



# BOARD REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

July 2001

## A Message from the Superintendent



Hank Bangser

Reflections on the 2000-01 school year create an enormous sense of pride for all involved with New Trier. By any measure, the past 12 months represent an extraordinary chapter in the history of this great school district.

The series of Centennial Celebration alumni panels began in July 2000 with a discussion of international affairs, featuring Donald Rumsfeld, Class of 1950, who was renamed Secretary of Defense soon thereafter. Throughout the year, tens of alumni returned to New Trier to offer their precious gifts of time and talent through the panel programs. Senior citizens and New Trier students comprised the predominant audience for these presentations. A wonderful confluence of generations resulted.

Many of our efforts this year focused on the facilities and programmatic organization of the Northfield Campus, which will open on time for freshmen in August. Under the leadership of two New Trier veterans, Principal Jan Borja and Assistant Principal Gene Helfrich, our faculty, administration and support personnel have tackled a broad range of issues. The enthusiasm of the staff on both campuses is pervasive and contagious. As New Trier begins to operate as one school on two campuses next year, I encourage you to call Jan, Gene,

*(continued on back cover)*

## Preparing for August 2001 opening:

# Many signs of progress on New Trier's Northfield Campus

Construction meetings at 6:30 a.m. every work day that draw all subcontractors... gaping holes that will eventually become universal science labs... noise and dust. Such are the signs of progress as the New Trier Northfield Campus transforms what was long ago a showcase school into a truly modern facility.

"Progress is good," says John Neiweem, New Trier's Director of Physical Plant Services. "We are on schedule." Construction began on January 7 after the general contract was awarded in December to UBM Inc. of Chicago, the largest minority-owned construction firm in Illinois. In each of the five campus buildings, a UBM building superintendent supervises the work, pushing

toward the goal of substantial completion and initial occupancy in July.

The mechanical renovation of the two major classroom buildings, C and D, was completed in early April. By August 1, the following will be installed:

- interior partitions and doors
- acoustical ceilings, grids and borders
- science casework
- computer laboratory furniture
- fire suppression modifications
- floor finishes
- clock/public address system
- fire alarm system
- elevator
- electrical/lighting
- data/telecommunications

*(continued on page 2)*



*Bags of cement mix and construction supplies contrast with the perennial garden at the Northfield Campus. By August, repairs and upgrades will be finished in time for some 950 freshmen and 150 staff.*

# Many signs of progress on Northfield Campus

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By August 20, New Trier's physical plant services staff will complete the final cleaning of the Northfield Campus and contractors will complete punch list work.

## What will be where at the New Trier Northfield Campus

### Building A

#### Ground Floor

- Boiler and chiller rooms

#### Second Floor

- Offices for Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business
- Offices for the Principal, Assistant Principal, Freshman Adviser Chairs, social workers, and other campus-related administrative functions

#### Third and Fourth Floors

- Library and computer lab (comprising more than 70 percent of the building's square footage)

#### Fifth Floor (half the floor space of the other floors)

- Staff cafeteria and work area

### Building C

#### Ground Floor

- Student cafeteria and commons, including offices for student services and a conference room for student clubs

#### Second Floor

- English and Social Studies classrooms
- Combined office for English and Social Studies faculty
- Board of Education meeting room (also available for instructional purposes)

#### Third Floor

- Computer lab
- English and Social Studies classrooms
- Social Work offices
- New Trier Learning Center

### Building D

#### Ground Floor

- Health Services
- Special Education department offices
- Special Education classrooms and large group meeting room
- Technology Education laboratory

#### Second Floor

- Modern & Classical Languages classrooms and faculty office
- Modern & Classical Languages lab
- Art Department, including an art studio and photography lab
- Universal science lab

#### Third Floor

- Mathematics and Science classrooms
- Combined office for Mathematics and Science faculty
- Four universal science labs

### Building E

#### Front of Building – Cornog Auditorium

#### South Side of Building

- Music, and Speech and Drama department offices
- Choral room
- Music rehearsal rooms
- Practice rooms
- New elevator

### Building F

#### Ground Floor

- Swimming pool
- New Trier Extension offices
- Kinetic Wellness office
- Girls and boys locker rooms
- Wellness room (weights/treadmills) for students and faculty

#### Second Floor

- Three small gymnasiums
- Large competition gymnasium (including a stage area that can be partitioned off to become a small gym space)

(Note: Building B contains office space for the Stepan Company and is not part of the New Trier High School program.)

# Preparing for Class of 2005

Preparations for the much-anticipated New Trier Class of 2005 are underway. Academic Life meetings earlier this year gave incoming freshmen and their parents an introduction to the world of New Trier. Student registration forms were returned this spring, and the estimated class size of 950 students looks accurate, with some variation still possible. Communication with parents of freshmen has focused on the amount of time spent planning, staffing, programming, and organizing the whole structure of the new campus.

"We've been going to the junior high and middle schools and emphasizing that this will not be another eighth grade experience," says Northfield Principal Jan Borja. "This is high school, and the expectations will be such. The more we explain, the more comfortable parents seem to feel. We tell them that many issues their students will face as freshmen are typical freshman issues. It doesn't matter what campus you are on. It's a big step for a 14-year-old to enter high school for the first time."

The teachers for the Northfield Campus have been identified, and Ms. Borja reports the first faculty meeting had as much spirit as a Homecoming pep rally.



Northfield Campus science labs are under complete renovation.

## Leadership Team complete:

# Who's Who on the Northfield Campus Leadership Team

The leadership team for the Northfield Campus is complete. Principal Jan Borja and Assistant Principal Gene Helfrich were named at the end of the 1999-00 year, along with some academic department coordinators and Josh Seldess, Freshman Boys Adviser Chair who replaces Gene Helfrich. This year, the remaining coordinators were named.

"We are thrilled about the Northfield Campus leadership team," said Principal Jan Borja. "We were busy this year planning exciting opportunities for freshmen next year that will uphold the campus philosophy of 'Identity, Community, Transition.' Supporting students' individual identity, our courses, athletics, activities and performances will encourage freshmen to expand their horizons."

"Illustrating a sense of community, freshmen, upperclass students, teachers, staff and parents will connect with each other through adviser room, clubs, academics and school-wide experiences," Ms. Borja added. "Emphasizing the importance of transition, our freshmen will be supported by faculty, upperclass student mentors, and by each other as they transition into and out of freshman year. Our leadership team will be instrumental in modeling our philosophy."



*Northfield Campus Principal Jan Borja (left) and Assistant Principal Gene Helfrich pose in front of one of the campus courtyards.*

Members of the Northfield Campus leadership team are:

- Principal: Jan Borja
- Assistant Principal: Gene Helfrich
- Freshman Girls Adviser Chair: Jo Ellen Ham
- Freshman Boys Adviser Chair: Josh Seldess
- Activities Coordinator: Tim Hayes
- Athletics/Intramurals Coordinator: Paul Moretta
- Counselor: Gail Gamrath
- Health Services: Joan Liess, R.N.
- Performing Arts Coordinator: Nina Lynn

Department Coordinators:

- Art: Leah Feldman
- English: Tim Dohrer
- Instructional Technology: Dan Gross
- Kinetic Wellness: John Gilchrist
- Library: Anne O'Malley
- Mathematics: Jean Hostetler
- Modern and Classical Languages: Roberta Price
- Practical Arts (Business Education, Family and Consumer Sciences, Technology Education): Bob Spagnoli
- Science: Dee Hanlon
- Social Studies: Meg Beeler
- Social Work: Marla Tracy
- Special Education: Lynn Hiller



*Taking a break from one of the many Northfield Campus planning sessions are Department Coordinators Roberta Price, Modern and Classical Languages (left), Jean Hostetler, Mathematics (center) and Dee Hanlon, Science (right).*

Department Coordinators will be responsible for the daily management of their respective departments. Most will be assigned to the Northfield Campus full-time when it opens in August. Working with their Department Chair (at the Winnetka Campus), they will provide departmental leadership for the articulation and transition processes from the eighth grade as well as to the Winnetka Campus for their sophomore year.

The Freshman Adviser Chairs, Jo Ellen Ham and Josh Seldess, will facilitate the adviser program comprised of individual freshman class advisers who each will guide a group of approximately 25 students through their freshman year of high school. They will coordinate the adviser program activities, serving as a resource for advisers, parents and students.

Activities Coordinator Tim Hayes will organize student clubs and lead freshman participation in them. He also will recruit and train upperclass student mentors for freshmen, working with Winnetka Campus Activities Coordinator Roger Garfield.

Athletics/Intramurals Coordinator Paul Moretta will organize the interscholastic athletics and intramural programs and Booster Club Night League programs at the Northfield Campus, working with New Trier Athletic Director Jim Bloch.

Performing Arts Coordinator Nina Lynn will facilitate student participation in music, choral, speech and drama, and also will schedule the events hosted at the Northfield Campus. She will work with Phil Smith, Winnetka Campus Performing Arts Coordinator and Music Department Chair.

"The enthusiasm of the Northfield Campus leadership team continues to build as our dreams for the freshman program become realities," Ms. Borja concluded.

# New Trier's "heart and soul" — its adviser system — will continue across two campuses

The adviser system, developed in 1924 and nationally recognized for its excellence, is adapting as New Trier becomes a two-campus school. There will be differences in the system when the Northfield Campus opens in August, but its guiding philosophy will remain, based on the belief that classroom teachers who see students daily can be their best counselors.

Each year, nearly half the New Trier faculty serve as advisers. Assigned to a group of about 25 students each, advisers meet with their students for 25 minutes at the beginning of each school day. They are a student's first resource in matters of personal adjustment and academic counseling. The adviser is also the primary contact for parents and teachers.

"The adviser system is a central part of our culture," says Jon White, Assistant Principal for Student Services. "It is basically the communications system through which the school runs."

One aspect not often highlighted, he says, is the degree of communication about students that runs among teachers and advisers, who are most often teachers from another department. "It creates

a culture of closeness in a very large school. Advisers talk to teachers in every department, and it is communication centered around students."

Next year's freshmen will find a home in their new adviser room, but they will also become a part of a clearly defined larger community. Principal Jan Borja, Assistant Principal Gene Helfrich, and their leadership team are forming communities composed of groups of adviser rooms that, together, will undertake social service projects, participate in intramural sports, and have an experience exposing them to fine and performing arts.

"The communities will give freshmen a chance to do things on a larger scale, to meet more students and have a closer relationship with freshmen other than those in their own adviser group," says Ms. Borja.

The communities will function with strong parental involvement and the involvement of everyone in the building from the maintenance staff, to secretaries, to instructional assistants. "This is a whole new opportunity for parents to become invested in worthwhile activities that relate to their children," says Mr. Helfrich.



## Q & A with adviser system leaders

Two New Trier administrators will head the adviser system on both campuses next fall: Jon White, Assistant Principal for Student Services on the Winnetka Campus, and Gene Helfrich, Assistant Principal on the Northfield Campus. Below, they outline the effects of the two campuses on the system.

### How will the adviser system be organized on the Northfield Campus?

*Mr. Helfrich:* We will have the traditional set-up: boys will be assigned a male adviser, girls a female adviser. The size of the group will remain at about 25 students. As before, we will mix students from different communities, with different interests, and of all ability levels. Adviser groups will stay together when they transition to the Winnetka Campus, but their adviser will change. Freshman advisers will not make home visits. Instead, the advisers students are assigned when they become sophomores will make home visits.

### How will you help freshmen adjust to a new adviser when they transition to the Winnetka Campus?

*Mr. Helfrich:* We're going to make a great effort to begin the transition from the freshman adviser to the sophomore adviser at the end of the school year. Before the summer, we'll have some activities where the new Winnetka Campus adviser will meet with the students. We also hope to have opportunities for parents to meet the new adviser.

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# Explore New Trier on the Internet

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## What other activities will take place within the adviser rooms to aid freshmen in their transition to the Winnetka Campus?

*Mr. White:* Freshmen on the Northfield Campus will have their usual senior helper (a senior who spends adviser period with freshmen, serving as a student adviser and mentor). We envision having another group of students – juniors – who will go over to the Northfield Campus for the last two to three weeks of the year and get to know the freshmen. Then, as seniors, they would be assigned to the adviser room when the freshmen come over as sophomores and spend perhaps the first quarter with them.

## How will the adviser system be affected at the Winnetka Campus?

*Mr. White:* Some teachers who have been advisers are leaving their adviser rooms to go to the Northfield Campus. The majority are freshman advisers. At the beginning of the 2000-01 school year, we informed current freshmen and their parents that this would be a possibility in as many as 30 percent of their adviser groups. The number is actually smaller than that.

## How are students usually affected when they change advisers during their four years of high school?

*Mr. White:* Students adjust. They are resilient, probably a lot more so than we think. We try to be cognizant of personalities when we choose a new adviser. Panels of advisers who have had the experience of taking over an adviser room come in and give advice on how best to make the transition.

Whether you want to find out when the next girls' soccer game is, review curriculum, or e-mail your student's teacher, you can do it all at New Trier's rapidly expanding Web site, [www.newtrier.k12.il.us](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us). Brimming with information about academics, athletics, and activities, the Web site is attracting 26,000 visitors a month.

"We are consistently putting more information on the site, and streamlining it to make it easier and quicker to locate specific pieces of information," said Steve Baule, Assistant Superintendent for Information Technology.

Visit the athletics page to access team schedules along with directions to "away" games and view past game footage. Several teams have their own Web pages with additional information.

The activities page enables visitors to access information about a number of student clubs and browse the Pep Store catalog. More club and athletic pages are being added each month.

Curriculum-oriented pages are among the most popular. The library page, which averages 7,000 'hits' a week, connects students and other visitors with various search engines, the New Trier Style Manual, and other resources. Special Education program information

is available under the academic section of the site.

Many teachers have created their own Web pages featuring course information and links to recommended sites. With the help of Instructional Technology staff, teachers are designing Web Quests and group Internet research projects directing students to specific sites to research an assigned topic. "This is an efficient and effective way for students to do Web-based problem solving inquiries," says Karen Arenson, Instructional Technology Department Chair.

Visitors may use the Web site to find general information such as daily schedules, the daily bulletin, the school calendar, and current phone numbers. Many school publications, including past editions of the *Board Report* and the *Program of Studies* may be downloaded and printed. Final exam schedules are posted as appropriate. School closing information can be obtained by calling 446-7000 or by visiting the home page.

The planned addition of a search engine to the site will help visitors find information more quickly. Other school-related Web sites may be found at [ntjazz.com](http://ntjazz.com), [www.newtriercentury.org](http://www.newtriercentury.org), and [www.nttc.org](http://www.nttc.org).

**<http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us>**

- New Trier's Calendar for the 2001-02 school year
- Daily Bulletin
- Directory and Telephone Numbers
- Test Schedules
- School Closing Information
- Job Vacancies at New Trier
- And much more!



Senior girls work on the house's foundation in February.



Senior boys help with the insulation and roofing.



Harold and Sharon Smith and their children are the new homeowners.

## Senior class builds Habitat home for Waukegan family

The Class of 2001 made history with its class gift — a four-bedroom, two-bath house that seniors constructed from the ground up with help from Habitat for Humanity.

Just as New Trier's 2001 graduates move on, diplomas in hand, a Waukegan family is moving into the brand new home they built together with the entire New Trier senior class.

New Trier social worker Tom Tebbe, coordinator of the endeavor, believes this is the first time a high school class has been responsible for both building a Habitat for Humanity home and raising the money to pay for it.

"This project puts the New Trier motto 'minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, lives to the service of mankind' into practice in a very specific and concrete way," says Social Worker Tom Tebbe, coordinator of the construction project. "It is so meaningful for our seniors to understand that there is a family who is benefitting directly from all of their work and energy."

### It was the students' idea

Senior Boys Adviser Chair Larry Rehage praises the class for coming up with the idea. "In the past, advisers have often said, 'Wouldn't it be great if we could have a service project that became the focus of the entire year, something that would also give kids the opportunity to do something hands-on, together?'" Those criteria were met when 2001 class officers suggested building a Habitat for Humanity house. "We were going to be happy with just doing that, and the senior officers worked out a great proposal for the administration's consideration," Mr. Rehage recalls.

The initial proposal asked for permission to release groups of 10 to 15 seniors from school three days a week to travel to Waukegan and work for a full day in their adviser groups. At least once during the project's duration, each adviser group would send that number of stu-

dents — and their adviser — for a day of construction. After some refinements, the school administration agreed.

### Students raised \$65,000

New Trier students told Habitat for Humanity's Lake County chapter that they wanted to work on Saturdays. Because Saturday is such a popular day for volunteer workers, Habitat officials said such an arrangement could only be made if the students "owned" their own house.

"We asked how much that would cost," says Mr. Rehage, "and they said \$65,000 — and that's how we got into that!" Class officers submitted another proposal to the administration, providing details on fundraising activities. Again, permission was granted.

"Sixty-five thousand dollars is a lot of money," says senior class president Logan Duran of Winnetka. So he and his fellow officers got busy promoting the idea of the Habitat house among classmates. Pizza sales raised some money, adviser room candy sales generated a bit more, and clubs joined the bandwagon.

"It's been a great experience," says Logan, "because all the different clubs have come together to help out. That's  
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*In April, the house was near completion.*

*(continued from page 6)*

been the idea from the start, to unite the seniors under one common theme, in one successful project.” Senior Girls Adviser Chair Janice Dreis says, “Everything we have done this year centered around this goal. It’s kept our seniors engaged. The second semester is known for ‘senioritis’ and moving on, which is normal, but this kept them all very focused.”

#### **School and community-wide support**

The project generated school-wide excitement and support. A December fundraiser, featuring hypnotist Tom Deluca, drew a huge crowd. The annual Senior Carnival in February, which brings township parents and children to New Trier for an evening of family fun, raised \$5,000 more than its best year. The New Trier jazz bands donated the proceeds of their April 20 concert to the Habitat house. Parents and community members also supported the project. Several underwriters for the Senior Carnival contributed at least \$1,000, including Charles Schwab & Co., Northern Trust Bank, Canada & Klein construction company, and the Augustin family. Home Depot donated \$6,000 of construction materials.

#### **A constructive experience**

The groundbreaking for the house was in November and excavation started in February. During the winter, student volunteers spent their shifts in the Habitat for Humanity warehouse in

**“...That’s been the idea from the start, to unite the seniors under one common theme, in one successful project.”**

**Logan Duran  
Senior Class President**

Waukegan, where they built walls for their house. Working under the supervision of professional carpenters, the groups also helped out at other Habitat houses being built in Waukegan.

Once excavation of the New Trier “Centennial” House was complete, seniors helped pour concrete for the foundation. Framing and roofing followed. Working with a detailed schedule, student crews completed all carpentry, exterior siding, interior trimwork, painting, and landscaping. Professionals finished the electrical work, plumbing, and heating.

#### **Amazed at their work**

“You’d be amazed at what our students did,” says Mr. Rehage. “One group of girls put up drywall in three different rooms. This takes a lot of effort to organize and skill to do.”

The New Trier Board of Education and administration worked on the house one Saturday. Harold and Sharon Smith, who will occupy the house with their children, were regular crew members. To qualify as a Habitat owner, a husband and wife must each contribute 500 construction hours to their own and other Habitat houses and meet certain financial criteria.

The house was formally dedicated on May 16. The Class of 2001 invited Mr. and Mrs. Smith to New Trier Commencement Exercises on June 3 to share their pride in their Class Gift with the family who received it.

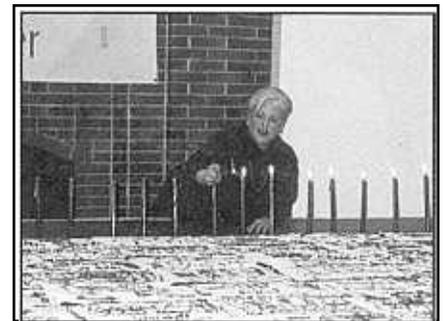
## **Centennial hosts grand finale**

New Trier’s year-long Centennial Celebration concluded this spring with an on-campus birthday party and a gala dinner dance attended by township residents, alumni, and current and retired staff. Birthday party guests toured the

school, saw students in action, and enjoyed birthday cake. The dinner dance, featuring cuisine by George Jewell Catering Services and music by the Stanley Paul Orchestra, was held at Northbrook Court on April 28.

The conclusion of the year-long parade of special events and activities celebrating “Tradition, Opportunity, and Excellence” marks the end of what many consider a new beginning for New Trier. The final Distinguished Alumni Series panel presentation was “An Evening of Entertainment: New Trier on Stage,” featuring alumni professionals in theater, music, television, and film.

Commemorative Centennial items — including clothing, enamel boxes, and blankets — will be sold through June. To order, visit the Centennial Web site at [www.newtriercentury.org](http://www.newtriercentury.org).



*Bitsy Fell Winograd, Centennial co-chair, lights 100 candles on New Trier’s birthday cake.*

## Superintendent's Message

(continued from page 1)

Winnetka Campus Principal Wes Baumann or me with any reactions or questions.

Finally, let me spotlight the extraordinary Senior Class gift to the school community. No graduating class has so exemplified the last two components of New Trier's longstanding and unique mission, "To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of mankind." As you read about their unique endeavor, please factor into your thinking that more than half of the 820 seniors worked on the house in Waukegan. To be sure, raising money for a worthy cause is an important activity. However, in this project, hammering nails and lifting construction materials embodied the commitment of these young people. I could not be more optimistic about the newest New Trier alumni of the next century.

## Job Vacancies

# Northfield Campus needs support staff

Full-time and part-time support staff positions are available at New Trier's Northfield Campus for the 2001-02 school year. Some positions require no work during summers or school breaks. Other positions are year-round. All include excellent, competitive benefits.

To view job postings and download an application via New Trier's Web site, go to [www.newtrier.k12.il.us](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us). Select "New Trier Job Vacancies," and then "Non-Teaching Positions." Applications may also be obtained via mail by calling the Personnel Office at 784-2209 or 2210.

Northfield Campus job openings include:

- Auditorium Technician
- Computer Repair Specialists
- Equipment Assistant (locker room/athletic equipment; full-time and part-time)
- Instructional Assistants (reading lab; special education)
- Lab Supervisor, Science (part-time)
- Music Accompanist (play piano in music classes part-time)
- Office Associate (attendance, mail-room)
- Paraprofessional/Security
- Registered Nurse
- Secretaries, Academic Departments
- Testing Office Associate

**Help Wanted: Work at New Trier**

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*BOARD REPORT  
TO THE COMMUNITY*

New Trier Township High School District 203 serves Chicago's North Shore suburban communities of Glencoe, Kenilworth, Wilmette and Winnetka, and most of Northfield and parts of Glenview and Northbrook.

Laura Blair Bertani, Editor, *Director of Personnel and Communications* • Julianne Beck, *Communications Specialist*

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