



Jim Koch  
Member, Board of Education

Tradition and Transition

Celebrating the era of innovative leadership and welcoming a "teacher's teacher" to the helm of New Trier

Traditions, transitions and conversations have been a significant focus of the Board of Education's work this year. The Board was charged with the task of finding a new superintendent, a task that called on us to deeply consider the purpose of education at New Trier, the nature of learning, and leadership. On behalf of the community, we asked ourselves some questions. What does it mean to be an educated person? What is the purpose of education? How does an educational institution build collaborative relationships among students, teachers and the community?

These conversations led us to a shared understanding that school is the place where our children form relationships with each other and the community. These relationships are formed through many conversations with friends, teachers and parents. These conversations sharpen their intellect, lead to compassion and, we hope, create a longing for learning, openness to truth, and respect for different ideas. To the extent we are all engaged in conversation, our community is enriched.

Relationships, conversations and connections

In an age of global education, increased testing, learning centers, budgetary constraints and electronic classrooms, at New Trier we know that it has been and always will be teachers who create the conditions to learn. We know that your children are being taught how to think and not what to think. Our students should learn to think

for themselves, to think critically, to reflect, and to learn by doing. The great teachers at New Trier care about the hearts and minds of our children. It is our hope that all our children feel connected to our New Trier community. Its size misleadingly masks a place filled with caring and compassionate men and women. As a Board member, I can tell you that we are always attentive to enhancing the opportunities for children to develop friendships and engage in meaningful relationships with staff and others in the community.

Each individual only has one high school experience. Humbly, I suggest that this is a great one. Part of the reason for New Trier's success is that so many members of the community have joined the conversation with their children, faculty and friends. It is the conversation that invigorates an education and stirs an institution to reflect upon its traditions and its future. After all, the one thing we want our children to learn is how to engage in an eternal conversation about things that matter.

Gratitude to Hank Bangser for leading the "critical conversations"

We have been exceedingly fortunate for the last 16 years to have Superintendent Hank Bangser leading the conversation about education in our community. This period in time saw New Trier's population substantially increase such that prior Boards, with community and administrative advice, had the wisdom to create a freshman campus. The hallmarks of Hank's

leadership included initiatives to service and an openness to students' health in the broadest sense. The conversations about education have been healthy, conflicting and invigorating. The Board understands that these types of conversations must continue. To carry on the strategic plan that engages the entire community requires concerted action among all of us with a mutual respect that stems from the appreciation of everyone's contribution.

New Superintendent Linda Yonke: a "teacher's teacher"

The Board's search for a new superintendent who could lead that conversation and oversee education at New Trier led us to Linda Yonke. A "teacher's teacher," a former high school principal for 12 years, and our current Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction is just the dynamic leader who recognizes the centrality of the classroom to school improvement.

We are confident that New Trier will continue to attract bright, focused educators who have a deep commitment to improving opportunities for all students. We look forward to ongoing and new conversations about New Trier's best interests.

Sincerely,

James B. Koch  
on behalf of the Board of Education

A heartfelt thank you



Henry S. Bangser  
Superintendent

Each public school in America, to a great extent, reflects the priorities of its local citizens. In this vein, the New Trier that I entered as a 22 year-old teacher in 1971 has reflected seven decades of our community's commitment to excellence.

This July, I will retire as only the fourth superintendent of New Trier in the past 75 years. With great enthusiasm, I am turning over the keys of this high-powered educational engine to my exceptionally able Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Linda Yonke. She will inherit an operation that counts among its internal strengths — wonderful students, supportive parents, strong financial resources, an exemplary staff, and a deep respect between and among the students and adults on our two campuses.

However, our students do not perform and comport themselves as they do because our staff members impart some magic on them during their mid-teenage years. These students receive among the finest foundational nine years of preparation one could imagine in our six exemplary elementary districts. In addition and most important, as a critical complement to our k-12 educational programs, our young people are impacted by their parents and their parents' friends and neighbors.

New Trier's citizens evidence a sincere appreciation for — and pride in — the values that the school district has embodied for over a century. As I leave New Trier, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for continuing the tradition of community excellence which I first observed as a new teacher and now understand fully as your retiring superintendent.

Sincerely,

Hank Bangser  
Superintendent



New Trier students and staff participated in a Save Darfur rally in April in Washington, D.C.

Opening their eyes to the world  
New Trier students focus on Africa

Learning about the human atrocities in Africa has been at the forefront of student involvement this year. A few examples follow.

Africa Day was held on the Northfield Campus on May 10, sponsored by the Social Studies Department. Dedicated to raising awareness about Africa and the genocide in Darfur, students listened to presentations, watched the film *Hotel Rwanda*, and attended workshops that included African food and dance. A moment of silence at the

continued on page 2

To commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion and lives to the service of humanity.

## Planning for the Future

Below is an update on the second strategic plan for New Trier. The first strategic plan was implemented from 1995-2003.

The research and implementation phase of the District's 2005-2010 Strategic Plan began in October 2005 and continued through the 2005-2006 school year. This phase of the strategic planning process is designed to be completed by March 2007.

The Board of Education will receive a report detailing the progress of each strategic planning committee at its June 12, 2006 Regular Meeting. Immediately thereafter, the report will be available on the District's website and in the Superintendent's and Principals' offices. The following paragraphs summarize the progress of most of the committees as of late April. Each title represents the simplest description of the action plan the committee was organized to study. The complete list of action plans can be found on the District website under "Quick Links – Strategic Planning."

### Safe and Respectful School Environment

Among other initiatives, an implementation plan is being created to connect with students who do not feel emotionally and/or physically safe at New Trier. Questions include: Are current safety nets working at New Trier? Who are the students whose needs are not being met? How can we identify and connect with those students?

### Student's Personal Exploration Plan

A time management template has been created that will educate the student, parents, and relevant staff members about the complexities of the student's day, both in and out of school, and make connections among academic social, personal, and other experiences in a student's day.

### School-Within-A-School

(an academic setting within the Winnetka Campus for a small number of students)

Key issues to be resolved include:

- Will there be a curricular focus or an instructional methodology focus – or both?
- What number of students is optimal for the school-within-a-school?
- What kind of schedule (block, traditional, etc.) is desirable?
- How will teachers and students be recruited and selected for this program?

- How will physical space be allocated for this program and how will students intersect with the rest of the school?
- Are there extraordinary needs in the area of technology and instructional materials?
- When is the ideal time to implement a new program?

### Core Standards of Ethical Conduct and Responsible Global Citizenship

The Committee envisions an exercise next fall through which students would begin with a writing prompt, with the exact wording of the prompt still under consideration. Some suggestions have been: Describe a school-related incident in which it took courage to do the right thing. How do you feel ethical/unethical decision-making has an impact on you at New Trier?

### Alternative Daily and/or Weekly Class Schedules

Following the strong recommendation of the Superintendent and the co-chairs of the two 2004 action teams which endorsed a new daily and weekly schedule, the issue of a mandatory lunch period was tabled until significantly greater work on the complex scheduling issues could be completed. This committee is exploring alternative schedules predicated on four assumptions compared with our present schedule: retaining a daily adviser room period, maintaining the breadth and depth of our current academic program, maintaining student choice and access to course offerings, and maintaining or increasing the total amount of instructional time per week.

### Testing/Homework Policies

The Test Day Policy was implemented a year ago, in consultation with staff and students. However, problems have emerged in the distribution of information about the policy and with consistent compliance. The committee recommends the following:

- Advertise the policy on the New Trier website, in the Program of Studies, in the Student Handbook, and on bulletin boards in all classrooms.
- Provide a means for students to make alternative arrangements for one test on any day on which three tests are scheduled.

- Provide a process for teachers to request exceptions to the Test Day Policy under specific (and rare) circumstances.
- Make sure that students know that the Test Day Policy applies to projects and major papers as well as to tests.

### Healthy Eating Habits

The committee divided into four subgroups — one to develop surveys for students, staff and parents; a second to focus on the wellness/nutrition policy; a third to evaluate facilities issues; and a fourth to publicize and implement the policy.

### Experiential Learning

The committee created a structure for an advisory committee that would encourage ways that students and teachers could make more meaningful connections among their academic, personal and social experiences. The group also started to create a database of sources for guest classroom presenters, business liaisons, career advisors, alumni, volunteers, retirees and other contacts that could enhance the learning opportunities for students and staff.

### Dispelling Current Students' Misperceptions about New Trier

During the freshman year, the Committee felt the following steps should be taken:

- Have Senior Helpers speak at the Freshman Parent Adviser meetings in the fall, addressing misperceptions about New Trier.
- Incorporate into the Senior Helper training program information about the common misperceptions about high school; address these misperceptions in freshman adviser rooms.
- Train Winnetka Campus Student Ambassadors to address freshmen concerns; visit freshman adviser rooms during second semester.
- Have Student Ambassadors speak at the freshman parent meeting, "Moving on Up," in the spring, addressing misperceptions about the Winnetka Campus experience.
- Explore the possibility of starting a Senior Big Brother/Big Sister program for sophomores.
- Incorporate data from Senior Exit interviews into programs for freshmen and sophomores.

### Class Rank

The committee will propose a pilot program in the next two years within which student applications to about 25 colleges and universities will be submitted without class rank. Based on conversations with these schools, the college counseling staff is convinced that more students will be benefitted in their admissions with no class rank reported from New Trier. If the results are positive over a two-year period, and additional information projecting positive results for our students on a national scale is obtained, the committee will recommend the elimination of class rank beginning with the Class of 2009 for applications to all colleges and universities.

### School-wide Calendar with Web-Based Communication

The committee investigated two electronic calendar programs, looking at the training, security, ease of use, cost, and reliability of each, and also comparing how each would address the coordination of events, room scheduling, parent/student/community communications, web page enhancements, conflicts, integration with other technology, the master schedule, and data export. Implementation could begin in the 2006-07 school year, extending into 2007-08. The staffing that would be required to support this initiative remains an issue.

### Grade Weighting

This committee is researching the impact of eliminating grade weighting. Among others, two questions under consideration are: What are possible negative and positive outcomes resulting from eliminating grade weighting? How would colleges view applications from students if grades were not weighted?

### Student Membership on Committees

After meeting with representatives of Student Alliance, the group identified committees that could benefit from student participation, including Curriculum Council, Greater Technology Committee, Climate Research Committee, and Facilities Committee. The issue of student participation on the School Board will be addressed in cooperation with the Superintendent, Board of Education, and Student Alliance.

## Opening their eyes to the world

continued from page 1

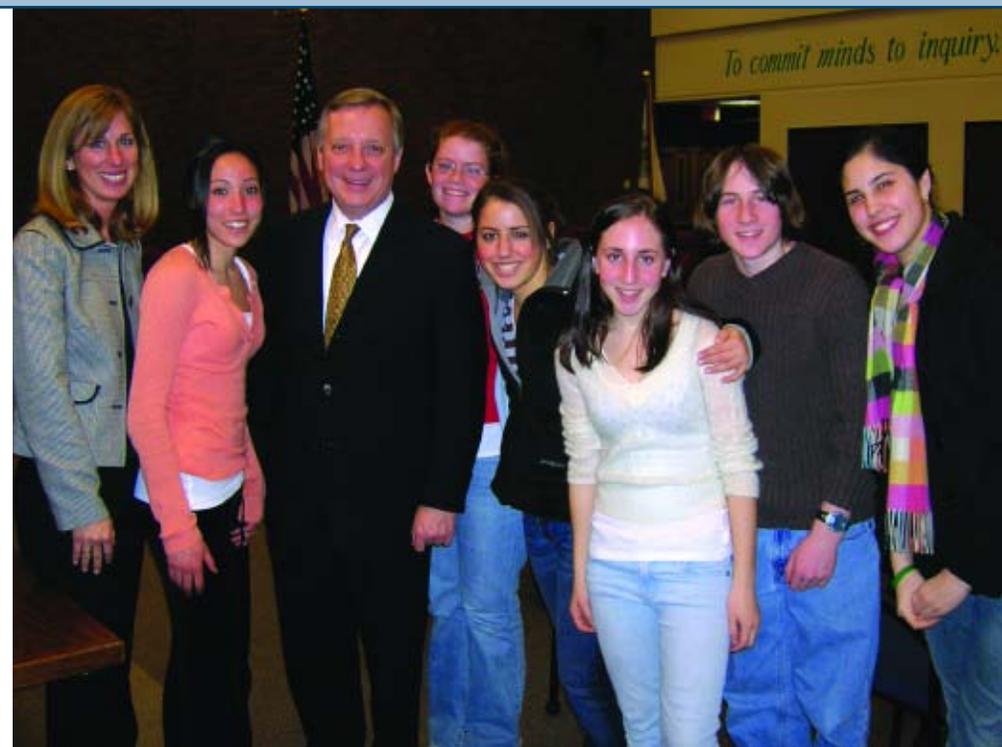
end of the day commemorated the millions of victims in Sudan, Rwanda, and other countries.

In April, 30 students and teachers traveled to Washington, D.C. to learn more about government involvement in the Sudan conflict. They heard from California Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Nobel Prize winning author Elie Wiesel, who survived Auschwitz, Bung, Buchenwald and Gleiwitz concentration camps.

Several freshman classes wrote letters and sent e-mails to a wide variety of local and national legislators to raise awareness

about the genocide occurring in the Sudan. After returning from a trip to Rwanda, Kenya and the Congo, Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator from Illinois, visited New Trier and spoke to 100 students about his experiences in Africa, answering their questions about U.S. involvement there.

Freshman students had an opportunity to meet with Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator from Illinois (third from left), after his trip to Rwanda, Kenya and the Congo, questioning him about the genocide occurring in the Sudan. Pictured with Senator Durbin are (from left): Social Studies teacher Carolyn Muir and freshmen Anne Ruggillero Erin Shipley (behind Senator Durbin), Chloe Goodman, Lea Prohov, Jonathon Prohov, and Natalie Zarowny.



## Community Fun at Winter Carnival

Nearly 3,000 people filled the halls of the Winnetka Campus on a cold winter evening in February to participate in New Trier's 12th annual Winter Carnival, which raised \$40,000 toward the \$95,000 needed to build a Habitat for Humanity home in North Chicago.

This year, students in each of the 40 senior adviser rooms created a theme or attraction for the carnival and numerous extra curricular clubs set up their own attractions. Younger kids flocked to perennial hits like the crazy hair station, inflatable bungee run, and Bozo buckets, while older students enjoyed the climbing wall and dodge ball survival.

Janice Dreis, Senior Girls' Adviser Chair, said the event's fundraising success was due to parent volunteers and contributions from area businesses. This year, 23 underwriters contributed to the carnival. Ticket and concession sales raised the remaining funds needed to help create and fund the Habitat for Humanity house.

Along with the Habitat project, Ms. Dreis is confident that the Winter Carnival keeps high school seniors involved at a time when they could be very tempted to "just move on," she said. "Winter Carnival is great for our seniors to plan toward the end of their high school years. It allows them to give back to the community. This is truly a service they do."

New Trier's 12th annual Winter Carnival attracted as many as 3,000 residents and friends and raised \$40,000 in support of the Class of 2006's Habitat for Humanity project.



## Science Olympiad Team wins State Title

Congratulations to the 2006 Science Olympiad Team for winning the State title at the University of Illinois in April. The team will advance to the National Competition as State Champions in late May for the fifth year in a row.

Scoring an impressive 60-point lead over the second place winner, New Trier's 2006 Science Olympiad Team received medals in 12 of 23 events. Coached by staff members Jan Leonhardt, Tom Senior, Katie Kralik and Tony Harper, team members included 15 students and four alternates.

### State Science Olympiad Team 2006

Alex Gorodetsky  
Jordan Guterman  
Varun Kaushik  
Shannon Keleher  
Amar Kelkar  
Hira Khanum  
Mark Kozlowski  
Sasha Ladik  
Mason Marshall  
Tatsuya Oishi  
Chris Phillips  
Adam Ruben  
Ben Steinhorn  
Jimmy Tang  
Patrick Xia

### Alternates

Taylor Medford  
Andrew Pikler  
Natalie Wolosowicz  
Xida Zheng





Hank Bangser has played many roles in his 24 years at New Trier – the past 16 as Superintendent and a previous eight as a teacher, coach and assistant principal.

# TEACHER LEADER FRIEND

Hank attended a large, public high school north of New York City where he was active in sports and received All Area in football.

With a grandfather and father in the field of law, Hank planned to become a lawyer, but his role as a summer sports camp counselor stirred his passion for teaching and working with young people.

He graduated from Williams College, then Northwestern University for his master's and doctorate. He was hired as a social studies teacher at New Trier High School.

Hank was named New Trier Assistant Principal, then Principal at Lake Forest (Illinois) High School, Superintendent in Pelham, New York, and Superintendent in St. Charles, Illinois, before returning full circle to New Trier in 1990 as Superintendent.

Hank and Sara Bangser's three children graduated from New Trier – Jill (1995), Marc (1997) and Matt (2000).

Hank will transfer from the public to the private sector in August, when he will join the international philanthropic consulting firm Grenzebach Glier & Associates as its Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President.

*“On June 30, Hank Bangser will retire as New Trier’s Superintendent after 16 years at the helm. He became Superintendent in 1990 when the District’s enrollment was at its lowest point since the 1950s, and his tenure has been marked by steadily increasing enrollment. He has led the District through the renovation, re-opening, and staffing of the Northfield Campus. Despite the challenges of growth, Hank has helped focus New Trier on maintaining individualized attention to its students and staff, often referring to the ‘New Trier family.’ New Trier has had only four superintendents in 75 years (1931-2006): Matt Gaffney, Bill Cornog, Rod Bickert, and Hank Bangser.”*

*–Excerpt from New Trier: Portrait of an American High School*

Momentous changes occurred at New Trier during Hank Bangser's 16 years as Superintendent:

- student enrollment increased by more than 50% while State funding withered under new tax cap legislature;
- hundreds of teachers eligible for retirement left the District and outstanding new faculty members were hired in their place;
- major renovations replaced aging infrastructure at the Winnetka Campus;
- the Northfield Campus re-opened, undergoing necessary facilities upgrades;
- classrooms at both campuses demanded new technology;
- the school celebrated its Centennial birthday, hosting a year of special events for students, staff, community, and alumni from around the world; and
- two comprehensive strategic plans were adopted and executed, charting the course for the future.

Many accomplishments can be tallied during Dr. Bangser's years at one of the nation's largest and most renowned public high schools but, above all else, he will be remembered for his “personal commitment to students, staff and our community that inspired excellence, compassion and exemplary leadership,” said Jim Koch,

Board of Education member who completed his term as President in April.

Henry Stephen Bangser grew up 20 miles north of New York City, in a community similar to the North Shore suburbs served by New Trier. He was active in activities and sports, making All Area in football. When he graduated in 1966, he enrolled at Williams College, where he also played four years of football and golf. Confident he would follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, he initially planned to become a lawyer. But summers spent at a sports camp counselor triggered his love for teaching and working with young people. He went on to graduate school at Northwestern University and quickly fell in love with the Chicago area and with a “very attractive college student I met while working at a golf club one summer,” he said.

**“Hank’s commitment to students, staff and community has been the impetus for the excellence and compassion we value. His heart, vision and wisdom will live on forever in the spirit of New Trier.”**

*– Jan Borja, Northfield Campus Principal*

Hank and Sara Bangser soon started their lives together on the North Shore when New Trier hired Hank as a social studies teacher in 1971 after completing his master's degree. By 1973, Hank was working on his Ph.D. and, in 1976, he was named Assistant Principal with his Ph.D. completed the next year. In 1979, Hank was named Principal of Lake Forest High School, where he stayed four years. In 1983, he moved his family back to his home state of New York to join the Pelham School

District as Superintendent. In 1987, he came back to Illinois as Superintendent of the St. Charles School District, happy to be in the Midwest once again. “The Midwestern respectfulness and warmth were values I wanted for my family,” he said. In 1990, Hank returned to New Trier, serving as its 12th Superintendent in nearly a century.

From his first day as Superintendent, Hank wanted to inspire a school environment that was thoughtful, professional, humble, balanced, and focused on the value of the individual. Referencing this goal, Hank now refers to New Trier's achievements over the last 16 years as a result of the hard work and talents of those individuals – the staff, students, parents and community members.

“They are truly extraordinary,” he said. “I am so proud of our staff and students and everything they have accomplished. I am proud of our parents, community members, and our Board of Education members and other volunteers who have provided us with the resources to support excellence at the highest levels. I also find it remarkable that students and staff continue to focus on high performance for the intrinsic rewards,” he continued. “I believe that our school culture fosters a love of learning and a passion for our school motto.” The New Trier motto is “to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity.”

Hank admits his role as Superintendent has been challenging at times, but he is quick to credit the staff for helping to foster an atmosphere in which “no decisions are made without a thorough examination of all issues and viewpoints,” he said. This collaborative, participative leadership style helped Hank develop a tremendous gift: patience. “I’d be the first one to say that staff members have learned to be patient with me, too, over the years,” he said, smiling. “Involving others in decision making certainly takes more time, but the results are so much better.” This emphasis on collaboration in making crucial decisions was especially evident during the 1998

“A great leader is a servant first. The New Trier Board of Education, an amorphous entity envisioning education for our community, recognizes that for the last 16 years Hank has served our District as its educational leader.

Hank listens. He has heard our educational aspirations in countless conversations with parents, students, and teachers. He has attended hundreds of academic, athletic, and artistic events, embracing and representing New Trier’s commitment to inquiry, compassion, and service.

This Board and all its former members thank Hank for making New Trier a place where the soul of education is pursued by thousands of young men and women who are searching to discover themselves.”

-Jim Koch

Board of Education Member (President April 2005 until April 2006)

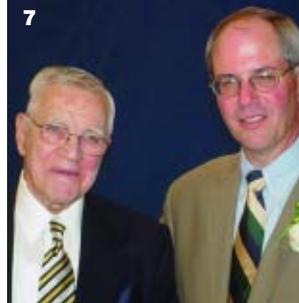
debate that resulted in the re-opening of the Northfield Campus. “We created a process through which every voice could be heard,” he said. “Our students, staff and community members have always held strong opinions, but they are willing to listen.”

Hank foresees more changes—major ones—on the horizon for his successor, Dr. Linda Yonke, who will resume the role of Superintendent on July 1, 2006. Among these changes will be the greater infusion of technology into the daily learning environment. Hank is confident that Linda is the right leader to shepherd the New Trier of the next period. He also is excited about the many “young, bright leaders” at New Trier who are beginning to move into significant roles in the

District. “I predict they will continue to set the standard for excellence and achievement here,” he said, “and they will maintain an appropriate degree of humility.”

Retirement – often thought of as that time of life, post-career, when one explores passions and develops new hobbies – will consist only of a few weeks of vacation for Hank before he assumes the role of Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President for Grenzebach Glier & Associates, Inc., an international philanthropic consulting firm. “We are pleased to welcome Hank to our leadership team,” said John Glier, President and CEO. “Hank will provide the leadership and management skills that will help drive the growth of our firm, and I look forward to working closely with him.”

- 1 Students at the Winnetka Campus surprised Dr. Bangser with a reception in early May.
- 2 and 3 At a May 7 Retirement Celebration in Dr. Bangser’s honor, Board of Education President Chuck Happ (left) announces that Building A at the Northfield Campus will be dedicated the “Henry S. Bangser Administration Building.”
- 4 From left, Hank Bangser, his wife Sara, son Matt (class of 2000), daughter Jill (class of 1995) and son Marc (class of 1997) listen to guest speakers at the Retirement Celebration.
- 5 Hank jokes with Tom Kucharski, New Trier social studies teacher who also is President of the New Trier Township High School Education Association.
- 6 Jan Borja, Principal, Northfield Campus, talks about Hank in his consummate role as “teacher.”
- 7 Rod Bickert (left), New Trier Superintendent from 1974 until his retirement in 1990, is pictured with Hank at the May 7 Open House.
- 8 Students were excited to surprise Dr. Bangser with a cake that featured one of his earlier photographs.



## New Trier: Portrait of an American High School



“To most people World War I had seemed far away, something that could never come close. Some resented it, others seized upon it now to help break up the long monotony of everyday living – more terribly thrilling than a fire in the business district, a drowning in the river, or the discovery that the cashier of the Farmers’ Bank had been embezzling. Something had come, it seemed, to shake up that placid, solid, comfortable life of home, changing things around, shifting values that had seemed to be fixed.”

*New Trier: Portrait of an American High School*, a 105-year history of New Trier and life in America, is on press and available now for a special pre-order discounted rate of \$35, plus \$5 shipping.

Written by English teacher Julie Johnson with support from retired teacher James Marran and the New Trier Office of Personnel and Communications, *New Trier: Portrait of an American High School* will be available this summer. Pre-order your history book today for the discounted rate. Orders placed after June 30 will be \$40, plus \$5 shipping.

To order by check, please specify quantity and ordering instructions and mail your payment to:

New Trier Educational Foundation  
History Book Sales  
7 Happ Road  
Northfield, IL 60093

Or fax your order to 847.446.0874.

To order *New Trier: Portrait of an American High School* using a credit card, please go to the website [www.newtrieralumni.org/historybook](http://www.newtrieralumni.org/historybook) or select Events from the left menu items on the alumni community main page.

## What do you think about the New Trier cable television channel?

Community members are encouraged to complete a brief Viewer Feedback Survey to share their thoughts on the local educational access cable station. The survey is available online at [www.theeducation-channel.org](http://www.theeducation-channel.org).

Throughout the year, the cable channel broadcasts Board of Education meetings, sports, live and replayed music concerts, and an array of educational programs. Please take a few minutes to share your opinions about these programs and suggest ideas for future programming.

The daily broadcast schedule is also available on the website, and is also printed weekly in the Pioneer Press newspapers.

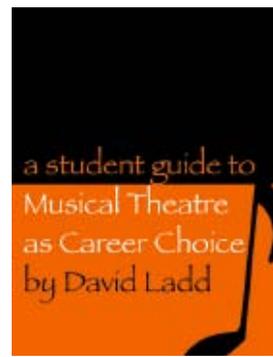


### The Education Channel - New Trier TV and more

**Channel 16:**  
Northfield and Wilmette  
(Comcast subscribers)

**Channel 18:**  
Glencoe, Kenilworth and Winnetka

## Now available for order!



*Information and reflections on the pursuit of a Broadway show*

In 2003, New Trier teacher David Ladd embarked on a year's sabbatical leave from his position as

Choral Director and Music Department Chair. He wanted to accumulate information about musical theatre as a profession to help New Trier students make decisions about schools, majors and directions to take in pursuit of a career in musical theatre.

Mr. Ladd's book is divided into two sections — a guide for students and parents and a step-by-step description of his attempt to resurrect his career as a professional musical theatre actor in New York City. Filled with relevant data, personal reflections and recommendations, the book is a wonderful resource for anyone considering a meaningful career in the competitive world of musical theatre.

*To order your copy of A Student Guide to Musical Theatre as a Career Choice, please call 847.784.2346. Copies are \$13 each, which includes shipping.*

## Candid Conversations

### Emphasis on a safe and respectful learning environment helps students and staff discover — and maintain — the heart and soul of their school

The heart and soul of New Trier is its adviser system, a facet of this large school that enables students to communicate daily with a faculty adviser who provides support on anything from course selection and academic assistance to mentoring and emotional support. It is the adviser program, then, that has become the natural place for examining issues of school climate and launching educational initiatives that address the “affective side” of learning.

The issue of school climate was raised in New Trier's first strategic plan in the mid-1990s, which resulted in a committee that conducted focus groups to identify issues. At the same time, an ad hoc group formed, devoted to the issue of bullying and harassment, and members visited Evanston Township High School to observe the program, Names Can Really Hurt Us, an Anti-Defamation League (ADL) initiative that was in place there.

“It was one of the most powerful educational experiences I'd ever seen,” said Cindee Scott, Sophomore Girls' Adviser Chair, after watching the program at Evanston. One after the other, students voluntarily approached the auditorium stage to share feelings, apologize and offer forgiveness to fellow students for a myriad of behaviors, including name-calling and bullying. Faculty also participated in the exercise as peers.

#### “Names” program launched

The group that observed the program at Evanston came away feeling that it was potentially a life-changing experience. Soon thereafter, the Names program was launched at New Trier and, for the past three years, students, too, have provided powerful feedback. They want to continue to participate in such a program that opens their own eyes — as well as creates awareness in the eyes of their peers — to how hurtful words and actions can really be.

#### A powerful program

“In the beginning, we wanted to really look at ourselves as a school and get feedback from students, parents and teachers about what it's really like to be a member of the New Trier community,” said Tom Golebiewski, Social Work Department Chair, “Then we wanted to define the characteristics that contribute to a healthy learning environment and build on them. Today, we have many partnerships within our school and with agencies outside of the school that encourage a healthy educational climate that promotes understanding.”

**“Our students need to feel emotionally safe at school and need to be heard by the adults in their lives. We must provide that environment for them.”**

—Cindee Scott,  
Sophomore Girls' Adviser Chair

Special education teacher Scott Williams participated in the Names program during his first year at New Trier. “I was surprised by how open students were about their individual experiences. I also was shocked to hear about how deeply some students were affected by things that had been said to them and how others were able to remember and apologize for their actions from the past,” he said.

Mr. Williams also has seen a change in his classes. “Students are now more willing to speak their minds when it comes to the topics covered in the Names program. They also are more aware of what they say to each other — the words they choose to use. I have seen a concerted effort in students being kinder to each another.”

#### Appreciating differences

Continuing the efforts to enhance school climate and foster a supportive culture, several weeks ago freshmen participated in a Lunch Mix-It-Up, where they socialized with peers with whom they had never interacted before. They ate lunch together and participated in icebreaker and team building activities. The event was organized by Freshman Adviser Chairs Josh Seldess and Marla Tracy and fellow members of the Names Follow-Up Committee, which promotes acceptance of differences and strives to decrease bullying among classmates through events like the Mix-It-Up.

Mr. Williams and other teachers agree that these activities raise awareness of issues that are not normally discussed openly. “Programs like this one help foster and develop the building blocks of becoming a mature and responsible person within our world,” he said.

In the three years since New Trier premiered Names, the school also has launched a Building Allies program that partners staff members with students in diversity training. In addition, staff and community members have participated in other ADL training programs including A Classroom of Difference training institute.

“We need to look at ourselves closely and forge alliances that empower all of us — students, teachers, parents, community members — to confront issues that inhibit our ability to fully ‘live’ our school motto, which is to ‘commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity,’” Mr. Golebiewski concluded.

#### Providing a Safe and Respectful Learning Community for Everyone *Student and Staff Partnerships and Programs*

- Adviser room conversations
- Adviser in-service training
- All-School Wellness Committee
- Annual Health Fair for students and staff
- Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Programs – Building Allies, Classroom of Difference, and Names Can Really Hurt Us
- Anti-Stigma, Mental Health Committee
- Awareness Days (AIDS)
- Bullying-Harassment Committees
- Body Image Task Force
- Clothesline Project (domestic violence)
- Committed to Action
- Curriculum (ESL and Kinetic Wellness)
- Diversity committee and diversity statement
- ESL Programs for parents
- Family Action Network (FAN)
- Parents' Association
- Peer Helping
- Principals' Advisory Council
- Safe Schools Committee
- Student Athlete Leadership Training (SALT)
- Senior Instructional Leadership Corps (SILC)
- School partnerships with Chicago schools (Ames, DuSable, Harper and Kenwood)
- Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) training programs
- Senior Helpers
- Service Learning
- Urban-Suburban Northwestern Consortium
- Voices in Prevention (VIP)

## New Trier Educational Foundation

### A public-private partnership for excellence



Erika Erhart  
Executive Director

From a small office on the Northfield Campus, the New Trier Educational Foundation operates a grass roots organization, founded in 2001, with a purpose to attract and maintain private support for the high school.

A board of more than 30 members representing New Trier, alumni and Township residents leads the Foundation. To date, it has committed more than \$33,000 to programs at both campuses and will distribute another \$40,000 before the start of the 2006-2007 school year, according to Foundation board co-chair, Ken Kaufman.

Mr. Kaufman and fellow co-chair Peggy Martay work closely with the Foundation's

executive director, Erika Erhart, and an executive committee that meets monthly to discuss fundraising initiatives and opportunities for support. School administrators serve on the board and the executive committee in an ex officio capacity and are responsible for "keeping us abreast of issues at both campuses," said Mr. Kaufman.

**"Man's mind stretched to a new idea, never goes back to its original dimension."**

*-Oliver Wendell Holmes*

While the Foundation is still in its infancy, Ms. Erhart is confident that it will

continue to attract new donors and distribute more funds to help students and programs. "The Foundation can supplement public tax dollars by contributing private gifts to New Trier," she said, citing the Foundation's financial support of social service activities, special events such as the annual Literacy Festival, student scholarships, grants for teacher-conducted research projects, and recent funding that ensured that every student musician in the Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir could travel to New York City to perform on stage at Carnegie Hall.

"The Educational Foundation board approved an \$8,000 grant for the trip, which was also supported by the school's Fine Arts Association," she said.

The Foundation also will distribute its first round of mini-grants in June, once

the board has reviewed grant applications that they had solicited from student groups and faculty.

Ms. Erhart added that the Foundation was created also as a means to continue positive alumni, parent and community involvement with the school. "We are building new relationships with people not previously connected to our school who help us in many ways beyond financial support," she said, citing business-school connections and parent volunteerism. "Raising money is a means to an end. We want to continue to serve as an outstanding example of a secondary public school in the U.S. Private support enables us to do that."

*For more information on the New Trier Educational Foundation, please call 847.784.2346.*

## The "Suite" Sounds of Success

### Concert Choir and Symphony Orchestra perform at Carnegie Hall

The dream became reality. Nearly 200 student-musicians in New Trier's symphony orchestra and concert choir performed at Carnegie Hall in April before a live audience of enthusiastic supporters.

This special opportunity was made possible after Peter Tiboris, Director of MidAmerica Productions, heard a recording of the New Trier Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra and offered them a place in their spring concert series, consisting of professional conductors and soloists along with a combined choir of students from various high schools and colleges.

"New Trier's appearance on this concert series is highly unusual and an exciting opportunity," said Music Department Chair David Ladd, "and Carnegie Hall is among the greatest concert venues in the world. Acoustically, it's in the top five."

Students spent 18 hours rehearsing and performing on the tour, which culminated in a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall. "This was a cultural experience rich with opportunity and learning," said Peter Rosheger, Orchestra Director. In addition to performing before a live audience for more than an hour on stage, students enjoyed a performance of the New York Philharmonic and attended the Broadway musical "Chicago," which included a conversation with the cast and crew. Students toured the famed Guggenheim Museum, attended a clinic with nationally renowned orchestra and choir clinicians from the School of Music of University of Michigan, and visited the former site of the World Trade Centers. They also performed at Pelham Memorial High

School outside of New York City, the school district in which New Trier Superintendent Hank Bangser had once served as Superintendent.

The cost of the trip was \$1,500 per student. Because not all students could afford to travel to New York and participate, the New Trier Fine Arts Association stepped in with a contribution that helped defray the cost. In addition, Mr. Ladd and Mr. Rosheger approached the New Trier Educational Foundation regarding private funding. "There was unanimous support," said Ken Kaufman, Foundation Board Co-Chair. The Foundation committed \$5,000, but then board member Bonnie Cobia requested that all donations to the Foundation that had been made in memory of her father, former New Trier principal Ralph McGee, be earmarked to support the Carnegie Hall program, which increased the gift to \$8,000.

"My father, Ralph McGee, along with my mother, Jane, truly supported the arts at New Trier," Ms. Cobia said. "Even after he retired he was thrilled to attend the wonderful music and theater programs here. Music brought him joy, especially when he watched his grandchildren, Jeff and Tim, play in the Symphony Orchestra. He would have been pleased that these gifts made in his memory support these talented and hardworking students."

According to Mr. Rosheger, many students were in awe of the inspiring acoustics at Carnegie Hall. "It was rewarding and gratifying to watch students as they discovered their sound on stage at Carnegie Hall."



Above: Concert Choir and Symphony Orchestra students pose outside of Carnegie Hall. Private funding from the Fine Arts Association and the New Trier Educational Foundation enabled all eligible students to participate in the performance tour. Below: Students spent 18 hours rehearsing and performing during the nearly week-long trip, which culminated in a live performance and standing ovation at Carnegie Hall.



#### Musicians' Set List

"Pavane" by Gabriel Faure  
"Chichester Psalms" by Leonard Bernstein  
Performed by the combined choir and orchestra

Overture to "The School for Scandal" by Samuel Barber  
Adagio from "Symphony No. 5" by Gustav Mahler  
"Infernal Dance, Berceuse and Finale" from Igor Stravinsky's Firebird Suite, 1919 version  
Performed by the symphony orchestra

**"Students sacrificed much in multiple arenas to make this trip a reality, but what they gained in return is immeasurable. Carnegie Hall was theirs for a day!"**

*-Peter Rosheger, Orchestra Director*

# BOARD REPORT

to the Community



**NEW TRIER**  
TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 203

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

*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.*

### Board of Education

Carol F. Ducommun, *Vice President*  
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Susan B. Noyes  
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### Superintendent

Henry S. Bangser, Ph.D.

### District Mission

Incorporating the District motto, the following mission was approved by the Board of Education at the December 13, 2004 Regular Meeting. It is the first official mission of the School District and was a result of the 2003-2005 Strategic Plan.

The mission of New Trier Township High School is to inspire students *to commit minds to inquiry, hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity* by working in partnership with the community to provide innovative programs for all students, nurture their unique abilities, and encourage them to pursue excellence in their endeavors.

### How to contact the Board of Education

If you have an issue you would like the Board of Education to address, you may:

- call 847.784.6108, or
- attend a Board of Education meeting, held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month in Room C-234 at the Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, unless otherwise noted. For a meeting schedule, log onto [www.newtrier.k12.il.us](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us).

You may view the monthly Board meetings on the 24-hour New Trier Educational Channel, which is broadcast on cable television Channel 18 in Glencoe, Kenilworth and Winnetka, and on Channel 16 in Northfield and Wilmette.

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Winnetka, Illinois

### Did you know that...



...The Gaffney Auditorium lobby has a new piece of artwork thanks to the generosity of the Class of 1955. "Reach," a life-size sculpture in bronze created by NT alumnus Bruce Everly ('55) was dedicated during a reunion weekend last fall.

*Today we gather to dedicate and give a new symbol that may represent, inspire, and sustain the ideals of the New Trier experience. "Reach" serves as a form of public art that enriches the aesthetic and cultural landscape of the campus. "Reach" offers an expression of our thanks to New Trier for its enduring commitment to lives of inquiry, humanity and service. "Reach" provides a visual guide that an education can be the basis for meaningful and creative lives. - Remarks by alumnus Stuart Wallace ('55) during the "Reach" dedication*



...New Trier recently debuted the Jack Steinberger ('38) Exhibit at the newly renovated Winnetka Campus library.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is Jack Steinberger's 1988 Nobel Medal for physics, which he graciously donated to New Trier High School. He shared

the 1988 Nobel Prize for Physics with Leon Lederman and Melvin Schwartz for the 1962 experiment at Brookhaven National Laboratory, New York, which led to the discovery of the muon neutrino.



...Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were named joint recipients of

the Nobel Peace Prize for their "efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way." ElBaradei donated his prize money toward building orphanages in his home city of Cairo, and the IAEA's winnings will be spent on removing landmines from developing countries. Mr. ElBaradei's team included New Trier alumnus Steve Balsley ('78), head of IAEA's Chemical Analysis Unit, who wrote, "New Trier was a solid stepping stone to the education that landed me where I am today. I am also proud to be an alumnus of such a great high school." Steve Balsley's mother, Barbara, also is a New Trier graduate ('54).



...New Trier alumna Maggie Crowley (2004) was the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic speedskating team who competed in the Olympic Games in Turin, Italy. Referred to by her teammates as "the Rookie," Maggie finished 22nd with a time of 4:14.37 in the Women's 3000m. She was coached by four-time Olympian Nancy Swider-Peltz, who began coaching her in 1999, just before she entered New Trier. "As a New Trier student, I was skating full time, as well as taking a full day of classes, so I was tightly scheduled and had very little free time. It was a great learning experience." Maggie is currently a student at Northwestern University majoring in economics. Her advice for current students with big Olympic dreams? "Never give up. If you love what you do, it never feels like work!"

...Fifteen guest speakers and community leaders, 18 teachers and 900 students participated in the 2006 Classroom to Career Day at the Winnetka Campus earlier this spring. Demonstrating the connection between curricular subjects and career opportunities or life skills, the speakers outlined their personal career paths and answered students' questions with "real life" experiences. Speakers included Susan Berger, Dr. Ellen Brull, Lisa Brandt-Whittington, Susan Cahill, Mike Cisternino, Karen Echt, Tim Fella, Emily Love, Dr. Jeff Mjaanes, Ken Morrison, Frank Rossi, Bruce Sherman, Gene Silverberg, Dave Zimmer and others.

... Acknowledging New Trier as a leader among U.S. high schools in teaching Mandarin Chinese, U.S. Representative Mark Kirk and Chinese Consul General Xu Jinzhong met with students and parents in April, expressing their opinions on the need for more Chinese education in the United States. Representative Kirk also presented a brief history of US-China relations for students and hosted a roundtable discussion on expanded Chinese language programs.