

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Meeting

December 16, 2019

New Trier Takes Comprehensive Approach to Student Mental Health

A key focus of New Trier's strategic plan, *New Trier 2030*, is student personal growth, engagement, and well-being. Superintendent Paul Sally outlined the numerous supports, interventions, and programs New Trier provides to support student mental health and to identify students who may be struggling as well as areas of focus for the future.

Sally noted that a comprehensive approach to student mental health involves building student relationships with adults and peers, a strong partnership with parents to identify mental health issues and warning signs, partnerships with community mental health organizations to provide resources and referrals for students, and programs and resources in school to encourage students to get help when they need it.

New Trier looks at six areas of focus in its approach to student mental health, and *New Trier 2030* includes goals to examine and strengthen school supports in each area. Those areas are: (1) identifying students at risk, (2) promoting connectedness within the school, (3) helping students develop social-emotional skills, (4) increasing help-seeking behavior among students, (5) crisis management, and (6) access to mental health and substance abuse services in and out of school.

The adviser program is one of the strongest supports for students in need and a first stop for students or parents concerned about student mental health. Advisers can help connect students to one of the school's many resources, from targeted programs for academic needs to student support groups, social work services, or other resources. All staff also are trained to question students in possible crisis, persuade them to seek help, and refer them to immediate resources - known as the QPR protocol.

In addition to the adviser program, students can find resources through support groups (such as for students struggling with body issues or a family death), affinity groups (based on a student's identity), in the extracurricular program, through the school's health curriculum, in connections with individual staff members, and through health services and social work. Students can also report concerns about themselves or their peers anonymously through the 24-7 Text-a-Tip mental health line at 844-823-5323 – enter TREVHELP starting this weekend – or through the online [TrevTips](#) form for reports of bias, bullying, and other concerns that are not urgent.

Parents who are interested in learning more about school, parent, and community resources for student mental health are invited to attend a Parent Night on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cornog Auditorium at the Northfield Campus. You will receive more details in a separate email invitation to the evening. The full Board presentation can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ntmentalhealth>

Class of 2019 Profile: Individual Pathways to Post-High School Success

A look at the course-taking patterns, post-high school plans, and standardized test scores of New Trier's Class of 2019 finds as many pathways to success as students in the class, with New Trier the common factor in preparing them well for their future goals.

Peter Tragos, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, presented the Board with the academic profile and standardized testing reports for the Class of 2019. In the 10th year of preparing these reports, New Trier found that students taking all levels of coursework at New Trier are exceptionally well-prepared for their post-high school plans, including attendance at diverse and distinguished colleges and universities across the country.

The vast majority of students in the Class of 2019 – 90 percent – took academic courses at a combination of different levels during their time at New Trier. Tragos noted that this statistic speaks to the flexibility of the level system in meeting the needs of each student within each discipline.

New Trier's most recent graduates continued to earn some of the top scores in the state and the country on the ACT and SAT college entrance exams: a 27.8 composite score on the ACT and 1237 on the SAT. The class took both exams at school as the state transitioned from the ACT to the SAT as the required Illinois high school assessment. Starting with the class of 2022, New Trier's all-class data will reflect the state's requirements that schools give the SAT suite of assessments in grades 9-10-11.

Student performance on both assessments was high across class levels. Students who ended high school in level 3 English or level 3 pre-calculus, never having taken an AP class in English or mathematics, far outperformed peers across the country on the exams.

Approximately 98 percent of the Class of 2019 planned to attend college immediately after graduation, enrolling in 203 different colleges and universities. The report includes the course levels and number of core academic courses taken for students at the 39 colleges and universities that enrolled at least five New Trier graduates, reflecting a diverse pathway to those institutions. The full Class of 2019 Profile Report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/nt2019profile>

Extracurricular Participation Strong at New Trier

A remarkable 88 percent of New Trier students participated in at least one of the school's extracurricular offerings in athletics, performing arts, intramurals, or student activities last school year, with students citing connections with peers and pursuing an existing interest as their top reasons for participating.

Tim Hayes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, shared results of the school's extracurricular participation report and student survey with the Board.

New Trier offers one of the largest and most diverse extracurricular programs in the country. In athletics, the school offers nearly every sport supported by the IHSA and many additional competitive opportunities. In performing arts, students have access to four theatre performance spaces and opportunities in a wide variety of musical styles, classical and modern theatre, and a vibrant dance program. The student activities program is the largest in the state with more than 150 student clubs matching students' interests in publishing, government and policy, social service, global cultures, and popular culture. Finally, the intramural program offers everything from pick-up games of basketball during open gym times to organized team competitions hosted by the New Trier Booster Club.

Hayes told the Board that a sample of 255 students responded to an extracurricular survey in the spring that asked their reasons for participating and satisfaction with New Trier's programs. Students were very satisfied with their experiences, with about 80 percent responding positively in all areas of the program. They cited benefits from participation including better relationships with peers, development of skills, and an improved overall experience at New Trier.

The report also looked at the 6 percent of students who were not participating in any extracurricular activities either at New Trier or outside of New Trier (e.g. Boy or Girl Scouts, religious groups, club sports, etc.). The school followed up to try to better understand why each of those students did not participate, and they cited multiple reasons, from wanting to spend more time with friends and family to having responsibilities at home after school. Hayes said the school will continue to work to remove obstacles for those students who do not participate in extracurricular activities. His report is here: <http://bit.ly/ntextracurricular2019>

Students, Staff Recognized for Fall Achievements

The Board of Education recognized students and staff members for notable achievements during the first several months of the 2019-2020 school year, including:

National Merit Semifinalists

Anna Arthur, Pearce Bailey, Ayah Bajwa, Mira Becker, Maggie Cao, Patrick Condon, Nadharm Dhiantravan, Phillip Ellison, Elizabeth Fisher, Jacob Furfine, Colin Glew, Kathryn Hemmer, Tinah Hong, Taylor Jones, Lydia Kaup, Andrew Kearney, Maia Law, Margaret Lin, Erin McNally, Alexander Nagel, Aryoman Patel, Kathryn Pickens, Emilie

Rivkin, Jane Rosin, Talia Schacht, Alina Scholz, Finja Scholz, Thomas Serrino, Karthik Srinivasan, Shivam Tailor, Markus Tam, Jacob Wachtel, Keyler White, Jesse Yang, Jason Yuan

Field Hockey - State Champions

Inka Alberts, Paige Baldwin, Caitlin Carr-Smith, Francesca Caruso, Hillary Cox, Caroline Ellerman, Maeve Eskandari, Elizabeth Fisher, Amelia Griffin, Katherine Groff, Grace Harris, Lily Harris, Sofie Hekster, Evelyn Lake, Isabella Lauber, McKayla Lyons, Kathryn McLaughlin, Claire Nodine, Nina Pofcher, Honor Roberts, Camille Scrine, Zoe Siegel

Coaches: Stephanie Nykaza, Brittany Benson, Saleema Rogers

Boys Golf - 2nd Place State

Charlie Creamean, Davis Johnson, Brian Joseph, James Pryor, Michael Rudnick, Daniel Tanaka

Coaches: Pete Drevline, John Nasshan

Girls Swimming and Diving - 2nd Place State

Sela Cornell, Kaelyn Gridley, Alyssa Knaus, Katie Lipsey, Erin McNally, Carly Novelline, Joelle Ohr, Greta Pelzek, Jane Sanderson, Leslie Wendel

Coaches: Mac Guy, Bruce Kimball, Mike Leissner, Josh Runkle

Girls Tennis - 3rd Place State

Ali Benedetto, Monika Glueck, Ashtin Hara, Emily Rhee, Julia Ross, Macy Zaban

Coaches: Jerry Morse-Karzen, Donna Chudacoff, Sharon Davis, Theodore Eckert, Kerry Hall, Becky Morse-Karzen, Brett Morse-Karzen

National Federation of State High School Associations - Coaches of the Year

Girls Gymnastics: Jennifer Pistorius

Boys Lacrosse: Tom Herrala

Girls Lacrosse: Pete Collins

Illinois Chapter of the American String Teachers Association – Distinguished Service

Peter Rosheger

IAHPERD Dance Teacher of the Year

Katie Kritek

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in Room C234 on the Northfield Campus, 7 Happ Road.

*Full videos of Board meetings are available online at
<https://nths.mediaspace.kaltura.com/category/BOARD+OF+EDUCATION/>*

Information about Board of Education members, upcoming meetings, agendas, minutes, and other documents are available at <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation/>