

BOARD REPORT

to the Community



Linda Yonke, Ed.D.
Superintendent

21st century learning is the focus of a major facilities study

As we delve more deeply into our facility planning process that began last year, we invite parents, students and community members to join us in examining the classrooms, infrastructure, and other learning environments that will be important for our students now and in the years to come.

When the Board of Education members, staff and I have been asked why the District is conducting a facilities study, the facts make our response compelling.

Major portions of the Winnetka campus have not been overhauled in 50 to 85 years.

The 71 regular classrooms were built in either 1934 or 1957, and were designed for a very different kind of instructional delivery than is practiced today.

The current cafeteria was built in 1912, with kitchens and serving areas that are grossly inadequate for our needs today.

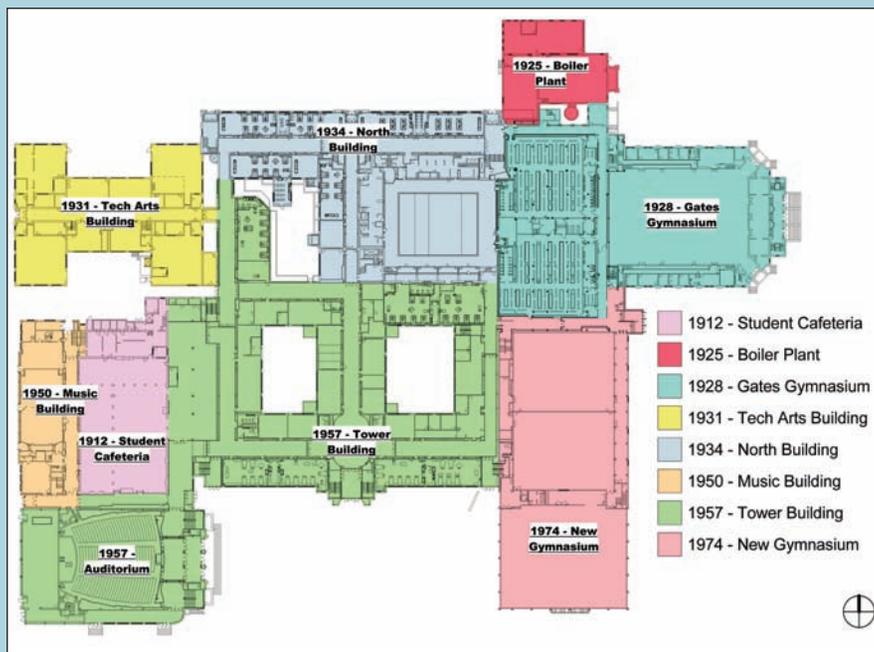
The Tech Arts building – circa 1931 – has not been upgraded or renovated in its entire 77-year history.

Built in 1928, the Gates Gym does not have the seating capacity to support our current programs.

Disabled students and staff cannot access specific parts of the third and fourth floors of the music building, the auditoriums, Gates Gym, the second floor of the Tech Arts building, and the fourth floor of the North building.

One elevator serves the entire campus of over 850,000 square feet and over 3,500 people a day.

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The Winnetka campus floor plan shows the years that various parts of the facility were built. While the building has been well-maintained over the decades, handicapped accessibility and space configuration remain among the challenges. "The Winnetka campus was built with 1930s and 1950s educational needs in mind. Would we build it like this for the students of today or the future? Of course not," said John Neiweem, Director of Physical Plant Services.

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

New Trier Dance inspires boys and girls alike

Photography by Tao Zhang / Lenswork Studio



Junior Lauren Vogelstein (left) and senior Elissa Jeffers perform at the Kinesis Dance Concert on February 1.

While boys' enrollment in Dance has ebbed and flowed since its inception in the 1960s, recent numbers have certainly been on an upswing.

"We had eight guys in Dance in 2000-2001," said Chris Rutt, Dance Coordinator. "Now, 25 boys are busy choreographing and planning our April 16 Men's Dance Concert," he added.

Why the increase? Teachers cite wider acceptance, increased confidence, word-of-mouth endorsements from former students, the school's overall larger enrollment, and a talented, inspirational staff of men and women – although, modestly, they are quick to credit each other.

In late January, the Men's Dance troupe traveled downstate to the University of Illinois, where they took a class from internationally-renowned

choreographer and improvisation teacher Kristie Simpson, then "met up with New Trier graduate Stephen West, one of our former Dance boys who is now attending the U of I on a scholarship," Mr. Rutt said.

"Our students learned a lot about being a Dance major or minor, and then attended a "very sophisticated, heavily modern concert from the U of I men," he added. "I was hoping the day would inspire our guys, and it did. The experience took their choreography ideas to a new level."

The 25 boys in Men's Dance join the more than 400 girls in the Dance program. "We are dedicated to dance as an art form – a creative process that is just as important as the technical training or the finished product," said Carol Bobrow, veteran teacher and

New Trier alumna whose career was inspired by her own experience as a New Trier Dance student. "And for dance to be part of that total art form, you need both voices – male and female."

Earlier this year, the New Trier Dance program presented Dance Day Winnetka, Dance Day Northfield, and the Northfield Dance Ensemble Showcase. More than 90 freshmen who are enrolled in Beginning Dance (no audition needed) and Advanced/Intermediate Dance participated in the Northfield concert. More recently, students presented the Kinesis Dance Concert, which featured a special children's matinee that included Men's Dance.

The New Trier Dance program offers a modern-dance-based curriculum integrated with ballet, jazz and world dance forms, along with elements of Yoga and Pilates. Students experience dance through technique, improvisation, composition and performance.



Senior Traci Kim is airborne.

Photography by Tao Zhang / Lenswork Studio

One night only! Men's Dance and Men's Chorus Concert

Always a crowd-pleaser, this formal concert showcases all boys – from dancers to singers.

Wednesday, April 16

7:30 p.m.

Cornog Auditorium, Northfield
\$6 at the door, unreserved seating

Dance Theatre New Trier

With choreography by students, faculty and guest artists, this large advanced performance group proves inspirational.

Thursday, May 1

Friday, May 2

7:30 p.m.

Cornog Auditorium, Northfield
\$6 at the door, unreserved seating



Rehearsing are (from left) John Gallagher, Mark Hafter and Zack Wadleigh.

Photo by Leanna Blanchard, New Trier class of 2008

“Education has changed drastically since the 1950s – when our last Winnetka campus classrooms were built. The question guiding our study is this: Do our facilities support the kind of education that our students need in the 21st century?”

– Linda Yonke

21st century learning is the focus of a major facilities study

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No new classrooms have been constructed since the additions built in 1934 and 1957.

Education has changed drastically since the 1950s, and the question guiding us during the study is this: Do our facilities support the kind of education that our students need in the 21st century?

Themes emerge from faculty presentations

Last year, the District Facilities Committee heard presentations from academic and elective departments as well as activities, performing arts and athletics. Certain themes emerged from these presentations:

- Regular classrooms are too small, too few, and are not conducive to the interactive, interdisciplinary, student-centered methods of instruction used by teachers today.
- Elective areas – art, business, tech arts, family/consumer science, music, speech/theatre, radio/TV – have serious needs for modern space.
- Disabled accessibility to certain parts of the building is impossible.
- We are hampered in our efforts to expand the use of technology by the size, age, and configuration of the classrooms.
- Facilities that maximize opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities are needed.
- Building efficiency and coherent design must be considerations for future facilities planning.

Perkins + Will architectural firm employed

Helping us with our study of the facilities this year is the nationally renowned architectural firm Perkins + Will – the same company that designed and built the Northfield campus in the 1960s when it was the District’s second high school, New Trier West.

Perkins + Will also built Crow Island School in Winnetka District 36 – a school that is still nationally recognized and cited for its progressive design.

Community engagement opportunities

On February 13, the District sponsored its first community meeting to discuss the master facilities planning process, review the condition of the Northfield and Winnetka campus facilities, and give Township residents an opportunity to tour the Winnetka campus.

Meetings and tours will be held through June to keep community members informed and to provide opportunities for input. (See schedule below.)

In addition, two committees comprised of staff and community volunteers have been created. The residents who are serving on the committees responded to the District’s invitation seeking volunteers, which was publicized over the past three months by the Pioneer Press newspapers, sender school districts, parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs), community meetings, and web-based announcements.



Superintendent Linda Yonke (right) leads community members on a tour of the Winnetka campus. There are 70 more classrooms similar to the North Building’s room 367 (pictured) that were built in either 1934 or 1957 for the instructional delivery of the time. Today’s teaching methods are interactive, interdisciplinary and student-centered, which require larger, more flexible space. Modern classrooms average between 750 and 900 square feet, compared to the average Winnetka classroom size of 610 square feet. In the North Building, the average classroom size is 585 square feet.

The **Workshop Committee** is meeting on a monthly basis to consider the state of our facilities in light of our current and future educational needs. At the end of their work, they will present possible facilities solutions to the Board of Education.

you to stay informed, become involved, and share your ideas regarding this critical decision about the future of New Trier facilities.

Sincerely,

The **Community Engagement Committee** is meeting several times per month to plan community outreach activities, provide information to Township residents, and seek community feedback.

Linda L. Yonke, Ed.D

Superintendent
yonkel@newtrier.k12.il.us

New Trier’s Facility Master Planning study and planning process is interesting and important. I hope we can count on

Superintendent’s Book Talk focuses on successful schools

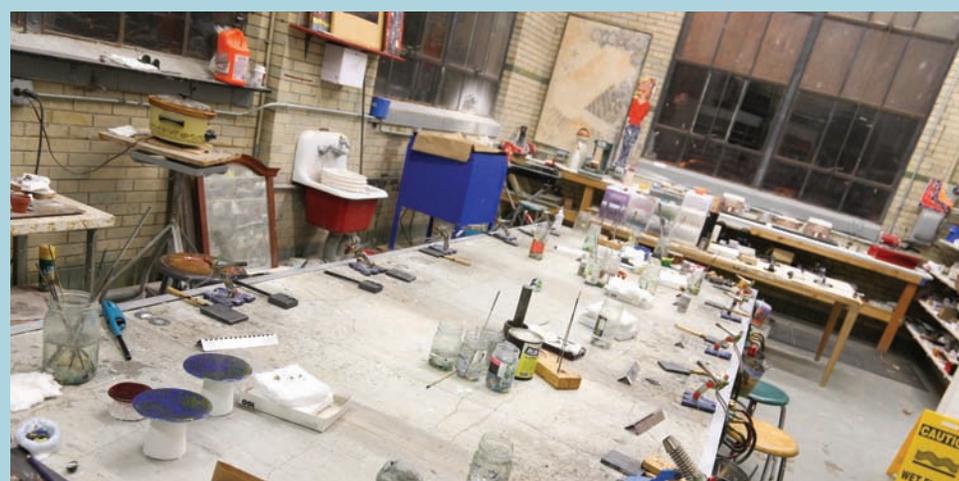
Community members are invited to participate in a discussion of the book, *A Class Apart: Prodigies, Pressure and Passion Inside One of America’s Best High Schools*. Author and Washington Post reporter Alec Klein writes about his alma mater, Stuyvesant High School, in New York City.

“New Trier parents and staff will recognize the students described in this book,” said Superintendent Linda Yonke, who chose this book for her second semester book talk. “As we read and discuss this book, a question for us to consider is this: Instead of working from a deficit model (such as ‘What’s wrong with failing schools and how shall we fix them?’) should educators instead create improvement models based on successful schools? What do high schools such as Stuyvesant and New Trier do well that other schools could benefit from knowing?”

Each of the three single-session discussion groups will meet in room 301 (EPI Center) at the Winnetka campus on the following dates:

- March 11, 4:30-7:00 p.m.
- March 12, 5:00-7:30 p.m.
- March 18, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

A copy of the book and dinner will be provided. To register for one of the evenings, contact Lou Anne Kelly, Secretary to the Superintendent, at 847.784.6108 or kelly@newtrier.k12.il.us.



Built in 1931 for teaching metallurgy, room 197 in the Tech Arts Building has been retrofitted as an art studio with multiple uses – Glass Art, Sculpture, and Advanced Placement (AP) Art. The space is divided by a partial wall, making it difficult to supervise students. The room is often too hot or cold, as the ceiling-mounted radiator is hard to regulate and frequently needs repair. Also, students can miss up to 10 minutes of a 40-minute class to seek the closest rest rooms in the North or Tower buildings, as no student rest rooms exist in the Tech Arts Building. Originally named the Manual Education Building, the Tech Arts Building has not been upgraded or renovated in its 77-year history.

Open community meetings for facilities planning

Township residents are invited to attend open community meetings about the New Trier Master Facilities Planning process. Each meeting will be held after the monthly Workshop Committee meeting to keep community members apprised of the latest conversations and committee work, and to seek feedback.

March 19
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Gaffney Auditorium
Winnetka

April 22
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
McGee Theatre
Winnetka

May 20
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
McGee Theatre
Winnetka

“A lot of what we do is about heightening awareness.”

– Kerry Hall, Social Studies teacher and Environmental Club sponsor

Students “Go Green” with environmental activism

“Part of being an environmental activist is teaching others,” said science teacher Don Wurth, to the freshmen Environmental Club members he helps to sponsor.

On a cold and snowy afternoon, the club members were gathered in a dimly-lit science classroom; they had turned off unnecessary lights to conserve energy.

“We always try to role model,” one student said, as she checked the computers in the classroom to be sure they were turned off. Finding one still on, she closed it down. With nearly 2,500 computers in the District, “everything helps,” she said.

Global Warming Family Feud

Students had just completed a friendly game of Global Warming Family Feud against faculty sponsors Kerry Hall and Sharon Waring, and were discussing future activities that include Bike to School Day on May 16 and “big plans” for Earth Day on April 22.

They also had finished stapling together booklets of scratch paper into one-fourth and one-half page sizes. “This activity has been occurring on both campuses all year,” said social studies teacher Kerry Hall. “Staff and students contribute used copy paper – that’s printed only on one side with non-confidential information –

and we cut and staple them to make scratch pads.”

Pyramid of Shame

Students also have cleaned up the forest preserve next to the Northfield campus, participated in International Beach Clean Up Day, completed a survey of light use in the District, and built a Northfield campus “Pyramid of Shame.” They made the pyramid by going through trash containers, pulling out recyclable items and piling them into a statue labeled, “Please Recycle.”

Likewise on the Winnetka campus, the Environmental Club, Peer Helping, Student Alliance and the Physical Plant Services Department planned a similar “Mountain of Trash.”

“A lot of what we do is about heightening awareness,” Mr. Hall said, noting that students’ activism also resulted in getting more recycling bins in the gymnasiums, cafeterias and courtyards.

Earlier in the year, the students watched the movie, “An Inconvenient Truth,” as a club activity. Referring to the powerful impact of the movie, freshman Jon Nazari said he was “surprised how little time we have before the icebergs melt. We have to do something.”

A decade of energy conservation at New Trier

The following are examples of conservation measures and energy savings across both New Trier campuses.

- Joined a Cooperative to purchase electricity and gas, resulting in \$50,000 yearly savings
- Installed energy efficient windows, HVAC systems, lights, electronic ballasts, and expanded use of insulation materials, saving an estimated \$525,000 per year
- Implemented an automated energy management system that reduces the use of energy by controlling HVAC equipment and lighting, resulting in a \$250,000 annual savings
- Installed a computerized preventative maintenance system to improve equipment efficiency and extend equipment life, at a savings of \$125,000 annually
- Implemented a solid waste recycling program
- Adjusted computers to turn off lights in rooms and hallways
- Replaced Northfield boilers with new units that are 30% more efficient
- Installed motion sensors in the rest rooms to automatically turn on and off lights
- Adjusted the system’s schedule so that electricity and other resources are not wasted when the school is empty
- Installed a heat recovery wheel to trap cool air in the school in the summer and keep warm air in the building in winter

- Converting to cleaning products that are more environmentally friendly
- Exploring the possible installation of solar panels to heat the Northfield swimming pool (and to serve as an environmental “teaching station” for science students)
- Ensuring that future facility work will be completed with an eye towards integrating as much sustainable design (recyclable building materials, “green” roofs, parking lot pavers, capturing storm run-off water to use for irrigation, better use of natural light, etc.) into the pending projects as can be cost justified



Members of the Environmental Club make scratch pads from recycled paper.

New Director of Academic Services and Interim Winnetka Campus Principal named

Two administrative changes — the appointment of Debra Stacey as the District’s Director of Academic Services and the appointment of Timothy Dohrer as the Interim Principal of the Winnetka Campus — will be effective at the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Currently, Dr. Stacey is Principal of the Winnetka Campus and Dr. Dohrer is Interim Director of Research and Academic Services.

New focus on curricular goals and teacher development



Debbie Stacey

As the District’s Director of Academic Services, Dr. Stacey will pursue a long-time interest in curriculum and instruction, assuming many duties related to curriculum design, teacher supervision and evaluation, staff development, and the testing program, among other responsibilities. She also will direct state grant and title programs related to curriculum assessment and school improvement.

“The organization will benefit greatly from her expertise in teacher development, supervision and evaluation,” Dr. Yonke said, “and she will bring her strong leadership and extensive experience to this new position.”

Dr. Stacey spent the first 15 years of her career as a business education teacher and, later, as Dean of Students at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire before joining the New Trier High School administration in 1994. She served as Assistant Principal, responsible for student scheduling and administrative services, until her appointment as Winnetka Campus Principal in 2002.

Dr. Stacey also has taught graduate classes for Northeastern and Loyola universities. She earned her bachelor’s degree in business education from Northern Illinois University, her master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies/curriculum and instruction from National-Louis University, and her Ph.D. in educational administration from Loyola University.

Various New Trier experiences



Tim Dohrer

Dr. Dohrer comes to his year-long interim role as Winnetka Campus Principal with 18 years of education experience – 15 at New Trier and three at Pennsylvania State University. He joined the District as an English teacher in 1990 and was named English Department Coordinator at the Northfield Campus when it opened in 2001. During the 2006-2007 school year, he served as Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, a faculty leadership position that supported the Assistant Superintendent in the supervision of various District programs such as literacy, service learning, transition, and staff development, among other duties. This year, he is serving as the District’s Interim Director of Research and Academic Services, in which he oversees District research projects, program evaluation, and the testing program.

“Dr. Dohrer has experienced the school culture at a variety of levels – as a classroom teacher, club sponsor, faculty leader, department coordinator, and administrator,” Dr. Yonke said. “His classroom experience, academic preparation, and passion for students have prepared him well for this experience.”

Dr. Dohrer also currently serves as a graduate lecturer at Northwestern University and has taught at Northeastern Illinois University. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English and Journalism from Indiana University, his master’s degree in English from Northwestern University, and his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Pennsylvania State University.

BOARD REPORT

to the Community

**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.*

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**NEW
TRIER**
TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT 203

To contact the Board of Education:

- 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.

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

Next issue

- The Spring 2008 *Board Report to the Community* will feature:
- Summary of the significant progress made on Strategic Planning initiatives
 - Continued update on the District Facilities Study

District Mission

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.



Produced by the New Trier Township High School District 203 Department of Communications

Laura J. Blair, *Director*

Jason Feldman, Luzazul Design, Graphic Designer

Postal Patron Local

Non-Profit Organization
ECRWSS
PAID
Permit No. 319
Winnetka, Illinois

It's all about the music: Keeping jazz alive in New Orleans

Wanted: musical instruments, prom dresses, tuxedos and other prom attire.

Why? To benefit students and musicians in New Orleans.

The New Trier Jazz Ensemble has been "living" at least two-thirds of the New Trier motto: "...hearts to compassion, and lives to the service of humanity" through its year-long service project, "Hey NOLA, we didn't forget you!"

They are collecting donations of used (but playable) musical instruments, new or gently used prom attire, and tax-deductible financial contributions to help music students, schools and professional musicians who were made homeless or otherwise affected by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans more than two years ago.

Trucking to New Orleans

The donated musical instruments and prom attire will be trucked to New Orleans when the students travel there over spring break. There, they will give concerts, build a Habitat house, and donate the instruments and formal attire.

Students will deliver the prom dresses and tuxedos to the local chapter of Becca's Closet, which provides formal attire to high school students who otherwise would not be able to attend

their school dances. The musical instruments will be donated to schools that lost their instruments in the hurricane.

Festival furthers the cause

New Trier's 25th annual Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival was held February 9, "resulting in more donations to the cause," said Jim Warrick, music teacher (jazz studies), who has spear-headed the multi-faceted service project with the students.

"Twenty-three area schools that participated in the jazz workshops that day brought 175 instruments and ten prom dresses to add to our collection," he continued.

Jazz students are about \$17,000 away from meeting their fund-raising goal of \$75,000. "If we meet our goal, we can finance a complete Habitat house in or near Musician's Village in New Orleans," Mr. Warrick said. "We've collected a total of 300 instruments worth \$150,000, 270 prom dresses, and 200 tuxedos that a company donated. We'll continue to accept financial donations, prom attire, and instruments until March 18 – just a few days before we leave for New Orleans."

The Jazz Ensemble members are using the proceeds from the sale of their



New Trier senior Natalie Lande is invited (impromptu) to sit in and play a solo alongside Jon Faddis with the Chicago Jazz Ensemble during the 25th annual New Trier jazz festival on February 9. Raising funds for New Orleans musicians, students sold copies of their Silver Anniversary CD that includes recordings from professional jazz musicians who have performed with the Grammy Award-winning New Trier Jazz Ensemble for nearly a quarter century. The musicians donated their performances on the CD, and the music copyright holders waived their royalties.

newly-released CD, *25 Years And Counting: Celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival at New Trier High School* to help finance the Habitat for Humanity house that they will build.

Jazz supporting jazz

"It's amazing that there are musicians and others who are still without homes after the hurricane," Mr. Warrick continued. "For us, it's jazz folks helping jazz folks. Our musicians will be helping their musicians. We want to help keep music alive in New Orleans."

For information, log on to ntjazz.com/NOLA

Photography by Tao Zhang / Lenswork Studio