



BOARD REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203 **November 2002**

Take a look at New Trier:

Tour the web site @
www.newtrier.k12.il.us

Browse New Trier's award-winning web site to get a flavor for current programs, curriculum, activities, athletics, policies and publications.

The New Trier site hosts thousands of pages of text, video, and images that reflect the spirit of its two campus, one school identity. To provide easy navigation to links and content, each campus and its corresponding main pages are color-coded using school colors – green for the Northfield Campus and blue for the Winnetka Campus.

Features on the home page such as “quick links” and a “site search engine” facilitate access to some of the web site's highly requested pages.

Earlier this year, the New Trier web site received an award for its overall excellence from the Illinois Chapter/National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA). In addition, the International Association of School Librarianship recognized the Library web page in January 2002.

New Trier Web Developers Charlene Entman and Boris Spektor manage the web site.

www.newtrier.k12.il.us

Board committed to tax rate referendum on April 1 ballot

Residents will go to the polls next April 1 to vote on the first tax rate referendum for the New Trier Township High School District since 1976.

At the September 23 Board of Education meeting, the New Trier Board voted to seek additional funding necessary to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance current programs.

Public Hearing on November 18

A public hearing to receive comments from residents is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, November 18, in the Boardroom, Building C, at the Northfield Campus. The hearing will immediately precede the Board's regular meeting. Board members will determine the amount of the referendum no later than the December 16 Regular Meeting.

Under consideration is a tax rate referendum between \$13 million and \$15.5 million – an estimated annual increase between \$55 and \$65 per \$1,000 on a homeowner's tax bill.

Public invited to voice opinions

In addition to the November 18 meeting, there will be opportunities in each of the sender districts before the April 1 election for the community to meet with the Board and administration to address questions. A schedule of community meetings is being developed and will be publicized in January 2003.

Three years of deficit spending will deplete reserves

The District began deficit spending in the 2001-02 school year due to the ongoing impact of the enrollment increase from 2710 to 3829 students in the past 12



A total of 1015 freshmen attend the Northfield Campus (above) and the Winnetka Campus houses 2814 sophomores, juniors and seniors. Increased student enrollment, opening the second campus to accommodate the additional students, and relatively small increases in revenues have created a deficit budget that will deplete the District's reserves in the next two years.

Referendum on April 1

(Continued from page 1)

years, the opening of the second campus in 2001, and seven years of living under the Illinois tax cap that limits access to tax dollars. "As we anticipated, starting with our first year of operating on two campuses, we have been significantly accessing our reserves to cover expenditures," said Hank Bangser, Superintendent.

In the current 2002-03 school year, the District will continue to spend more than its revenues. In the 2003-04 school year, without a successful referendum, there will be an additional \$11 million in deficit spending, further depleting the fund balance. "Not passing the referendum would result in our borrowing money to pay bills in the 2004-05 school year," Dr. Bangser said.

Desire to at least maintain current program and class size

"New Trier has a tradition of offering outstanding academic and co-curricular opportunities to students who have flourished in the environment our community has expected over the years," Dr. Bangser added. "We want to at least maintain our current course offerings, class sizes, and student opportunities on the two campuses."

Amount of referendum will impact future offerings and fund balance

The Board will consider several factors in selecting a final referendum amount within the designated dollar range. The major programmatic differences between the top and bottom of the range would be class size and the number of co-curricular opportunities the District would be able to fund.

"The smaller referendum amount would also result in a lower fund balance and seeking another referendum earlier than if the higher referendum amount is approved. The Board will grapple with some philosophical issues related to future programs New Trier will be able to offer," Dr. Bangser concluded.

Board of Education Update

June 2002

After six months of study, the Board voted to:

- eliminate the Voluntary Enrollment Model as a long-term enrollment option.
- continue the present 1-3 Enrollment Model (freshmen at Northfield and sophomores, juniors and seniors at Winnetka) until such time as it is deemed appropriate by a future Board to consider an alternative long-term enrollment model.
- study ways to increase opportunities for New Trier's students to participate in curricular and co-curricular programs. Based on study results received in January 2003, the Board agreed to determine the 2003-04 budget amount for academic, athletic, club and intramural programs.
- direct Superintendent Hank Bangser to present an evaluation of the current enrollment model in January and June of each year, to serve as "status report" on the Northfield and Winnetka Campuses.

August 2002

- Board member Mark Jernigan resigned from the Board. His term was designed to run from November 2001 through April 2005.

September 2002

- The Board voted to hold a tax rate referendum in April 2003, agreeing to determine the amount by the December 16 Board Meeting.
- Ed Mehlman, New Trier Board member from 1989 to 1997, was appointed to fill the portion of Mark Jernigan's term until the April 7, 2003 Board Meeting, at which time new Board members will be seated following the April 1, 2003 election.

November 18, 2002

- A public hearing on the referendum will be held at 7:00 p.m., immediately preceding the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

2002-03 Budget represents second year of deficit spending

The Board of Education approved the 2002-03 Budget on July 15, 2002. The Operating Fund Budget reflects a 3.18% increase over actual expenditures for 2001-02. It supports the District's 1.5% enrollment increase from 3,771 students to 3,829 students and the second year of operating two campuses – the Northfield Campus for freshmen and the Winnetka Campus for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Support for technology, campus security and increased staffing

The budget continues increased support for instructional technology, campus supervision and security, staff development and co-curricular activities.

Salaries and benefits represent an increase in the operating expenditures due primarily to hiring additional staff to address the student enrollment increase. New Trier staffing for the 2002-03 school year increased by seven full-time faculty, seven full-time support staff and one full-time physical plant services staff. In addition, employee insurance costs have risen an average of 10 % per year since the 1999-00 school year.

Second consecutive deficit budget

The 2002-03 Operating Budget represents the District's second consecutive deficit budget that coincides with the reactivation of the Northfield Campus. Last year was the first deficit budget in more than 20 years.

Three factors have created the deficit budget that will deplete the District's reserves over the next two years. First, the District has seen relatively small increase in revenues (averaging less than 2.5% per year for the last five years). Second, there has been a more than 5% increase in expenditures per year to support the annual average enrollment growth over the past five years of 3.7%, plus the impact of inflation. Third, opening a second campus has added annual operating

costs. The Board and administration are evaluating referendum alternatives to address this difficult financial trend.

Capital expenditures

Overall, the District's Budget is \$69.1 million, with non-operating expenditures of almost \$6.7 million. Included in the

non-operating expenditures are capital expenditures for major facilities projects at the Winnetka Campus and ongoing maintenance and repairs to the physical plant. This year's capital projects are being funded from the successful 1998 referendum and District reserves. Other non-operating expenditures include bond and interest payments.

Student opportunities

The budget is the most significant statement the Board can make to support the philosophy that all students should have the opportunity to develop to their highest capabilities," said Don Goers, Assistant Superintendent for Business. "Every effort has been made to implement prudent expenditures while maintaining outstanding programs for our students."

Enrollment growth, operating a second campus, and small increases in revenues created a deficit budget that will deplete reserves by 2004-05.

	2001-02 Actual Expenses	2002-03 Approved Budget	Percent Change
Operating Funds:			
Salaries	\$ 38,001,736	\$ 40,050,326	5.39%
Benefits	4,910,583	6,151,285	25.27%
Purchased Services	6,095,595	6,473,757	6.20%
Supplies	3,298,537	3,173,378	-3.79%
Equipment	5,345,956	3,491,063	-34.70%
Other Objects	992,143	992,477	0.03%
Tuition	1,840,517	2,074,000	12.69%
Sub-Total	\$ 60,485,067	\$ 62,406,286	3.18%
Other Funds:			
Medicaid Reimbursement	315,464	212,350	-32.69%
Bldg. Capital Improv	5,678,462	2,800,000	-50.69%
Bond & Interest	3,472,972	3,687,594	6.18%
Life Safety	110,000	0	-100.00%
Sub-Total	\$ 9,576,898	\$ 6,699,944	-30.04%
Grand Total	\$ 70,061,965	\$ 69,106,230	-1.36%

Varied opportunities to participate:

Students have over 100 clubs and activities from which to choose

New Trier students are sampling a wealth of ongoing and new club offerings this fall. More than 100 clubs are open to students on one or both campuses.

Many of New Trier's student clubs have chapters on each campus, such as Girls' Club and Tri-Ship. Other clubs, such as Anime, which explores the Japanese form of animation, has one chapter with 75 members from both campuses.

Opportunities for participation and leadership

"Clubs provide an endless opportunity for students," said Roger Garfield, Activities Coordinator at the Winnetka Campus. "Students can choose the depth and breadth of their participation, whether it is daily, weekly, or just a few times a year. They also have many opportunities for leadership."

The Northfield Campus sponsored an Activities Fair in early fall to introduce freshmen to the variety of opportunities for participation. Students explored extracurricular offerings at many booths set up in the courtyard.

"Student and staff representatives from both campuses provided information and helped freshmen sign-up for clubs that matched their areas of interest," said Tim Hayes, Northfield Campus Activities Coordinator. "We're always looking for new clubs and encourage students to present their ideas for new possibilities to us. The key to successful school involvement is participation. We want our clubs and other student activities to help provide that."

New clubs

New clubs this year include the Car Club, the Car Design Club, and the Snowboarding Club – all of which were successful clubs in the past but which have not been operational in recent years.

Also new this year is the Cereal Club, a morning club with members who collect cereal box tops for charity. Recent efforts helped the club purchase playground equipment for a Chicago elementary school. The new Celtic Club studies all things Irish and Scottish while the Lawn Sports Club meets to play croquette, bocce ball and other lawn games. The new Experimental Music club explores unique forms of music including computer-produced melodies. The New Trier Rowing Club – or Crew as the students call themselves – had their first competition on October 13 (see article below).



The New Trier Rowing Club, new this year, participated in its first regatta in October. The boys teams placed fourth and eighth and the girls teams placed ninth and eleventh.

New Trier Rowing Club competes in first regatta

Cold weather and heavy winds caused spectators along the 2.75 mile course of the Head of the Rock Regatta to break out winter coats on October 13 in Rockford. Despite the weather, the New Trier Crews competing in the Junior Eights events made history as they raced in New Trier's first head race. The boys teams took fourth and eighth places and the girls teams took ninth and eleventh.

Racing in the morning for the boys were fourth place crew members (in boating order): Andrew Ash, coxswain; Dave Stults, J.P. Swafford, Andrew Rowland, Adam Falkof, Dan Seidman, Ned Johnson, Sam Goldhar, and Drew Rifkin, bow, with a time of 16:30.11. Racing in the afternoon and with a time of 18:22.8 was eighth place crew Ned Senko, coxswain; Matt Fitzpatrick, Jacob Brown, David Falkof, Ed Mundy, Jon Walton, Alex Kohn, Jeff Barrow, and Mark Radcliff, bow.

"We had a minor mishap with some equipment and the boys put it all behind them and raced well," said Coach Anthony Brock. "They surprised me with their performance. We're going to set goals for the spring and work hard to obtain those as well."

Racing for the girls in the morning were ninth place crew members (in boating order): Maddie Gilman, coxswain; Anne Pechnyo, Megan West, Emily Dray, Gwennie Poor, Anna Vander Zwaag, Whitney Prudden, Caroline Brooks, and Gera Feigon, bow, with a time of 19:13.63. Racing in the afternoon and with a time of 20:58.18 was eleventh place crew Melissa Dilber, coxswain; Lizzie Gilbert, Amanda Gehrls, Elizabeth Olinto, Amanda Holt, Lizzie Franklin, Katie Smith, Carrie Romano and Niloo Mirani, bow.

"Our faster girls' time was good enough to beat 15 novice college crews and our second crew's time would have beaten six," said Coach Rose Marchuk. "These girls have not rowed before. It is exciting to see their development in the first season."

The traveling team of 20 boys and 20 girls represented the total New Trier Rowing Club consisting of 48 boys and 73 girls. Over the winter, the crews will condition to prepare for regattas in the spring.

New Trier music groups garner national awards

Fanfare please! The beat goes on for New Trier's award-winning music groups. Each of the three premier instrumental ensembles won national honors in *Down Beat* magazine's 25th Annual Student Music Awards.

Two additional citations add up to a total of five awards in 2002 – a record for New Trier musicians, who have won a total of 21 of the highest awards since 1985.

Jazz Big Band, Symphonic Band and Classical Orchestra all win

New Trier Jazz Ensemble I, directed by Jim Warrick, won the High School Outstanding Performance award in the Jazz Big Band category. The New Trier Symphonic Wind Ensemble, directed by John Thomson, was named the high school winner in the Symphonic Band category. The New Trier Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Peter Rosheger, received the top award in the Classical Orchestra category.

Best Jazz Instrumental Group

Named Best High School Jazz Instrumental Group was the Stephane Grappelli Tribute Trio, comprised of New Trier Class of 2003 students Aaron Weinstein on violin, John Gillilan on guitar, and Gabe Noel on bass. Aaron Weinstein also won in the Outstanding Performance High School Jazz category.

Validation of students' talents

"The *Down Beat* Awards are a nice validation of our students' talents by a preeminent outside source," said Music Department Chair David Ladd. "They reflect the importance that the New Trier community places on music and what our students are doing in the department."

Tradition of music excellence

Jazz Studies Coordinator Jim Warrick said the awards serve as a constant motivation. "When students see the



The New Trier Symphonic Wind Ensemble, directed by John Thomson (above), was a national winner in the Symphonic Band category. The Symphony Orchestra and the Jazz Ensemble I also won highest awards in their categories.

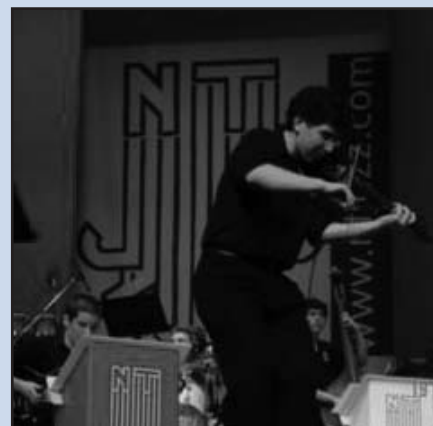
collection of *Down Beat* plaques on the wall from previous years, they are inspired to keep up the tradition," he said. "New Trier swept the top awards once before, in 1999. Our success in many areas demonstrates our philosophy that each type of music – classical, jazz, and band – is equal in importance," he added. "We want to educate students to be well-rounded musicians who can be successful as future performers and consumers of music."

Judging completed by blind review

The *Down Beat* awards program is the only one of its kind in the nation. Public and private schools from around the country and Canada submit tapes for blind review by nationally known musicians and educators. The tapes have no identifiers and there is no published list of schools entered in the competition.

Down Beat's judging criteria include overall sound, presence or authority, proper interpretation of the idiom, improvisation or creativity, technique, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, accurate rhythm/time, and the material performed.

Learning from the Masters



Aaron Weinstein, senior, was a winner in *Down Beat* magazine's Outstanding Performance High School Jazz category.

To help hone their technique, Aaron Weinstein and his cohorts John Gillilan and Gabe Noel listened to the old Hot Club of France recordings of jazz violin legend Stephane Grappelli. Aaron Weinstein, who also was named outstanding instrumental soloist, formed the group several years ago for a concert performance of the Grappelli classic "Lady Be Good."

The group's repertoire expanded when the trio was selected to perform at the International Association of Jazz Education (IAJE) annual conference in Long Beach, California. "The goal was to take Grappelli's repertoire and make some changes to modernize it a little bit," Aaron told *Down Beat* magazine.

Featuring the New Trier combo in its awards issue, *Down Beat* also credited New Trier teacher Jim Warrick, "whose willingness to accept violin in the school's jazz program made the trio possible in the first place."

Rebuilding community locally, nationally and internationally:

Class of 2002 leaves a worthy legacy

When the tragedy of September 11 struck early in their senior year, the New Trier Class of 2002 responded with a resolve to organize, unify, and dedicate their “minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion and lives to the service of mankind,” according to the New Trier motto.

“The class felt we needed to respond to September 11 in a way that would rebuild community, both on the national and international level,” said 2002 graduate Mike Zuckerman, Senior Class President.

A heartfelt mission

“The Class of 2002’s leadership in pursuing a heartfelt mission of service to others was truly inspirational to the entire New Trier community,” said Larry Rehage, senior boys adviser chair. “They funded and built a house for Habitat for Humanity, collected clothing and school supplies for the African Refugee Committee, and made significant financial contributions to five charitable organizations.”

Filled with fervor, the class drew up plans to repeat the accomplishment of the Class of 2001—the construction of a house for a family through Habitat for Humanity. The Class of 2002 also decided to add to their service goal by adopting another project. They agreed to fill an overseas container with supplies for an African refugee camp and raise the money to help ship it.

Building a second Habitat home

Located in North Chicago, the Habitat for Humanity house became the home of Vastoria Parker and her 15-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son. Mrs. Parker worked along side the New Trier students to help build her three-bedroom, two-story house. After the excavation in early April, different senior adviser groups traveled to the site during the week. On Saturdays, social service volunteers from other New Trier classes joined the Class of 2002.

To qualify as a sponsor of a Habitat project, the class raised the \$65,000 needed to buy materials. The principal fundraiser was the annual Winter Carnival, held at the school. “Every single senior was involved,” Mike Zuckerman said. “The



New Trier adviser groups traveled to the Habitat home in North Chicago each week to help construct the three-bedroom, two-story house. The Class of 2002 raised the \$65,000 needed for materials, mostly by sponsoring the Winter Carnival, an annual fund-raiser at New Trier that transforms the Winnetka Campus hallways and classrooms into an indoor carnival for children in the community.

result of the Carnival was a record-breaking sum of \$30,000.” The Class of 2002 raised additional funds by selling T-shirts and ice cream and seeking donations from families and the community.

Donating supplies, clothes and money to African refugees

In its African effort, the class worked with the Winnetka-based African Refugee Committee, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing assistance to traumatized refugees. Seniors filled a 20’ x 40’ container with donated school supplies and clothing and then contributed \$4,500 to the cost of shipping.

Giving \$25,000 to other charities

In his commencement address, Mike Zuckerman presented the gifts from the Class of 2002. “It has been the goal of the Class of 2002 to build community inside and outside of New Trier,” he said. Consistent with the goal and in addition to their contributions to the Habitat for Humanity house and the African Refugee project, the Class of 2002 presented a check for \$25,000 to benefit the Heifer Project, the Mom and Me Foundation, the Gale Academy, The Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, and Seeds of Peace.

“The incredible efforts of the Class of 2002 working together to meet the needs of so many demonstrates their love for their fellow human beings,” said Janice

Dreis, senior girls adviser chair. “Our heartfelt thanks go to the Class of 2002 senior class officers for their diligent leadership, compassionate hearts, and total commitment to the wonderful service projects of the 2001-02 school year.”

Dreams do come true...”

“I dreamed of owning my own home, but I never imagined I would be part of a wonderful collaboration such as Habitat and New Trier. It’s because of you that my dream has come true.”

“I would like to offer a special thanks to the entire Senior Class of 2002 for extending such a warm invitation to my family as we attended your Winter Carnival... I didn’t realize this great event was geared toward the success of making my dream home possible until I saw the house in your display case. Tears of joy began to flow from my eyes.”

— excerpt from a thank you letter to the Class of 2002 from Vastoria Parker, new owner of the Habitat home built by students

Innovation to keep up with a changing world:

Seven new courses approved

At the October 21 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the addition of seven new courses in the New Trier curriculum. They are:

- Sports and Entertainment Marketing (Business Education Department)
- Ethics in Literature (English Department)
- 3D Multimedia and Animation (Instructional Technology Department)
- Student Technology Workshops (Instructional Technology Department)
- Computer Networking (Instructional Technology Department)
- Computational Science and Engineering (Science Department)
- Activities Leadership Practicum (Student Activities).

Sufficient enrollment determines course offerings

Approval of the courses does not mean that all will be taught during the 2003-04 school year. "Each course must have sufficient student enrollment before it will be entered into the school year schedule," said Dr. Betty Brockelman, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "Therefore, the final approval of these courses will come from the students."

One new art course, Video Art: The Moving Image, was proposed with a potential approval, pending additional information regarding costs of cameras and other equipment needed for the course. Answers to Board members' questions will be addressed at the November 18 Board Meeting, where the course will be discussed again.

Descriptions of all the new courses will be included in New Trier's 2003-04 Program of Studies, a curriculum guide that will be distributed to students in January, prior to their course registration for next school year.

New Trier Foundation to seek funds for school's television studio

Raising funds to outfit a television production studio for student use is the New Trier Foundation's first priority, according to its newly-named executive director, Wes Baumann, who retired as Principal of New Trier's Winnetka Campus last June and moved into his new role in July.

To help raise the money, the Foundation Board will send a letter to 30,000 New Trier alumni in December.

The Foundation Board reviewed a lengthy list of possible projects and quickly focused on the needs of the new television broadcast course implemented this year. "A well-equipped studio will increase students' opportunities to have appropriate learning experiences and to produce videos that can be shown on the

New Trier Lyceum, the school's cable television station," Mr. Baumann said. "From our perspective, the ability to give students this educational experience while enhancing communication between New Trier and the community is a worthy project. There is so much to see at New Trier and our students will show their classmates in action."

Since the 1960's, New Trier has had a staff-operated television station. Currently, the New Trier Cable Lyceum airs programs throughout the Township from New Trier and its six sender elementary districts. The Lyceum can be seen on channel 18 in Glencoe, Kenilworth and Winnetka 24 hours each day. The Lyceum is shown in Wilmette weekdays from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. on channel 6. Presently, it is not available in Northfield.

The New Trier Township High School District 203 Educational Foundation

The New Trier Educational Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors representing the community, including alumni. The Foundation works with the New Trier Board of Education to support programs beyond the scope of the Board's budget that will enhance and expand opportunities for students.

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Christopher Fort, Student Alliance

Wesley Baumann, Executive Director

2002 - 2003 School Year Calendar

2002			2003			
August	26	Monday	Opening Institute - Day 1	January	6 Monday	School Resumes after Winter Break
	27	Tuesday	Institute - Day 2		20 Monday	Martin Luther King Day (holiday)
	28	Wednesday	First Day of Student Attendance		21,22,23	Tues-Thurs First Semester Exams
September	2	Monday	Labor Day (holiday)		24	Friday Grading Day (see footnote #1 below)
	16	Monday	Yom Kippur (holiday)		27	Monday First Semester Ends
October	10	Thursday	Freshman Go-To-School Night (Northfield Campus) Regular School Day on Winnetka Campus	February	17 Monday	President's Day (holiday)
	11	Friday	No School		28 Friday	Institute Day (no school for students)
	14	Monday	Columbus Day (holiday)	March	12,13	Wednesday, Thursday Late Arrival for Students (10:00 a.m.)
	22,23	Tuesday, Wednesday	Late Arrival for Students (10:00 a.m.)		21	Friday Third Quarter Ends
November	1	Friday	First Quarter Ends		22	Saturday Spring Break Begins
	11	Monday	Veterans' Day (holiday)		31	Monday School Resumes after Break
	20	Wednesday	Parent-Teacher Conferences (evening) (regular day for students)	April	18	Friday Good Friday (no school)
	21	Thursday	Parent-Teacher Conferences (afternoon and evening) (no school for students)		23,24	Tuesday, Wednesday PSAE Testing for Juniors (schedule for sophomores and seniors to be announced; regular school day on Northfield Campus)
	22	Friday	Institute Day (no school for students)	May	26	Monday Memorial Day (holiday)
	28,29	Thursday, Friday	Thanksgiving Vacation	June	1	Sunday Commencement (5:00 p.m.) Welsh-Ryan Arena-Northwestern University
December	21	Saturday	Winter Break Begins		4,5,6	Wed-Friday Second Semester Exams
					9	Monday Grading Day (see footnote #2 below)
					11	Wednesday Last Day of Student Attendance

Grading days are tentatively scheduled as days with no school for students.

1 If one snow day is used before this date, January 24 will be a regular day for students. 2 If two snow days are used, June 9 will be a regular day for students.

New Trier Township High School
District 203 • Board of Education
385 Winnetka Avenue
Winnetka, IL 60093-4295



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, most of Northfield and parts of Glenview and Northbrook.

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

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