



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – COURSE SELECTION**

### **How are my student's placements determined in English, mathematics, science, social studies, and foreign language?**

All incoming freshmen are required to take the CTP4 placement tests in November or December. Course and level placements are based on the results of these tests, input from eighth grade teachers, the Parent Profile of the Student, the Student Self-Assessment and Student writing sample.

### **What is the typical class load for a freshman student?**

There is no definitive answer to this question. There are nine periods in the school day including lunch. Freshmen typically choose four core academic major courses and two elective courses or five core academic major courses and one elective course. Elective courses are taken for elective credit (0.5 credits per year). In addition, all students are required to take Kinetic Wellness, which includes an option of Kinetic Wellness 1/Freshman Dance 1. When choosing a program, parents need to be sensitive to the other demands on the student during the freshman year—athletic, extra-curricular, social, and emotional—the total school commitment. The choice needs to be a personal one.

### **How is an elective credit course different from a major credit course?**

A passing grade in an elective credit course generally gives 0.5 credits per year. An elective credit course focuses on in-class exercises, activities and projects. Elective credit courses require some amount of preparation outside of class; however, the amount varies among courses and departments. Additional information can be found in the Program of Studies.

### **How much homework can my student expect each day?**

A core academic course that receives major credit meets five or more periods per week and requires study and preparation outside of the class period. The amount of time that an individual student spends on homework varies by day and class; individual student characteristics and appropriate level placement also determine the amount of time spent on homework. For more information please refer to the Homework Section in the Program of Studies.

### **What factors should I consider when choosing a Science course?**

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions about Science document which is also in this Academic Life Packet.

# NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203



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

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## **If my student is a candidate for a 3 or 4 level program in English or History, should he/she select the combined English & History Team course or the two separate courses—English and World History?**

First, one needs to understand that the interdepartmental English-History course is no more difficult than English and World History at the 3 or 4 level. The combined English-History course is one which appeals to the type of student who takes the combined course as an independent learner, but one who feels comfortable doing collaborative work and participating in class discussions. Whatever the choice, these students need to possess an extensive breadth of vocabulary and have a strong foundation in reading and writing skills.

## **If my student selects Freshman Jazz Ensemble as an elective course, is it true that they must also enroll in either Freshman Band or Orchestra concurrently?**

Yes. However, pianists and electric six-string guitar players are exempt from the requirements. Many of these musicians choose to enroll in Band and play other instruments. For more information see the Program of Studies or log on to [www.ntjazz.com](http://www.ntjazz.com)

## **Can a Modern and Classical Language class be taken for elective credit? May my student take more than one foreign language at a time? When is a good time to try a new language?**

All foreign language classes are offered only for major credit and have daily homework requirements. A student may take more than one language freshman year, but it limits other academic or elective choices. Freshman year is the time to take a new foreign language unless the student is willing to commute from the Winnetka campus to the Northfield campus during sophomore year.

## **How do we learn about extra-curricular activities?**

On Monday, May 9, 2016 we host an evening session titled, “After the Academics”. This is our athletics, activities and performing arts fair. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the Northfield Campus in the F Building. There you will meet coaches, sponsors, and students involved in a variety of student activities. During the school year the “Daily Bulletin” announces all club and sport meeting times. It can be found on the Student Services page on the New Trier home page.

## **Can you clarify core academic, elective, major credit and elective credit?**

These definitions will help:

- Core Academic Department- English, Math, Modern and Classical Language, Science and Social Studies.
- Elective Department- Applied Art, Art, Business, Music, and Media, Speech/Theatre.
- Major Credit (Core Academic or Elective) - 1.0 credits for a full year of work- significant demands on outside of class time.
- Elective Credit- 0.5 credits for a full year of work - limited demands outside on of class time.