

# 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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## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FRESHMAN 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 CTP5 placement test 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 the student's writing sample.

### **What is the typical course 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 five core academic major courses and one elective course. Students can also choose four core academic major courses and two elective courses. 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 – keeping in mind the total school commitment. The choice needs to be a personal one.

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

Students receive 0.5 credit per year for an elective-credit course and 1.0 credit per year for a major-credit course. An elective-credit course may require some preparation outside of class, which varies by course. Courses taken for elective credit are not included in a student's weighted GPA. Elective courses taken at the Northfield Campus may not be taken for major credit.

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

A core academic course meets five or more periods per week and requires study and preparation outside of class. However, the amount of time that an individual student spends on homework varies by day and course. In addition, a student's study skills and appropriate level placement 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 included in this Academic Life Packet.

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

First, one needs to understand that the interdisciplinary World Studies course is no more difficult than English and World History at level 3 or 4. The World Studies-Team\* course generally appeals to students who are independent learners and are also comfortable working collaboratively and participating in class discussions. The World Studies-Team course focuses on the same critical thinking skills emphasized in the separate English and World History courses.

\*previously titled World History-Team or English/History (EH)

## **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, but pianists and electric six-string guitar players are exempt from the requirement. Many of these musicians choose to enroll in Freshman 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 course be taken for elective credit? Can a 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 for major credit only and have daily homework requirements. A student may take more than one language in 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 13, 2019, we host an evening session titled “After the Academics.” This is our athletics, activities, and performing arts fair. The open house will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the F Building on the Northfield Campus. There you will meet coaches, sponsors, and students involved in a variety of student activities. Information on all extracurricular activities can be found on the New Trier home page under the gray [Extracurricular](#) tab. During the school year the Daily Bulletin announces all club and sport meeting times. It is found under the gray Student Services tab on the New Trier home page.

## **Can you clarify what is meant by core academic, elective, major credit, and elective credit?**

- Core Academic Departments: English, Math, Modern and Classical Languages, Science, and Social Studies.
- Elective Departments: Applied Arts, Art, Business Education, Music, and Media, Speech & Theatre.
- Major Credit (Core Academic or Elective): 1.0 credit per year; significant preparation required outside of class
- Elective Credit: 0.5 credit per year; some preparation required outside of class