



# Integrated Global Studies School



**A Brief Introduction for Parents, Students, and Teachers**

## For more information

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## Important Dates for Prospective Applicants to the IGSS

### October-December, 2011

IGSS team visits Class of 2014 Adviser rooms

### October 20, 2011

Adviser Pd., Student Lounge: Student Informational Meeting

### October, 2011 – January, 2012

IGSS Online Application will be available on the IGSS website

### December 8, 2011

6:30 PM, Room 123, Winnetka Campus:  
Meeting for Prospective Students and Parents

### December 15, 2011

Adviser Pd., Student Lounge: Student Informational Meeting

### February, 2012

Applicants are notified of their status

*Integrated Global Studies School website:*

<http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/igss.aspx>

The Integrated Global Studies School is an interdisciplinary school-within-a-school located on New Trier High School's Winnetka Campus.

## The IGSS Mission

*The Integrated Global Studies School is designed to provide a small school setting for students who are passionate about learning and who wish to help direct the path of their own education. The IGSS will be a challenging opportunity for students and staff to examine connections within and across disciplines and to develop creative and experiential courses of study. The IGSS will be driven by individuals whose open mindedness inspires the spirit of inquiry, whose personal involvement is fueled by compassion, and whose convictions lead them to be responsibly active, both locally and globally, in the world outside the walls of New Trier.*



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

# NEW TRIER

TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 203

## A Brief History

*New Trier's Strategic Planning process of 2003 culminated in the creation of several Action Plans, each a collaboration of staff, students, and community members. Two separate Action Plans determined that an experiential and interdisciplinary school within-a-school would be one way to offer some of our students an alternative learning environment.*

*This new school would support a truly integrated curriculum and would emphasize experiential, inquiry-based learning. The Integrated Global Studies School, which opened its doors in the 2009-2010 school year, is the manifestation of these principles.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What subjects do students complete within the IGSS?***

Juniors receive English, Social Studies and Science credit for their work in the IGSS. Seniors receive Social Studies, English, and elective credits in the Arts.

### ***When does the IGSS meet?***

The IGSS currently meets 5th through 8th periods every day on the Winnetka campus. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, IGSS will meet from 6th to 9th period.

### ***What sorts of students will benefit from the Integrated Global Studies School?***

While we hesitate to describe types of students, the IGSS is designed for students who are intrinsically motivated, will flourish in a small learning environment in which they can influence the path and content of the curriculum, who enjoy experiential, hands-on learning, who make connections in their learning across academic disciplines, and who think and act with a global perspective.

### ***Who should apply?***

Students who are already academically successful and students who have not yet had great academic success will both be welcome, and can experience great success in the IGSS. The more important criteria are interest in the specific content and style of this program. The IGSS is structured to allow students to push themselves as far as they desire, and to allow students to find what motivates them most and pursue those interests.

### ***Are there New Trier programs or courses in which IGSS students are not able to participate?***

IGSS does not conflict with any after-school activities, or Early Bird or Summer School classes. There will be classes, primarily those offered only once a day, in which IGSS students will not be able to enroll. All IGSS students are encouraged to enroll or continue enrollment in Spanish or Chinese, which will allow them to continue these language sequences throughout their high school career. Students studying other languages can still be a part of the IGSS, but may encounter scheduling conflicts with MCL classes only offered during IGSS periods. IGSS students may be enrolled in no fewer than four and no more than six majors at a time at New Trier.

### ***How many students are involved in the IGSS?***

For the 2011-2012 school year, the IGSS is made up of 40 juniors and 40 seniors enrolled. As future classes are enrolled, the IGSS may grow to include sophomores. While each year group will have differing core experiences, students of all ages will be unified by the annual IGSS theme and share many learning experiences, such as seminars, elective classes, and experiential activities.

### ***Do students stay in the IGSS once they are enrolled?***

While individual student needs and learning paths will change, students are enrolled in the IGSS with the assumption that they will continue their school career within the small-school environment. The IGSS is designed to allow a student to develop and mature in a multi-age setting, eventually expanding to 10th – 12th grade. We believe this continuity will be key to the school's vitality as a small learning community, as older IGSS "veterans" will impart some of the most valuable lessons of the School to newer IGSS students.

### ***Are IGSS students with the same peer group all the time?***

No. Students meet and learn in groups that vary from day to day. Students take electives and pursue independent research in varying groups.

### ***How are Special Education services handled in the IGSS?***

Students with Special Education services may be part of the IGSS, but will need to access those services outside of the IGSS daily schedule. We believe that the small nature of the IGSS will facilitate students of all sorts finding meaningful faculty and staff assistance.

### ***How does a student become part of the IGSS?***

Students apply for the IGSS before their registration for Junior or Senior year. IGSS staff will select students based on teacher recommendation, the student's application, and personal interview.

### ***How do the annual IGSS themes work?***

Each year, the Integrated Global Studies School will be guided by a conceptual theme (the 2009-10 theme was "Our Relationship with the Planet", the 2010-11 theme was "Justice on this Planet", and the 2011-12 theme is "Global Systems, Cycles, Networks and Webs"). The themes guide curriculum choices, elective offerings, and experiential activities for teachers and students of each year group. Each year's theme will be created through collaboration of the entire school, most likely in the preceding spring.