

PARENTS PRESS

of NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL



FALL 2016

VOL 44 | NO 1 | A TRIANNUAL PUBLICATION | NEW TRIER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



WELCOME BACK TO THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR! WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE SUMMER BY SPENDING TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND TAKING TIME FOR YOURSELF. This time of year always generates an elevated level of excitement for everyone as well as some suspense about what the new school year will bring. Since we parted in May, there have been many changes to our facilities and much more to come. We are so excited about completing the first phase of the construction project, which will give students and staff access to the new library, new student cafeteria, several new academic classrooms on the third floor, and new art studios on the fourth floor. The art studio

will be temporary classrooms for the Media, Speech and Theater Department.

As you may have already noticed when driving by the school, the music and old student cafeteria buildings are almost gone. Demolition began after school ended and continued throughout July. Crews will soon begin excavation for the new basement and will start erecting the structural steel after school begins. The Music Department will use the Applied Arts labs and lower level of the new building as temporary classrooms during this transition year. The North Annex classrooms used by the Art Department will remain on campus until Phase Two is completed. The green roof and patio on the fourth floor will be available soon after the opening of school. Additionally, we have added several new bathrooms and renovated several classrooms

A PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

in the “old” building to create new spaces for our Educational Life Skills (ELS) students and Transition students. Our Director of Special Education provides more information in this newsletter about the exciting new spaces.

Education is always in the midst of change. In mid-July, the state announced that it will no longer require high schools to administer the Partnership for Assessment in Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam, launched in 2014-15. However, the state will require all juniors to take the SAT on April 5, which will replace the ACT as the state college-readiness exam. Since most of our students prefer the ACT to the SAT, New Trier will also administer a District ACT to all juniors on April 19 at no cost. Both of these exams will be given on a school day.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the many staff and community members who devoted countless hours to planning and designing the new facility. Their thoughtful discussions, always focused on optimizing our students’ learning experiences, have resulted in the exciting new learning environment our students will

experience this fall. As we move into the next phase of construction, we will continue to build on the strides we have made. We have an historic opportunity to embrace change while preserving our institutional heritage and identity.

We wish you all a wonderful year!

PRINCIPALS **DENISE DUBRAVEC**, WINNETKA CAMPUS
AND **PAUL WAECHTLER**, NORTHFIELD CAMPUS



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THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

VOICE OF THE STUDENT

Creating School Spirit

As one class graduates, a new one moves in and takes the reigns of New Trier’s Green Team. Green Team is New Trier’s student-run student section organization. Green Team was started in 2006 by parent Susan DeLoach and Football Coach Brian Doll during his first stint at New Trier. Each year, four rising seniors are chosen by the previous year’s captains to lead, organize and commit themselves to promoting New Trier Athletics. One of the captains’ responsibilities includes organizing and promoting the annual sweatshirt and gear order, where rising seniors can order their sweatshirt and underclassmen can order other Green Team gear.

Originally, it was intended to boost student attendance at football games on Friday nights. Since then, Green Team has evolved immensely. Since Coach Doll has returned to New Trier, Green Team has expanded. No longer was there a “cap” on the amount of members. The Class of 2016 ordered a total of 850 sweatshirts, a dramatic increase from previous years. The Class of 2017 has ordered 1005 sweatshirts for this upcoming year, with another gear order opening in the fall.

With the increase in orders, we have seen an increase in student attendance. Last fall, Green Team filled New Trier Stadium to capacity for NT Football’s home opener against York, which is the largest crowd any administration member can remember. Green Team also turned one of the largest crowds in NT Girls Soccer history at a Super Sectional game hosted at New Trier Stadium in June. Those are just some of the highlights. Green Team is constantly getting bigger turnouts at basketball, lacrosse and other events. One of the biggest challenges in the past couple years has been trying to move the group away from being “senior-exclusive.” While the iconic Green Team sweatshirts will remain a senior-only item, we have started to incorporate other gear that underclassmen can order. Among those items are t-shirts, hats and other items.

We are also beginning to make an effort to invite underclassmen to meetings and making sure that underclassmen are not intimidated to join the student section during games. At a school with over 4000 students, it is definitely a challenge trying to get everyone involved and fired up about NT sports, but the Green Team continues to take large strides in building pride and anticipation for all events.

BY MATT GALLO





"WE WILL ALSO HAVE A FABULOUS NEW LIFE SKILLS LAB WHICH WILL OFFER OUR STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING."

WHAT'S NEW?

New spaces for ELS!

THANKS TO INPUT FROM THE EDUCATION AND LIFE SKILLS TEACHERS, THOUGHTFUL

PARENT INVOLVEMENT, AND A SUPPORTIVE ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF EDUCATION, I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE YOU TO OUR NEW AND IMPROVED LEARNING SPACES ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH FLOORS.

Our Education and Life Skills teachers provide instruction to students with moderate to severe disabilities on everything from functional academics, to communication skills, to job training and personal care. Due to both increasing enroll-

ment and a campus that last saw classroom construction long before special education even existed, the building has struggled to accommodate the unique needs of our students with disabilities. Though our teachers carved out instructional space as best as possible, we were eager to receive Board approval last fall to begin a significant remodeling project.

On the fourth floor, we will have two large classrooms with both breakout and office spaces attached providing the opportunity for small group instruction and meetings. We will also have a fabulous new Life Skills Lab which will offer our students the opportunity to practice activities of daily living such as

cooking, cleaning, and personal hygiene. On the second floor, our transition aged students (18-22 years old), will also have an expanded and

BY ELLIE AMBUEHL
DIRECTOR OF
SPECIAL EDUCATION

remodeled space which will provide better opportunity for instruction and planning. I am so excited for this opportunity and encourage you to stop by to see the new space and learn more about our programs. As always, I wish everyone a great start to the new school year!

WELCOME FROM THE NEW TRIER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Three New Initiatives Make Parents' Lives Simpler

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year, especially to the newest members of the New Trier family, the class of 2020!

As we strive to meet the needs of our parents in this fast-paced world, the New Trier Parents Association (NTPA) is excited to launch THREE NEW INITIATIVES designed to make life simpler!

- A new magazine-style **PARENTS' PRESS** with feature articles from students, staff and parent groups. An insider's view...
- **PARENT UNIVERSITY** — a go-to web page with all NT parent relevant programs in one place. Check it out under the parent/community tab on the NT website! www.newtrier.k12.il.us/ParentUniversity.
- An **ONLINE SCHOOL DIRECTORY!** Yay! An App that tells you all you need to know (including how to find that house where your teen is)!

In addition to the Parents' Press, you will receive our monthly **NTPA eNews** via email which features timely information from all the parent groups: it is date and event driven and includes links to class



web pages, parent organizations and **Parent University**.

Life has now become easier, friends.

As we head into the new school year we just want you to know we are here, we welcome any questions, comments or helpfulness you are willing to share. NT might be a "big" school but we are ALL parents together striving for the same things for our kids during their journey through high school!

Have a great fall!

NTPA CO-PRESIDENTS

BONNIE CONNORS
GEORGIA HEISINGER

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2017

Ellen Malone
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Virginia Cardoza
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WE ARE TWO MOTHERS WHO ARE NOW "IN CHARGE" OF THE CLASS OF 2017 NTPA BOARD. ONE OF US IS A NOVICE TO SENIOR YEAR AND THE OTHER HAS ALREADY BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WAYS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE REALIST IS GOING TO HAVE TO TEMPER THE CYNIC.

That being said, we could write about how it's all gone by too quickly, make the most of this year, it's the last chance to ...yada, yada, yada. But the fact is we are NERVOUS. The ever-present post high school dilemma is here, now. And, having sons who are pretty laid back doesn't help. The cynic thinks high school is the safe place to fail and if that means not going to college 'cause he doesn't like taking the tours, so be it. The realist, in her own laid back way, will gently remind her son that graduation is in June of 2017.

So, we need YOU! Take the ride with us. If you have never volunteered for the NTPA, now is the time. Think of it as a support group – we do. It got us through to this point. It can help you, too.

SENIORS EXECUTIVE BOARD '16-'17

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Kathy Dodd

Adviser-PHSC Lunch
Kim Falk
Cindy Mogentale

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Heather Smith

Graduation Yard Signs
Carrie Hart
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Ellen Malone

Transfer Families
Alexandrea Gjertsen
Katie Minturn

Trevia Day
Kim Falk
Laurie Kutsche

Winter Carnival
Susan Jones
Kate Rekert



2018

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JUNIOR YEAR... GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS MEETS FUN!

WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT IT FEELS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY THAT OUR JUNIORS STARTED AS NEW TRIER FRESHMEN! In fact, they are headed into their third year as established high schoolers and it promises to be one of serious academics mixed with lots of fun! As our kids are faced with the transition of high school studies with an eye to their future beyond New Trier, our best advice to you as their parents is to be there to support and encourage them through what can be a challenging year. Helping them find opportunities for fun – in school and out – will help a lot! In the meantime, it's our job as the NTPA to support you in your role, so please be on the lookout for our Junior Class coffees, programs and events where we can continue to work and learn together in this amazing place called New Trier!



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Nancy Free

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Programs
Lisa Finks
Dena Pavlopoulos

Transfer Families
Melissa Casey
Jane McShane

2019

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IT IS CERTAINLY AN EXCITING TIME TO BE STARTING AT THE NEW TRIER EAST CAMPUS AND ALTHOUGH TRADITIONALLY THE SOPHOMORES HAVE FELT LIKE THE "NEWBIES," ALL STUDENTS WILL BE EXPERIENCING MANY OF THE SAME FEELINGS THIS YEAR.

Students will be welcomed with a new cafeteria, library, core and elective classrooms, open spaces for students to collaborate, and new spaces for the music, theatre, speech and debate, and media programs. In particular, the Class of 2019 will be introduced to new programs such as Bridge Builders, the Power Program, Sophomore Stepping Up, service learning trips, and so much more.

Just as our children will delve into a new campus, we, as parents, will also be navigating a new world. Please reach out to any Class of 2019 board members so they can help find answers to any questions you may have, and to let you know how you can get involved. Happy New School Year!

"I never voluntarily run. If you see me running you should run too 'cause something is coming".

— OVERHEARD IN THE HALLS

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Parent Coffees
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Tina Tedeschi

Programs
Lisa Maatman
Jackie Pomerantz

Transfer Families
Leslie Graham
Francine Wilson



2020

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WELCOME TO THE "PARENT" CLASS OF 2020! ON BEHALF OF OUR NTPA BOARD AND YOUR ROOM REPRESENTATIVES, WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US IN BUILDING A SUPPORTIVE, INFORMED AND FUN COMMUNITY.

- ATTEND! Freshman Compass on Tuesday, September 27 at 7pm (Room C234 in Northfield) is a forum to hear from veteran New Trier parents whose kids have participated in various activities. Because every child's experience is different, you will find this program insightful whether this is your first or fifth time through. Keep an eye out for our first parent coffee (and others throughout the year) which will include opportunities to meet members of the administration in an informal setting.
- STAY AWARE! Visit our class page (www.tinyurl.com/newtrier2020) where you will find ways to get involved (chaperone the Freshman Mixer!) and need-to-know information (read the Daily Bulletin!).
- ASK! Email us any time at newtrier2020@gmail.com with questions or suggestions.



FRESHMEN EXECUTIVE BOARD '16 - '17

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Nora Larkin

Secretary
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Kathy Handelman

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Adrienne Hepworth
Weisenberger

Transfer Families
Cathy Brereton
Liz Watson

New Athletic Director Gets the Ball Rolling

BY AUGIE FONTANETTA
NEW TRIER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



I AM EXCITED TO BE RETURNING TO NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL AS THE NEWLY APPOINTED ATHLETIC DIRECTOR. FROM 1994-2008, I TAUGHT KINETIC WELLNESS, SERVED AS AN ADVISER, AND COACHED SEVERAL SPORTS, INCLUDING A FIVE YEAR TENURE AS THE HEAD WRESTLING COACH AT NEW TRIER.

In 2008, I accepted an offer to be the Athletic Director at Fremd High School, in Palatine, IL. After serving as Fremd's Athletic Director for five years, I was appointed to be the Director of Athletics and Activities for Township High School District 211. This is a position I held for the past three years of my career.

I believe New Trier offers athletic opportunities and programs that are not only the best in the state, but are also challenging and inclusive for all of our students. Some of my top priorities include student leadership programs, coaching education, facility renovations, and building a supportive and collegial athletic culture. Most of all, I am eager to establish and build relationships with students, staff, parents and the community, including the New Trier Booster Club.

On a personal note, I have a loving a supportive family that includes my wife Christine, and three daughters Katie (17), Megan (14), and Alyssa (11). I am looking forward to seeing each of you at athletic events throughout the school year.



NEW TRIER FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION

The New Black Box Theatre: A place to create, well, *anything!*

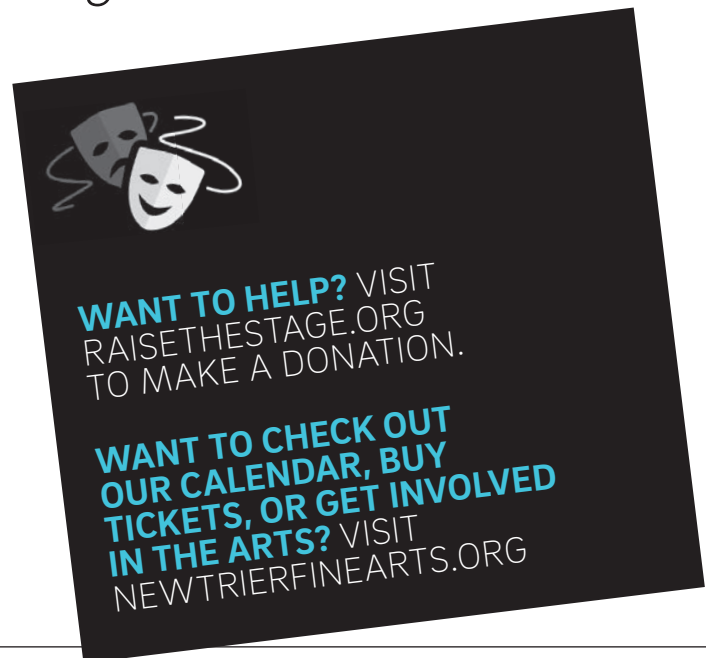
BY WENDI WILLIAMS



What is a black box theater? A black box theater is just what it sounds like: a big room painted black, but outfitted with lights, A/V equipment, and flexible seating and flooring. Everything can be moved around in this simple space, allowing student designers, performers and directors to create limitless scenic and staging possibilities. New Trier's new theater will not only serve as an artistic laboratory but also as a much needed theater classroom.

What's the big deal about this one? For the first time, a room at New Trier will be named in honor of graduates – **Mary Catherine Hayes '10** and **Sarah McCausland '13**, students passionately involved in New Trier's theater and music programs (Mary Catherine died of cancer in 2013; Sarah was killed by a drunk driver in 2014). The girls' parents created *Raise the Stage*, a capital campaign to raise \$1 million from family, friends and the New Trier community to outfit the space.

When will the Hayes-McCausland Theatre open? The black box theatre will open on the lower level of the newly renovated building in September 2017.



CALENDAR & EVENTS

ALL STUDENTS

Lagniappe-Potpourri	Wed. - Fri., September 21-23, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Early dismissal	Fri., September 23, 12:00 p.m. (N) & 12:20 p.m. (W)
Late arrival	Mon., September 26, 10:15 a.m. (N) & 10:35 a.m. (W)
NTPA Kick Off Party	Fri., September 23, 6:30 p.m. - halftime, Football Stadium (N)
Spirit Week	Mon., October 10 - Fri., October 14
Yom Kippur Holiday	No School Wed., October 12
Straight Talk: The Truth & Consequences of Teen Risk Behaviors	Thurs., October 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m., C234 (N)
End of 1st quarter	Fri., October 28
Parent Teacher Conferences	Wed., November 9 (evening) Thurs., November 10 (afternoon & evening)
Conferences	No School Thurs., November 10
Institute Day	No School Fri., November 11
Early dismissal	Thurs., November 17, 2:05 p.m. (N) & 2:25 p.m. (W)
Thanksgiving Holiday	No School Thurs. - Fri., November 24-25
Grease	Wed. - Sat., December 7-10, times vary, Gaffney Auditorium (W)
Winter Break Begins	Sat., December 17

FRESHMEN

Freshmen Mixer	Wed., October 5, 7:30-10:00 p.m., Main Gym (N)
Freshman Compass	Tues., September 27, 7:00-8:30 p.m., C234 (N)
Go to School Night	Thurs., October 6, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
No School for Freshmen	No School Thurs., October 6
Fall coffee	TBD October
Early Dismissal, Fresh. Only	Wed., October 19, 12:45 p.m. (N)

SOPHOMORES

Fall Coffee	<i>to be announced</i>
PLAN Testing	Wed., October 19
Homecoming Dance	Sat., October 15, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Gates Gym (W)

JUNIORS

PSAT/ACT Testing	Wed., October 19
Junior Year Timeline	Wed., September 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Cornog Auditorium (N)
Fall Coffee	<i>to be announced</i>
Homecoming Dance	Sat., October 15, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Gates Gym (W)

SENIORS

Fall Coffee	<i>to be announced</i>
Homecoming Dance	Sat., October 15, 7:30-10:30 p.m., Gates Gym (W)

New Trier Girls' Club and Tri-Ship Donate Green Roof

BY LINDA YONKE

The original plans for the new addition at the Winnetka Campus included two Green Roofs located outside the fourth floor classrooms at the north and south ends of the west side of the building. The Green Roofs were intended to include paver-brick patios with benches and tables surrounded by greenery. The two roofs are each designed to be about 3,000 square feet and could be used by individual students, classes, or for meetings after school. The plantings on the green roofs stay green all year long and provide environmental benefits including better management of storm water. While green roof patios are common in downtown Chicago locations, this would be the first school-based green roof in this area.

...this would be the first school-based green roof in this area... [the clubs] were willing to donate \$100,000 to finish the Phase One green roof!

Unfortunately, during the budgeting process, it was decided to delay installation of the green roofs until sometime in the future when additional funding would be made available. Much to our delight this spring, representatives from Girls' Club and Tri-Ship asked for a tour of the green roof constructed during Phase One to consider making a donation. They later informed the administration that they were willing to donate \$100,000 to finish the Phase One green roof! The clubs' generous donation will allow us to install the brick pavers and purchase the special plants that cover large portions of the roof. The students also met with us this summer to select furniture for the patio area.

We are grateful to the students who are making the completion of this beautiful gathering area a reality for the 2016-17 school year. The Green Roof should be completed in time for our special Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. Be sure to make your way to the fourth floor to see what our students made possible!

Foundation Accepts \$5,000 Challenge for Special Education

The New Trier Educational Foundation needs to raise \$15,000 from alumni, parents and friends by November 1, 2016 in order to receive a \$5,000 challenge gift from an anonymous donor. All proceeds will benefit New Trier's Special Education programs including Life Skills, Social-Emotional Learning, ELS Yoga, PROMPT Therapy and Vocational Training. Help us reach our goal by November 1. To learn more about these programs that the Foundation has supported and to make a gift, go to <http://newtrierfoundation.org/special-ed-challenge>.

PARENTS PRESS

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PRINTER: GRAPHIC ARTS STUDIO

THE NEW TRIER PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MISSION IS TO PROMOTE CONNECTIONS, PROVIDE COMMUNICATION, AND PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTS, WHICH SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE NEW TRIER EXPERIENCE.

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS



New To New Trier? Join Us for Coffee & Conversation!

Monday, September 19 and

Monday, October 24 | 10:00-11:30 a.m.

EPI Center, Room 301 (W)

The NTPA invites all New Trier transfer parents to get acquainted while getting answers to questions about everything New Trier. Principal Denise Dubravec will be there to meet new transfer parents and answer questions. And parent representatives will be available to answer questions for all grade levels.

Let's socialize as we discuss the many ways new students and parents can get involved at New Trier. No RSVP required. Questions? Contact Alexandria Gjertsen, alexandrea@comcast.net or Katie Minturn, kminturn@comcast.net.

ECGC Parent Presentations

Join the ECGC Parent Group for conversations with school administrators, staff and outside experts about

social and emotional resources and strategies that support the parenting of teens.

Programming information to be posted soon. Follow @NewTrierECGC on Twitter. Like the New Trier ECGC Parent Group on Facebook. Contact at ecgcparents@gmail.com

Junior Year Timeline: What to Expect on the Academic and Social Scenes

Wednesday, September 21 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Cornog Auditorium (N)

Junior parents are invited to join Winnetka Principal Denise Dubravec, Post-High School Counseling Chair James Conroy, New Trier Testing Coordinator Peg Stevens, and the Junior Adviser Chairs to learn more about Junior Year. Topics include the post-high school counseling process, testing, and Junior Theme to name a few. Presented by the NTPA Class of 2018.

Freshman Compass: Helping Your Student Navigate New Trier's Opportunities

Tuesday, September 27 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Room C234 (N)

Learn the ropes from the experts: New Trier parents who have been there before you! A panel of parents whose students have participated in sports, performing arts, clubs, student government, and all levels of academics will share their experiences and provide tips for successfully navigating the school's myriad opportunities. We'll also take a quick tour of the New Trier Home Access Center (HAC). Lots of time for Q&A! Presented by the NTPA Class of 2020.

Fall District Dialogue

Tuesday, October 18 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

EPI Center, Room 301 (W)

Superintendent Dr. Linda Yonke will discuss "what's new" in the district including New Trier's new Athletic Director Augie Fontanetta, Phase Two of the Winnetka Campus construction project, as well as her upcoming retirement and the succession plan for a new superintendent.

Straight Talk: The Truth and Consequences of Teen Risk Behaviors

Thursday, October 13 | 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Room C234 (N)

Learn the types of risk behaviors New Trier students are engaging in, ways to encourage good decision making, and the risks and consequences that follow when teens make poor choices. The expert panel includes Winnetka Principal Denise Dubravec, Student Assistance Program Coordinator Kris Hummel, Social Work Department Chair Tiffany Myers, New Trier's Resource Officer, Josue Perez, and a Municipal District judge. Presented by the NTPA Class of 2019.

All-School Forums

Wednesday, September 14 | 3:45-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16 | 3:45-5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14 | 3:45-5:00 p.m.

EPI Center Room 301 (W)

Join interested students, principals, faculty, staff and board members to discuss current issues.

For more information, contact Eric Stewart at stewart@newtrier.k12.il.us