

February 2, 2024

Dear Class of 2028 Families,

The time has come to select the courses for your student's freshman year at New Trier. The enclosed documents and the Commonly Asked Questions below are provided to help with that process. Course selections are due in Power School before 3:00 on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Included with this letter are the following:

- Comprehensive Testing Program Results (CTP5)
- New Trier Course and Level Recommendations
- New Trier Program of Studies Description of Levels (pink)
- Course Selection Procedures
- New Trier Freshman Course Options (green)
- Course Selection Worksheet

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. **When do I need to complete the freshman course selection process for my student?**

The PowerSchool Parent Portal will be open for course selection starting February 2nd and course requests must be submitted via your Power School account **before 3:00 pm, Friday, February 23, 2024.**

### 2. **How do I read the test score results from the CTP5?**

The Comprehensive Testing Program (CTP5) measured your child's academic performance in the following four areas: Verbal Reasoning, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Reasoning, and Mathematics 1 and 2. The results are presented in two norm groups; National and New Trier. The National Percentile Rankings show how your child's score compares to a sample of students across the nation who took this test for norming purposes. *The New Trier Percentile Rankings reflect your student's score compared to approximately 1,000 New Trier district students who took the test this past November or December as part of the Class of 2028.*

Your child's results are presented in the box under the "Percentile Rankings" heading. These numbers do not represent the number of questions that he/she answered correctly on the test. Rather, the percentile rankings indicate the percentage of students whose scores fell at or below your child's score compared with students across the country and within the New Trier district. Thus, the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile corresponds to the median and indicates that a student scored in the middle of that specific group.

### 3. **How does New Trier determine level placement?**

The level placement is determined by department chairs and department coordinators from five departments: English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and Modern and Classical Languages. To determine a level placement, they review the CTP5 test scores, evaluative feedback gathered from sender-school teachers, the student self-assessment and writing sample, and the student profile (completed by parent/guardian). As they review these materials, they are looking for patterns that suggest a specific level placement.

4. **What if I want to move my student to a level that is not shown in their placement report?**

Parents/guardians can choose a level that is not shown in the placement report, but we urge families to use caution when moving levels. Please use the level ranges on your student's placement report as a guide for course selections. Guidelines for changing levels are explained in the handout titled *Course Selection Procedures* in this mailing. You will also see the level change guidelines as you log into the PowerSchool Parent Portal to enter your student's course selections. **You do NOT need to contact New Trier if you move levels, but we may contact you if you move your student up in more than 3 classes.**

5. **How and where do I indicate my student's choice for Adviser Room?**

Before choosing courses for your student in PowerSchool you will be prompted to make a choice for your student's adviser room. Your students must choose no preference, single gender, or mixed gender for their four-year adviser room assignment. You will receive confirmation of your choice in May. If you choose no preference, you will be notified in May of your student's placement in a mixed or single gender adviser room.

6. **How do I make course requests in PowerSchool?**

Log on to PowerSchool using the Power School Parent Portal. Your PowerSchool account was established when you completed Power School enrollment in December. The Power School User Guide provides helpful information to assist you in the course selection process, including "helpline" support if necessary. **The helpline number is 847-784-7548.**

All families must input course requests in PowerSchool. You will not get a confirmation email when you input courses, but you will be able to view your choices by choosing "*Class registration*" on the left side navigation bar and clicking "*view requests.*" You will hear from us if we do not receive your student's course requests. **Course requests are due in PowerSchool on Friday, February 23rd before 3:00 pm.**

7. **Whom do I contact if I have questions?**

If you have questions regarding course selection and/or level recommendations, please call the Course Selection Helpline. The helpline will be open from **February 6 – 23**. Your voicemail message will be forwarded to the appropriate person who will return your call. We respond to ALL helpline inquiries, but it can take more than 24 hours for us to return your call.

- **PowerSchool & Course Selection Helpline – call 847-784-7548**
- You may submit a question via the "Ask the Transition Coordinator" link on the Incoming Freshman page on our website [www.newtrier.k12.il.us/incomingfreshmen](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/incomingfreshmen)

**Course requests must be submitted in PowerSchool before 3:00 pm, Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Sincerely,



Gail Gamrath  
Associate Principal Northfield Campus



Lori Worth  
Transition Coordinator

## NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

|  | College Prep Level 2   | Honors Level 3  | High Honors Level 4   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Concepts</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abstraction from concrete examples</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis, inference, and abstraction</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis, inference, abstraction, and synthesis leading to complex concept development</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Pace</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerated</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Scope</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanded</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-depth</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Instructional Approach</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sequential and guided</li> <li>Concrete, linear emphasized</li> <li>Emphasis on building and reinforcing skills leading to independent learning</li> <li>Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged</li> <li>Extensive development of fundamental skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and organization.</li> <li>Classes are smaller; some are co-taught.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of guided instruction and independent inquiry</li> <li>Connection established between concrete, literal, and abstract, theoretical</li> <li>Emphasis on building skills leading to independent learning</li> <li>Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Less guided instruction and more independent inquiry</li> <li>Abstract, theoretical emphasized</li> <li>Emphasis on independent learning</li> <li>Resourcefulness and creative thinking encouraged</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Communication Skills</b><br>(e.g., writing, speaking, listening)        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic conventions of correct spoken and written expression</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctness of standard conventions plus introduction to rhetorical techniques</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong degree of proficiency in standard conventions and deliberate rhetorical techniques</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Class Activities</b><br>(e.g., discussion, problem solving, group work) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explicitly structured and ordered</li> <li>Teacher-directed, some open-ended activities</li> <li>Frequent content and skill review</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderately structured and ordered</li> <li>Some student initiative expected</li> <li>Some content and skill review</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimally structured and open-ended activities</li> <li>Student initiative expected</li> <li>Infrequent skill review; content review done independently</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Assignments</b><br>(e.g., homework, projects, papers, research)         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explicitly structured and directed</li> <li>Some amount of reading and writing required</li> <li>Independent work reinforces new material introduced in class</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explicitly structured and moderately directed</li> <li>Moderate amount of reading and writing required</li> <li>Independent work requires some new material to be learned outside of class</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explicitly structured and open-ended</li> <li>Extensive amount of reading and writing required</li> <li>Independent work requires significant amount of new material to be learned outside of class</li> </ul> |
| <b>ADDITIONAL LEVEL</b>  |  |   |   |
| <b>Level 9</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In core academic departments, level-9 courses accommodate the needs of students at all academic levels and are taught with expectations for learning that are most appropriately weighted at level 3. Students who choose to take an elective class as a level-9 major credit class are required to do significant work outside of class to deepen the learning experience.</li> </ul>  |   |   |

**\*AP courses are calculated at level-4 credit.**



# Class of 2028 Course Selection Procedures

Course requests must be submitted in PowerSchool before 3:00 pm, February 23rd  
**Helpline (847) 784-7548**

*Follow these steps in planning your student's course selections using the enclosed  
Course Selection Worksheet*

## **Step #1 Choose Your Student's Adviser Room Option**

Students must choose **Single-gender, Mixed-gender or No-preference** for their four-year adviser room assignment. You will receive confirmation of your choice in May. If you selected **No-preference**, you will be notified in May of your student's placement in a Mixed-gender or Single-gender adviser room. Please discuss this choice with your student. We are unable to change adviser rooms once we have created the groupings of 25 students in early June.

## **Step #2 Select Core Academics**

Students must select either four or five core academic courses. English and Math are required for all freshmen. Other core academic courses are Science, Modern Classical Language and Social Studies. All freshman courses (including electives) are **year-long courses**.

## **Step #3 Select Kinetic Wellness Class Option**

Kinetic Wellness is required for all freshmen. However, you may choose between Kinetic Wellness 1 or a combined Kinetic Wellness 1/ Dance Course.

## **Step #4 Select Levels**

Review the level recommendations for each of the core academic courses. The recommendations represent our best judgment of the level at which your student will be successful. These recommendations are based on sender-school teacher feedback, the student profile, the student self-assessment and the CTP5 placement test scores. **The last digit of the course number tells you the level of the class (2, 3, 4, or 9) or whether the course is for elective credit (8).** Please see the pink Program of Studies description of levels enclosed in this mailing.

### **Change-of-Level Information**

- New Trier policy allows parents and students to choose their course levels based on the recommendations in your student's placement report.
- You DO NOT need to contact New Trier or complete special paperwork for a level change.
- A student that changes levels is expected to remain in the course through the first quarter.
- Any class changes that occur during the semester are at the discretion of the teacher and are based on available space in courses. The space available may be in a different period and require multiple classes to be moved.
- Level-change requests within the given parameters received after the class selection deadline and prior to the first day of school will be dependent on space in a course.
- We do not recommend moving levels in more than 3 courses. We will contact you for further discussion if you move your student in 4 or more courses.
- If you wish to make level changes, please review the level descriptions from the Program of Studies (pink sheet) enclosed in this mailing.



# Class of 2028 Course Selection Procedures

## Change-of-Level Constraints

- Requests for changes from level 2 to level 4 are not permitted.
- Requests from 2 Co-Taught to 3 level are not permitted.
- Changes from 2 Co-Taught to 9 level require department approval.
- If there is a note on your student's placement report that says "World Studies is not recommended" please do NOT register for this class. Please contact us if you have further questions.

## In math and foreign language, you may not change the year of the course, just the level.

- Mathematics: If we recommend Geometry, you may not select Algebra 1. Conversely, if we recommend Algebra 1, you may not select Geometry. The math course placement (not level) comes from the sender-school teacher. Please contact them with questions regarding math course placement.
- MCL: If we recommend 2nd year Spanish, you may not select 1st year Spanish, but you may request to change the level of 2nd year Spanish or select another first-year language. Conversely, if we recommend 1st year Spanish, you may not select 2nd year Spanish.

## Step #5 Select Elective Courses

Students are encouraged to explore their interests by selecting an elective course. All elective courses are year-long courses. Northfield chorus is the only elective that can be scheduled opposite a science course as a half block. If your student has a busy extracurricular schedule, they can wait to take an elective course until sophomore year and may benefit from an extra study hall.

## Important things to consider as you make your student's schedule:

- Science takes two blocks in the schedule. Students will have a study hall three times per week opposite their science lecture for a half block. *Study hall will be added to a student's schedule by New Trier, and you do not need to select it in PowerSchool.*
- If you select the World Studies - English/History Team course, please select both World Studies English-T and World Studies History-T classes. World Studies satisfies requirements for Freshman English and World History. *This course takes two periods.*
- If you select the Geometry/Design and Construction Team course, please select both Geometry -T (Math) and Design & Construction (Applied Arts) classes. *This course takes two periods.*
- Students who have an unassigned period in their schedule will be assigned a study hall by New Trier.
- If your student has an active IEP, you should choose Resource Seminar in your student's schedule. This class meets for a half block.
- All students must have a lunch period. This will be added to your student's schedule by New Trier. **Lunch is embedded in the schedule and does NOT take up one of the eight blocks.**

## Step #6 Submit Course Requests in Power School before 3:00 pm February 23rd

Families should log into their Power School account and navigate to Class Registration in the left navigation panel. Follow the instructions to enter your student's Adviser Room selection and courses. When you have made your student's selections, click **Submit**. You may only submit course requests once. You **will not** receive confirmation but can view the courses requested under Class Registration and View Requests in the left navigation panel.

**The Course Selection Helpline is available for all your questions!  
Call (847) 784-7548**

# Freshman Core Course Options 2024-2025

Refer to Program of Studies for full course descriptions.

| Department                 | Course  | Level 2  | Level 3 | Level 9            | Level 4            |
|----------------------------|---|--|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| English                    | English 1   | N200132  | N200133 |                    | N200134            |
| English                    | English 1 Co-Taught   | N201132  |         |                    |                    |
| English                    | S-English ( <i>Special Ed</i> )   | N940132  |         |                    |                    |
| English + Social Studies   | World Studies: English -T<br>World Studies: World History -T  | <i>(Register for both English &amp; World History)</i> |         | N202139<br>N802139 | N202134<br>N802134 |
| Department                 | Course  | Level 2  | Level 3 | Level 9            | Level 4            |
| Social Studies             | World History   | N800132  | N800133 |                    | N800134            |
| Social Studies             | World History Co-Taught   | N801132  |         |                    |                    |
| Social Studies             | S-World History ( <i>Special Ed</i> )   | N901132  |         |                    |                    |
| Social Studies + English   | World Studies: World History -T<br>World Studies: English -T  | <i>(Register for both World History &amp; English)</i> |         | N802139<br>N202139 | N802134<br>N202134 |
| Department                 | Course  | Level 2  | Level 3 | Level 9            | Level 4            |
| Mathematics                | Plane Geometry  | N400232  | N400233 |                    | N400134            |
| Mathematics + Applied Arts | Geometry-T: Geometry/Design/Construction<br><i>(Concurrent enrollment in Applied Arts: Design &amp; Construction N140238)</i> |  |         | N400239            | N401134            |
| Mathematics                | Algebra 1   | N400132  | N400133 |                    |                    |
| Mathematics                | Algebra 1 Co-Taught   | N407132  |         |                    |                    |
| Mathematics                | S-Algebra ( <i>Special Ed/Double Block</i> ) ++   | N950232  |         |                    |                    |
| Mathematics                | S-Math Essentials ( <i>Special Ed</i> ) ++  | N900130  |         |                    |                    |
| Mathematics                | Algebra 2/College Algebra & Trig  |  |         |                    | N400234            |
| Mathematics                | Algebra 2 (@Winnetka) ++  |  | W400333 |                    |                    |
| Department                 | Course  | Level 2  | Level 3 | Level 9            | Level 4            |
| Science                    | Biology   | N710132  | N710133 |                    | N710134            |
| Science                    | Biology Co-Taught   | N710232  |         |                    |                    |
| Science                    | Geoscience  |  |         | N720139            | N720134            |
| Science                    | Geoscience Co-Taught  | N720232  |         |                    |                    |
| Science                    | Physics PCB   |  | N740133 |                    | N740134            |
| Department                 | Course  | Level 2  | Level 3 | Level 9            | Level 4            |
| M&C Languages              | Chinese 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )   |  |         | N520139            | N520134            |
| M&C Languages              | French 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )  |  |         | N530139            | N530134            |
| M&C Languages              | German 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )  |  |         | N540139            | N540134            |
| M&C Languages              | Hebrew 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )  |  |         | N550139            | N550134            |
| M&C Languages              | Japanese 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )  |  |         | N560139            | N560134            |
| M&C Languages              | Latin 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )   | N500132  |         | N500139            | N500134            |
| M&C Languages              | Spanish 1 ( <i>First Year</i> )   | N570132  | N570133 |                    | N570134            |
| M&C Languages              | Chinese 2 ( <i>Second Year</i> )  |  |         | N520239            | N520234            |
| M&C Languages              | French 2 ( <i>Second Year</i> )   |  |         | N530239            | N530234            |
| M&C Languages              | German 2 ( <i>Second Year</i> )   |  |         | N540239            | N540234            |
| M&C Languages              | Latin 2 ( <i>Second Year</i> )  |  |         | N500239            | N500234            |
| M&C Languages              | Spanish 2 ( <i>Second Year</i> )  | N570232  | N570233 |                    | N570234            |
| M&C Languages              | Spanish 3 ( <i>Third Year</i> ) ++  |  | N570333 |                    | N570334            |
| Department                 | Course  | No Level   |         |                    |                    |
| Kinetic Wellness           | Kinetic Wellness  | N300138  |         |                    |                    |
| Kinetic Wellness           | Kinetic Wellness/Dance 1  | N320138  |         |                    |                    |
| Kinetic Wellness           | Kinetic Wellness/Dance 2 **   | N320338  |         |                    |                    |

++ Dept. Approval Required

\*\* Audition Required

**See reverse side for elective options.**

# Freshman Elective Options 2024-2025

Refer to Program of Studies for full course descriptions.

| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
|--------------------------------|--|----------|--|
| Applied Arts – Family/Consumer | Fashion Construction   | N121138  |  |
| Applied Arts – Family/Consumer | Creative Cuisine   | N121238  |  |
| Applied Arts – Technology Ed   | Intro Design Tech/Coding   | N140138  |  |
| Applied Arts – Technology Ed   | Intro to Architecture  | N141138  |  |
| Applied Arts – Technology Ed   | Intro to Engineering Design  | N143338  |  |
| Applied Arts – Technology Ed   | Design & Construction:<br>( <i>Geometry/Design/Construction -T</i> ) | N140238  | Concurrent enrollment with Geometry        |
| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
| Art                            | Art Essentials 1   | N112238  |  |
| Art                            | Art Exploration  | N100138  |  |
| Art                            | Intro to Photography   | N103038  |  |
| Art                            | Drawing/Painting 1   | N105238  |  |
| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
| Business Education             | Web/Multimedia Development 1   | N163138  |  |
| Business Education             | Intro to Business  | N170138  |  |
| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
| English                        | New Media Arts 1 & 2   | N157038  |  |
| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
| Social Studies                 | Freshman Speech & Debate   | N150138  |  |
| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
| Music & Theatre                | Theatre 1: FR Theatre Workshop                                       | N151138  |  |
| Music & Theatre                | Technical Theatre & Design   | W151038  | @ Winnetka Campus                          |
| Music & Theatre                | Technical Theatre & Design ( <i>Half Block</i> )                     | W152038  | @ Winnetka Campus                          |
| Music & Theatre                | Northfield Chorus  | N600238  |  |
| Music & Theatre                | Northfield Chorus ( <i>Half Block</i> )                              | N600338  |  |
| Music & Theatre                | Freshman Concert Band  | N610038  |  |
| Music & Theatre                | Freshman Jazz Ensemble   | N620138  | Concurrent enrollment in Band or Orchestra |
| Music & Theatre                | Freshman Orchestra   | N630038  |  |
| Music & Theatre                | Beginning/Returning Instrumental Music                               | N641138  |  |
| Department                     | Elective Course  | No Level | Requirement/Notes                          |
| Special Education              | Resource Seminar 3 days  | N901238  | For students with active IEP               |
| Special Education              | Resource Seminar 5 days  | N901038  | For students with active IEP               |
| Special Education              | Resource Seminar Instructional Strategies ++                         | N901538  | For students with active IEP               |

++ Dept. Approval Required

See reverse side for core course options.

# Course Selection Worksheet

Use this worksheet to plan for course selection for your student. Indicate the course name and level. **Course selections are due in PowerSchool before 3:00 pm, Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Call our helpline at **847-784-7548** with any questions.

| Course   | Level | Notes |
|--|-------|-------|
| Kinetic Wellness or KW/Dance                         | NA    |       |
| English-1 or World Studies (English + World History) |       |       |
| Math   |       |       |
| Science  |       |       |
| World History  |       |       |
| Language   |       |       |
| Elective   | NA    |       |
|  |       |       |

Lunch periods and Study Halls will be embedded in student schedules by New Trier and do **NOT** need to be entered in Power School during course selection.