



PARENTS' PRESS

of NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL

PORTRAIT OF A NEW TRIER GRAD: CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUE DIFFERENCES

IN THIS ISSUE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE PROFILE OF A NEW TRIER GRADUATE. WE WANT EACH GRADUATE TO LOOK BACK FONDLY ON THEIR YEARS AT NEW TRIER AND ALSO TO LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE AND CONFIDENCE FOR WHAT COMES NEXT. NEW TRIER'S MOTTO IS **TO COMMIT MINDS TO INQUIRY, HEARTS TO COMPASSION, AND LIVES TO THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY.**

We use the motto as a guiding principle for our decision-making and to develop the commonalities of the student experience. We design opportunities that allow each student to grow intellectually, emotionally and socially. We also understand that each student is an individual whose unique path through New Trier will allow them to explore their purpose in life.

Our strategic plan has several areas that focus directly on the student experience and what skills and habits of mind students should develop during their time at New Trier. Every student should experience a rich and rigorous curriculum that promotes their intellectual growth. They should build skills and develop dispositions that will benefit them for the rest of their life. Our classroom teachers are wonderful at getting to know students

PRINCIPALS' PERSPECTIVE

Dear New Trier Families,

This newsletter was completed prior to the significant challenges we now face coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, and prior to our decision to close New Trier High School and suspend all activities. Like many of you, the ways in which this global health crisis has altered our lives and the lives closest to us is unprecedented. For our students, this is a difficult and disappointing time to be separated from friends, their classrooms, and their extra-curricular programs. We hope our normal routines can return soon.

SPECIAL NOTICE

We want to thank you and your students for their patience and resilience while we adjust to a new way of teaching and learning. We are fully committed to maintaining and supporting our students' education through remote learning, but we understand that doing so will present new challenges. Please continue to encourage your student to contact staff members for questions and support. Our collective commitment to the New Trier community will help offer comfort to students during these uncertain times.

— Denise Dubravec and Paul Waechtler

as individuals. By building these relationships, we expect that teachers will help promote students' social and emotional growth by giving them opportunities to develop self-awareness, self-management and other skills. New Trier also wants to recognize any obstacles that could prevent each student from reaching their potential, as well as to help students recognize factors that may be obstacles for others. We strive to be an inclusive community that celebrates differences and allows students to explore their own identity as well as the identity of others. These common expectations for the New Trier experience will assure that all students benefit from their time at our school.

New Trier recognizes the importance of individual choice and responsibility. We know that each student's uniqueness will provide

them wonderful opportunities to develop their purpose. Our comprehensive course offerings allow each student to explore different courses and ideas that allow them to better understand their interests and purpose. We offer numerous extracurricular offerings for a similar reason. We know that some of the best learning, especially about oneself, occurs outside of the classroom walls. This exploration often begins before students arrive at New Trier. We provide opportunities for students to continue to deeply develop an interest, as well as explore a wide variety of options

PRINCIPALS **DENISE DUBRAVEC**, WINNETKA CAMPUS
AND **PAUL WAECHTLER**, NORTHFIELD CAMPUS

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STUDENT REFLECTION

JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

HIGH SCHOOL HAS CONTRADICTIONS: FAST AND SLOW, EASY AND DIFFICULT, FUN AND STRESSFUL. FRESHMAN YEAR, I HAD ALL THE ANSWERS. AS A SENIOR, I AM BEGINNING TO ASK THE PROPER QUESTIONS.

In middle school, I excelled with little effort. I focused on my passion: golf, and had little inclination to study for tests or complete work beyond the necessary. I thought high school would be the same. I soon realized I was wrong. Luckily, my teachers were eager to help and I took advantage of their office hours. Self-advocacy, a strategy strongly promoted at New Trier, helped me realize that I was not alone in my struggles. Lessons first learned at the Northfield campus became invaluable as I moved on to Winnetka.

At first, the Winnetka campus seemed daunting. Its recently constructed, airport-like "new building" in all its glass glory was intimidating. Its upperclassmen towered over us, and the workload increased exponentially over freshman year. These first impressions were eclipsed by the ease of navigation, the kindness of students, and the interesting new courses. The Winnetka Campus became home: a place where risks could be taken, mistakes made, and growth had.

Junior year—along with its AP classes and college thoughts—presented new challenges, to which New Trier prepared me well. Varsity Golf provided an outlet, allowing for individual growth along with team participation. Being captain of the team is one of my greatest honors. Along with it came involvement in a truly formative class: Student-Athlete Leadership Training (SALT). With budding leaders from across New Trier's many sports teams, SALT taught the



importance of building a like-minded community, as opposed to a group of single-minded individuals. Leadership is more about working with one's peers than leading one's followers.

**BY BRIAN JOSEPH
CLASS OF 2020**

The Post-High School Counseling Department plays a large role during junior and senior years, aiding students with plans after New Trier. For some, senior year means an increase in AP coursework and focus toward college, but other options are available. We all have worked hard to make it this far, becoming intellectually engaged, taking leadership risks, understanding high school culture, growing personally, and engaging with our diverse community. Senior year is about introspection, reflecting on our achievements and pondering the impact these four years will have on the future. It is about asking the right questions.

What Do We Want for Our NT Grads?

What are the characteristics, competencies, skills, and dispositions students should possess to thrive in a rapidly changing world?

In 2016 the World Economic Forum published a report on the future of jobs and skills that noted that by at least one estimate, 65 percent of children entering elementary school today will eventually work in jobs that do not yet exist. This report, along with dozens of others like it, tried to quantify the pace of change and predict the skills necessary to thrive in an unknown future. Thought leaders in education, business, and civics are pursuing the answers to the question posed at the beginning of this article. New Trier, too, hopes to answer this question for its students. New Trier 2030 set a goal to identify and cultivate the Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate that will provide students with the best opportunity to lead meaningful and impactful lives. The profile that emerges from this work will serve as a framework for designing all learning experiences for students.

This year, a representative committee of 31 staff members has been developing the Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate, defining five outcomes or characteristics, such as being creative, critical thinkers or innovative, collaborative problem solvers. Identifying the outcomes the school seeks to develop in each student will provide a clear, strategic vision for the District's priorities and will define the holistic student learning experience. It is the ultimate backwards design plan, aligning teaching and learning, programming and

structures, policies and practices to these outcomes.

The committee's next step is to build understanding of the characteristics among staff and community members, parents, and students over the next several months, while also collecting feedback for improving the current version. All New Trier staff engaged with the Characteristics for the first time at February's Institute Day, which generated great feedback and sparked big ideas for how these Characteristics will enhance the student learning experience. As the committee integrates feedback from stakeholders, a final draft of the Characteristics of a New Trier Graduate will be presented to the Board of Education in April, at which time it will be shared with the schoolwide community of parents and students. We will conclude this year's work by creating an action plan for 2020-2021 to guide each department in aligning curriculum and designing learning experiences that develop each of one of the characteristics.



**BY PETER TRAGOS,
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
FOR CURRICULUM AND
INSTRUCTION**

FROM THE NEW TRIER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The motto, "to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity," is the foundation from which New Trier has been working to define the profile of a graduate. This profile is not about meeting test score standards or rankings, nor forcing homogeneity across the wonderfully diverse student body. The goal is to nurture healthy individuals with the capabilities to engage in their communities and create lives with purpose and meaning. Isn't that our goal as parents, too?

Although the goal might be the same, each family is different. For that reason, it may be valuable to make explicit what characteristics and skills you want your kids to have before leaving the nest. Most families implicitly have values born out through parenting choices and home environment. Why not articulate those values in a profile of your family? Author Stephen Covey describes a family mission statement as "a combined, unified expression from all family members of what your



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family is all about — what it is you really want to do and be — and the principles you choose to govern your family life." Part of this is about life within the family, and part is about the types of people we are hoping each of our family members will grow to be.

While many characteristics may overlap with New Trier's, what additional values is your family trying to instill — adventure, creativity, discipline, faith, health, honesty, kindness, service, humor? With our children on the cusp of adulthood, let's carve out space alongside New Trier to reflect on the type of adults we are helping to shape.

2020

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SENIOR YEAR IS ONE OF THE FIRST TIMES OUR YOUNG ADULTS ARE TASKED WITH CREATING A PROFILE OF THEMSELVES AS PART OF THEIR COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS. AS PARENTS, OUR HOPE IS THAT THEY REFLECT ON THEIR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND REALIZE THAT THEY ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN THEIR GPA OR MOST RECENT TEST SCORE. We hope they appreciate the fact that they are a sum of the many skills they have acquired, the accomplishments outside the classroom and the varied experiences they have had over their high school career. The importance of a high school GPA ends at graduation, but the skills, talents and shared experiences at New Trier will last a lifetime.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our Senior Parent Gathering at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 30 at 674 Hill Road, Winnetka. This special event gives us a chance to gather before graduation to celebrate these four years.



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2021

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TIME IS FLYING AND OUR JUNIORS ARE BEGINNING TO THINK BEYOND THE WALLS OF NEW TRIER. AS THEY EXPLORE, WE HOPE TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND THAT THE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCES THEY ARE ACQUIRING THROUGHOUT THEIR JOURNEY BOTH IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL ARE EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT AS THE TEST SCORES THAT THEY ARE PREPPING FOR. As parents, it is important to reinforce these messages and help them realize that they are learning, growing and garnering valuable experiences that will help them far beyond their grades, ACT or SAT. The Senior Project, offered next year, is one example of how our students are given opportunities to learn and gain experience outside of the traditional classroom setting. Senior Project is a four week independent study program that allows students to explore an area of study that may not be offered in the school. It can be a wonderful experience for students at the end of their senior year.



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2022



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FINDING BALANCE + MANAGEMENT

WHEN WE THINK OF A NEW TRIER GRADUATE, WE THINK OF A STUDENT WHO'S WELL-ROUNDED, HAVING TAKEN A DIVERSE COURSE LOAD AND PARTICIPATED IN MANY ACTIVITIES. BUT THAT COMPREHENSIVE EXISTENCE ISN'T AS VALUABLE WITHOUT THE EXPERIENCES THAT COME WITH IT.

Though New Trier strives to turn its students into intellectual and sophisticated young adults, it can't account for all its students' growth. The rest is derived from those experiences, personal and interpersonal, that complete the scope of high school learning. While some students might want to take on as much as possible to ensure they're experiencing all they can, parents must preach balance and explain to students that managing the daily goings-on of high school is helping them round out the edges to fit the profile of a New Trier graduate.

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2023

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OUR FRESHMEN HAVE NOT BEEN HIGH SCHOOLERS FOR VERY LONG. THEY ARE STILL LEARNING TO NAVIGATE A NEW SCHOOL, AND IN MANY WAYS A NEW IDENTITY. Many define themselves and each other by their activities: "theatre kid," "soccer player," "gamer," or whatever their interest may be. Many dress in similar clothing to blend in and not invite attention. It is comfortable to blend in. They judge themselves on their first semester academic performance. As parents, we know our children are more than their group, their clothes, or their grades. Each individual has much to offer and learns and grows every day just by experiencing life, both in and out of school. We want them to be comfortable, to participate, and to achieve. We should also remember to celebrate their individuality and remind them that their uniqueness is what they bring to the world every day for the rest of their lives.



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GIVING **BACK**, GIVING **FORWARD**

Walking across the stage in the Gates Gym on a humid June evening to receive my diploma was a bittersweet moment. While I was excited about moving on, I was sad to be leaving. I had grown close with the girls in my advisory and adored my adviser. My teachers had been amazing and I felt prepared for whatever challenges lay ahead. Little did I know at the time that one seemingly small decision I made to volunteer in the Educational Life Skills (ELS) classroom my senior year would forever alter my life's trajectory.

Every day ninth period, I headed off to the best part of my day – my second KW period in the PESO (Physical Education Special Olympics) gym. It was there that I truly learned how special New Trier really is. What other school in the early nineties had a well-established ELS Helper program? I knew then that I was getting far more back than I was giving.

So, I headed off to college with a passion for serving others. Once there, I again discovered how fortunate I was to be able to attend New Trier. And while I don't remember this, to this day my mom likes to tell anyone who will listen how I had to teach my dormmates how to write an essay as they were not as well prepared.

As a current New Trier teacher, I get the distinct pleasure year after year of witnessing the same level of staff commitment to ensuring our students are prepared for whatever lies ahead for them. I am truly blessed to be working amongst an amazingly talented staff who wants only the best for their students. That is one New Trier tradition that I hope never changes. It is also my hope that every graduate leaves New Trier with the fortitude to overcome adversity and demonstrate empathy for others.



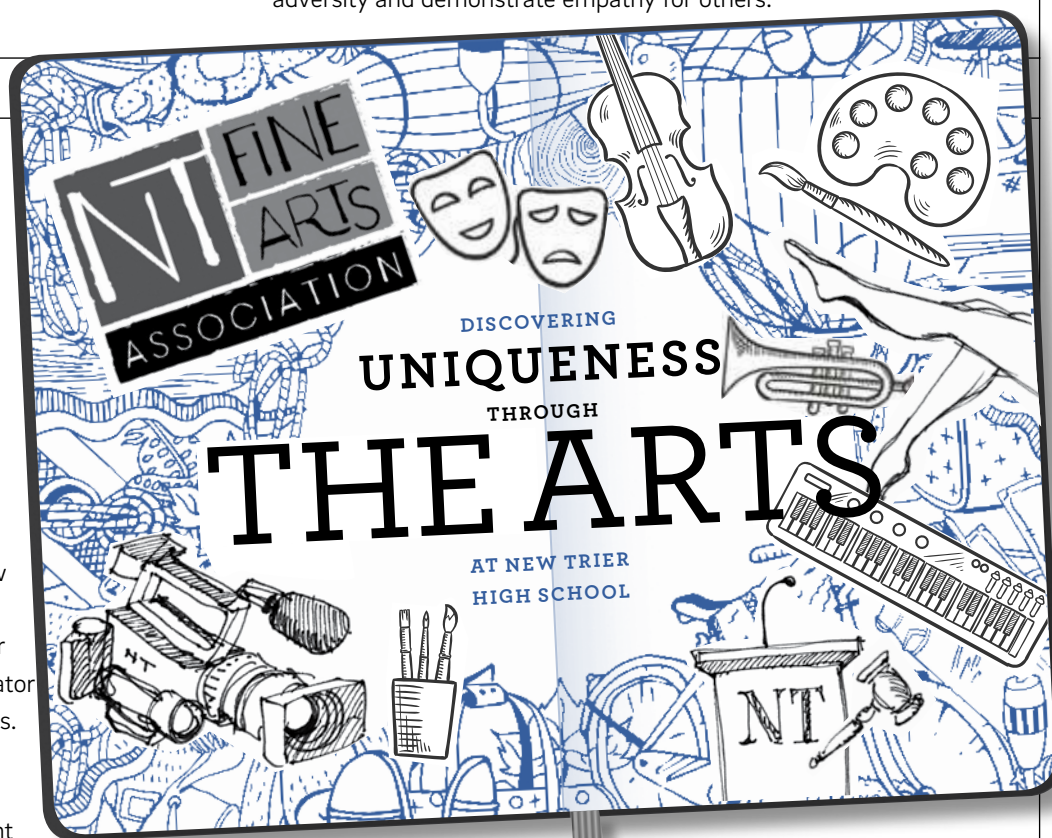
BY MEGAN ZAJAC,
CLASS OF 1992

THE GIFT OF THE ARTS

STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE
IN THE ARTS AT NEW TRIER
ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXPRESS
THEIR UNIQUENESS IN
WHICHEVER DISCIPLINE THEY
SPECIALIZE, WHETHER IT BE IN
**DANCE, ART, MUSIC, DEBATE,
MEDIA, OR THEATRE CLASSES.**

The New Trier Fine Arts Association asked Fine Arts teachers about how students explore their individuality through the arts. Dance Coordinator Chris Rutt said, "A goal for me as a dance educator is to facilitate students' discovery of themselves. I have a dear friend who speaks of education as an unveiling or as a revealing of one's inner potential." He continued, "In dance, every student has a movement voice. Every walk is as unique as a fingerprint. Dance Division's curriculum is modern-based primarily to allow for exploration of one's creative soul. ... In my classes I also put much thought into building community. Once the students feel safe and valued, they learn to trust, to take creative risk, and to help one another become the best version of themselves."

Alicia Landes, the Art Department Chair, shared, "...[W]e recognize that there are various avenues for students to express their creativity. We believe



in celebrating the uniqueness of each individual by helping students to problem solve, tolerate ambiguity, and navigate the complexities of decision-making with an understanding that there is not a singular solution to every problem, only new problems to solve. The Art Department's aim is for our students to finish high school with the ability and courage to take creative risks, ask better questions in order to solve problems and think through alternatives and

improvements. Through this process, students are able to accept failure as part of the learning process while allowing them to pursue their curiosities and inner passions.”

All the students share things in common through their New Trier experience. Participating in the Fine Arts at New Trier nurtures the unique creative process of each student. In this way, students are empowered to apply their imagination and unique perspectives to all that life has to offer.

CALENDAR* & EVENTS

***ALL EVENTS**
subject to cancella-
tion and/or change.
Please check New
Trier website for
most up-to-date
information.

ALL STUDENTS

Improv Showcase 2020	Fri., April 3, 7-9 p.m., McGee Theatre (W)
Spring Jazz Ensemble	Tues., April 7, 7-9 p.m., Cornog Auditorium (N)
Good Friday – NO SCHOOL	Fri., April 10
Spring Orchestra Concert	Wed., April 15, and Wed., April 22, 7-9 p.m., Cornog Aud. (N)
National Day of Silence Observed	Fri., April 17 (N) and (W)
Menz Dance 2020	Thurs., April 23, 7-9 p.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Wind Ensembles and Concert Choir	Tues., April 28, 7-9 p.m., Cornog Auditorium (N)
Dance Theatre New Trier	Thurs., April 30-Fri., May 1, 7-9 p.m., Gaffney Aud. (W)
Spring Play	Wed., May 6-Thurs., May 7, 7-9 p.m., McGee (W) Fri., May 8, 4:30-6:30 p.m., McGee Theatre (W)
High Five Choir Spring Sing	Thurs., May 7, 11:00 a.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Early Dismissal	Fri., May 8, 12 p.m. (N) 12:20 p.m. (W)
Late Arrival	Mon., May 11, 10:15 a.m. (N), 10:35 a.m. (W)
Spring Music Festival	Wed., May 13, 7-9 p.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Jazz Combos Concert	Fri., May 15, 7-9 p.m., Trevian Commons (W)
Choir-Opera Spring Revue	Tues., May 19, 7-9 p.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Springfest	Wed., May 20 (W)
Spring Vocal Jazz Concert	Thurs., May 21, 7-9 p.m. Cornog Auditorium (N)
Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL	Mon., May 25
SAT Test Date	Sat., June 6, 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m. (W)
Second Semester Exams	Fri., Mon., and Tues., June 5, 8, 9
Grading Day – NO SCHOOL	Wed., June 10
Last Day of Attendance	Thurs., June 11, 1:05 p.m. (N), 1:25 p.m. (W)
ACT National Test	Sat., June 13, 7:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (W)
Summer School Begins	Mon., June 15

FRESHMEN

PSAT	Thurs., April 16, 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (N)
Movin' On Up	Thurs., April 16, 7-8:30 p.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Spring Fest	Thurs., May 14, Periods 4,5,6 (N)

SOPHOMORES

PSAT10 Test	Tues., April 14, 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (W)
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JUNIORS

SAT School Day 2020	Tues., April 14, 8:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (W)
Prom	Sat., April 25, 7-11 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago
AP Exams	Mon., May 4 - Fri., May 15 (W)
Junior Awards Ceremony	Thurs., May 14, 7-8:30 p.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)

SENIORS

Senior Class Presentation featuring C.L. Lindsay	Fri., April 3, 8:15-10:10 a.m., (W)
C.L. Lindsay Presentation with parents of seniors	Fri., April 3, 11:30-1:00 p.m., Room W321 (W)
On-line Auction for Habitat for Humanity	Mon., April 13 - Fri., April 17
NO SCHOOL for Seniors	Tues., April 14
Parent Social Gathering	Thurs., April 30, 7-10 p.m., 674 Hill Rd., Winnetka
AP Exams	Mon., May 4 - Fri., May 15 (W)
Prom	Sat., April 25, 7-11 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago
Pick up Yard Signs	Mon., May 18-Wed., May 20 Indian Hill Train Station
Senior Project Showcase	Wed., May 20, 6:30-8 p.m.; Thurs., May 21, 8:15-1:10 p.m. (W)
Last Day of Attendance	Thurs., May 21
Trevia Day	Fri., May 22
Senior Awards Ceremony	Thurs., May 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Gaffney (W)
Commencement Rehearsal	Fri., May 29, time/location at Winnetka Campus TBA
Senior Honors Recital	Fri., May 29, 7-9 p.m., McGee Theatre (W)
Commencement Ceremony	Sun., May 31, 3-5 p.m., Sears Centre Arena

2020 NEW TRIER GRADUATION PARTY HIGHLIGHTS



SUNDAY, MAY 31
10:45 P.M. - 4:00 A.M.
NORTHFIELD CAMPUS

- Party admittance is from 10:45-11:30 p.m. Late-comers will not be admitted.
- Students must have their NT ID on them for admittance.
- Students **MUST** wear graduation ceremony attire. Girls may wear comfortable shoes.
- Boys must have their white tuxedo jacket to enter (which they will coat check).
- Graduates who leave party will not be allowed to return.
- Purses and bags will be checked in a secure coat room and not allowed into the party.
- The party is a free, safe, no-date event for all graduates.
- The party features a DJ, food, games and an all-night raffle.
- Graduates must be present to win raffle prizes. Prizes will be distributed at 3:30 a.m.
- The party will be chaperoned and staffed by parents, New Trier security personnel and local police officers.
- Class of 2020 graduates may watch the sunrise at Gillson Beach after the party (4:00 to 6:00 a.m.).
- Only graduates with an "identifier" (handed out at 3:30 a.m.) will be admitted to the beach. Wilmette police will provide security. Graduates must provide their own transportation to the beach.
- Wilmette Police and Wilmette Park District will provide security.



PARENTS' PRESS

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THE NEW TRIER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MISSION IS TO
PROMOTE CONNECTIONS, PROVIDE COMMUNICATION, AND
PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS, WHICH SUPPORT
AND ENHANCE THE NEW TRIER EXPERIENCE.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT the 2020 NT GRADUATION PARTY

1 Follow on Social Media:

Join the **Facebook** group: **2020 NT Graduation Party** (you will have to be approved); and follow on **Instagram**: **2020ntgradparty**.

2 Support the Raffle:

Donate items to the raffle, such as tickets to summer concerts or sporting events, electronics and gift cards. You can also go to <https://tinyurl.com/2020GradPartyAmazon> to purchase raffle items directly from Amazon. For questions about the raffle, please contact Raffle Coordinator Pam Levy at pamlevy@gmail.com.

3 Volunteer:

Over 200 volunteers are needed for the party. A Sign-Up Genius has been created and there are still slots to be filled — especially during the second shift from 1:15-4:00 a.m. To sign up, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2020GradPartyVolunteerSignUp>. Questions, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Julie Flood at jwflood@att.net.

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Welcome to Parent University, the programming arm of the New Trier Parents' Association. "Parent U" provides parents with programs and resources to help better understand the New Trier student experience and to support the parenting of teens both in and out of the classroom. Parent U also co-sponsors relevant FAN events throughout the year. Visit the Parent University page on the New Trier website (www.newtrier.k12.il.us/ParentUniversity) to get the most up-to-date information on upcoming programs.

Lunch and Learn with C.L. Lindsay

Friday, April 3 | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

EPI Center Room 301, Winnetka Campus

New Trier is pleased to welcome C. L. Lindsay, a nationally recognized speaker, attorney and leader in the field of student rights and academic freedom. Mr. Lindsay will speak to the senior class in the morning on a variety of topics including plagiarism, digital citizenship, sexting, online safety, and sexual assault. Senior parents are invited to bring a brown-bag lunch and join Mr. Lindsay for a midday presentation where he will discuss these topics as well as things parents need to be aware of when their child turns 18.

Movin' On Up: Sophomore Year at New Trier

Thursday, April 16 | 7:00 p.m.

Gaffney Auditorium (W)

More independence, additional responsibilities, and greater opportunity — find out all that awaits your rising sophomore at the Winnetka Campus! Presenters include Principal Denise Dubravec, Sophomore Adviser Chairs Ted Koulentes and Julie Smith, and a panel of current upperclassmen. The presentation and Q&A will be followed by tours of the campus led by New Trier Student Ambassadors. Presented by the Class of 2022. Freshman parents and students welcome. Campus tours begin at 6:30 p.m.

(N) Northfield | (W) Winnetka

New Trier 101: Introduction for Incoming New Trier Parents

Thursday, April 23 | 7:00 p.m.

Room C234, Northfield Campus

A panel of veteran New Trier parents whose students have participated in a variety of sports, intramurals, clubs, performing arts, student government, and all levels of academics will share their experiences and provide tips to help your student successfully transition to freshman year. This program is moderated by Northfield Principal Paul Waechter and presented by the Class of 2023. Rising freshman parents only please.

Senior Parent Gathering

Thursday, April 30 | 7:00-10:00 p.m.

674 Hill Road, Winnetka

Please join us for cocktails and camaraderie as we celebrate senior year! Denise Dubravec will be our special guest. Questions? Please contact Melinda Baldwin at baldwinmpcl@gmail.com or Kathy Handelman at kathyhandelman@gmail.com.

If you have ideas for a future program, please submit your suggestion(s) to Sydney Clark (slark4994@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Helle (cynthiahelle@gmail.com). Programs are constantly being updated, so please check the Parent University page at newtrier.k12.il.us/parentuniversity.

ALL FAN EVENTS

All FAN events are currently canceled or postponed. Look for updates at familyactionnetwork.net