services organizations on emergency planning, with a focus on prevention through student connection and support. Student-focused safety measures include a Safety Day to walk students through emergency procedures, suicide prevention training for staff and students, and integration of safety topics into the curriculum, including lakefront water safety, safe gun storage, and lessons to identify and prevent bullying and abuse.

Human Centered Design

New Trier is excited to begin a partnership with the University of Illinois Siebel Center for Design this school year to expand a pilot of cross-disciplinary work in "human centered design." The design thinking approach, in which students collaborate to generate solutions to authentic problems with no obvious precedent or answer, aligns with the District's strategic goals and will open up career pathways for students. As part of this initial stage, the District has created an Innovation Hub space at the Northfield Campus where classes in different areas can collaborate, create, and work on human centered design units or curricula.

Professional Learning

Three key programs will support faculty members this year as they share new ideas and best practices. Learning collaboratives, instructional coaching, and the existing new teacher induction program all focus on continuous improvement and experimentation in the classroom.

Student Voice, Belonging, and Equity

The District will continue to increase the voice of students in school wide initiatives, bringing students into the decision making process, building trust, and empowering them to help shape programs and policies that impact their lives. Students also will be more involved in presenting at Board of Education meetings. In addition, the school will continue its work to make sure all students see themselves in the curriculum and extracurricular opportunities, creating connections and a sense of belonging.

Click for the [2023-2024 School Year Kickoff Presentation](#).

Facilities Work Provides New Opportunities for Students, Staff

New Trier completed a number of major facilities projects this summer, creating new opportunities for students and staff through improvements at both campuses and the Glencoe Transition Center, Associate Superintendent Chris Johnson told the Board.

The East Side Academic and Athletic Project at the Winnetka Campus opened on time for the 2023-2024 school year, featuring brand new gyms, 14 classrooms serving all departments, fitness areas, a new track, a climbing wall, a concessions/dining area, and a spirit shop. Johnson said that while a few small items remain to complete, students, staff, and families have already put all of the spaces to use and have responded positively to the improvements.

New Trier is inviting the entire community to a [Dedication and Open House](#) on Saturday, September 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. The event will feature a ribbon cutting and brief ceremony, student performances, demonstrations of the new spaces, refreshments, and more.

Phase two of construction on the Glencoe Transition Center also was completed by the opening of the school year. The Transition Center serves young adults ages 18-22 to help them prepare for their transition to adulthood through the development of life skills such as meal planning and money management, job training, and more.

The center opened last year with temporary classroom spaces and the One Stop Trev Shop, a New Trier spirit shop staffed by young adults in the program. Phase two construction included renovations to create classrooms and authentic living and working areas, such as a kitchen and apartment-style spaces, to help students work on independent living skills.

At the Northfield Campus, summer work included the modernization of classrooms in the C and E buildings, creation of an Innovation Hub for cross-disciplinary creation and collaboration, installation of solar panels, and concrete plaza deck work. At the Winnetka Campus, the Bickert Gym roof is under construction and work will conclude next week, marking the last major roof replacement on both campuses. Click for the [Facilities 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>