

# All About Electives

## AT NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL

### Frequently Asked Questions

## GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTIVES

#### How do I decide which elective courses to take?

Choosing your courses is a personal decision that should be based on your interests and goals. Freshman year is a time to explore. If your interests change, there will be opportunities available to you in all elective departments in your sophomore year.

#### How many elective courses can I take each year?

It is possible to take two or more electives depending on the number of core academic majors you take. As you begin your four-year planning, it may be possible to take a core academic course in summer school or as an early bird class in order to make room in your daily schedule for multiple elective courses.

#### What is the difference between elective credit and major credit?

Courses taken for major credit require significant study and work outside of class while courses taken for elective credit may require some preparation outside of class. Only elective courses offered at the Winnetka Campus may be taken for major credit.

#### Do elective courses meet every day?

All elective courses meet every day for a full period. However, it is possible to take Freshman Boys' or Girls' Chorus three days a week on days when you are not scheduled for a science lab.

#### Are there any extracurricular performances limited to students enrolled in particular elective courses?

Some performances are limited to students enrolled in particular elective courses. For example, cast members of the Freshman Play must be enrolled in Theatre 1; cast members of the Choir Opera junior-senior musical must be enrolled in Choir Opera; Kinesis Dance Company members must be enrolled in Dance Lab I or II; senior directors of the Spring Plays Festival must be enrolled in Theatre 4. The Program of Studies provides the best information for future planning.

#### What graduation requirement do elective courses fulfill?

All courses in Applied Arts, Art, Business Education, and Music & Theatre fulfill the graduation requirement for fine and/or practical arts.

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NEW  
TRIER  
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# Questions About Elective Departments



## APPLIED ARTS

**Creative Cuisine**  
**Fashion Construction**  
**Introduction to Architecture**  
**Introduction to Design Technology/  
Introduction to Computer Coding**  
**Introduction to Engineering Design**



## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

### **What do students prepare in Creative Cuisine? Will we get to eat what we cook?**

The course is taught by food genres, and students prepare a variety of quick breads, yeast breads, appetizers, soups, sauces, casseroles, beef, and poultry. Most of our labs are divided into two days, on which groups of 4-5 students cook the first day and eat the second day.

### **Do I have to know how to sew, and do I need to have a sewing machine to take Fashion Construction?**

No, students will learn basic sewing skills and build upon those skills throughout the year. We have sewing machines as well as basic sewing materials such as scissors, measuring equipment, and pins for student use.

### **Should I take Creative Cuisine if I have a food allergy?**

Yes, you should feel comfortable taking this course. Teachers are informed of students' food allergies by the school nurse, and adjustments are made to recipes to ensure the safety of everyone in the class.

### **Can freshman take Geometry, Design and Construction?**

Freshman who are eligible for geometry can enroll in Geometry, Design and Construction. In this double-period course students learn and apply geometry through design and build projects. Students who take this course earn math and fine/practical arts credit.

### **Do Applied Arts courses fulfill any graduation requirement?**

Each course on the Northfield campus fulfills the fine/practical art graduation requirement. Go to [www.newtrier.k12.il.us/appliedarts/](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/appliedarts/) for more info.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

### **What's the difference between Introduction to Architecture, Introduction to Engineering Design, and Introduction to Design Technology/Introduction to Computer Coding?**

**Introduction to Architecture** is an introductory architecture course, in which students learn how to think like a designer and create 2D and 3D architectural drawings and physical models using CAD software and other hands-on design techniques. Students are presented engaging creative projects that teach the design process leading up to a final dream house design challenge.

**Introduction to Engineering Design** is the foundation course of the Project Lead the Way engineering sequence of courses, in which students use engineering skills and computer modeling software to learn the engineering process for making products and solving real-world problems. Students will be presented with product design challenges and use the latest technology such as 3D printers, laser cutters and other tools.

**Introduction to Design Technology/Introduction to Computer Coding** introduces students to two areas: computer coding and design technology. In the semester of computer coding, students will learn fundamental computer science concepts. The semester of design technology will introduce students to a variety of design concepts in engineering, architecture, and wood and metal working in a Makerspace lab.

**Are students expected to own the software used in architecture and pre-engineering courses?** No, we do not expect students to own the elite industry software programs, such as Revit, AutoCAD, Inventor, Photoshop, and Sketchup Pro, that are used in those courses. Students are able to complete most design assignments in the classroom.

# Questions About Elective Departments



## ART

**Art Essentials  
Art Exploration  
Drawing and Painting 1  
Photography 1**



### **Should I consider taking an art class if I do not have previous experience in art?**

Absolutely! All of our art courses are designed to accommodate all ability levels. Previous experience is not necessary. We welcome all incoming beginning and experienced artists.

### **What is the reason for teaching wet darkroom? How much digital is taught in Photography 1?**

Students have reported in course surveys that they understand digital image making and processing better because of their wet darkroom experience. The Art Department believes that there are sound curricular reasons for providing wet darkroom instruction to students both for the sake of understanding the darkroom process and for providing a foundation for gelatin silver or digital work. Digital technology is explored in Photography 1 after students have a solid understanding of the camera, processing, and printing. As students take multiple years of photography, more in-depth instruction in digital is provided.

### **What is the difference between Art Essentials and Art Exploration?**

While both of these classes explore a wide range of media (ceramics, collage, design, drawing, glass, painting, photography, and sculpture), Art Essentials brings together students with and without disabilities who work collaboratively, exploring art techniques and materials while learning to express themselves individually as artists.

### **Can I register for Photography 2 if I have already taken a photography course at my junior high?**

The technical and aesthetic development in our yearlong Photography 1 course goes well beyond what students experience in a junior high school course or a summer enrichment program. All students interested in studying photography at New Trier must begin with Photography 1. For that reason, Photography 2 is not offered at the Northfield Campus.

### **Will I be able to take any of the art courses offered at the Northfield Campus later at Winnetka?**

Yes, all the courses offered at Northfield are also available at the Winnetka Campus in addition to other art courses. Course descriptions and examples of student artwork can be found on the Art Department website.

### **Is there homework in an art course?**

The short answer is no. However, in some courses, students may have occasional assignments outside of class. For example, in photography, students need to shoot film for each unit of study during the year.

### **Do I need to bring my own camera to Photography 1?**

In Photo 1, we teach students how to use a SLR film camera. Since every camera is different, it is advantageous for student to learn how to use their own equipment, as this is a life-long skill they can continue after high school. We have a limited number of cameras we can loan students during the year.

# Questions About Elective Departments



## BUSINESS EDUCATION

### Introduction to Business Web and Multimedia Development I



#### What do students do in Introduction to Business?

Students learn about all aspects of business, including marketing, law, ethics, international business, and the stock market. Students will participate in a Shark Tank competition resulting in the formation of a business run by the class.

#### Does Introduction to Business fulfill the Consumer Education graduation requirement?

Yes, this course can fulfill either the Consumer Education or the Fine/Applied Arts graduation requirement. The decision on which graduation requirement it fulfills can be made during a student's Four-Year Planning process.

#### Is Web and Multimedia Development a gaming course?

No, it is a course that focuses on various types of media, utilizing programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Flash, and QuickTime Virtual Reality to create video, photos, audio, and animation products.

#### Do I have to take a business class at the Northfield Campus if I am interested in taking a business class that is only offered at the Winnetka Campus?

No, Introduction to Business is not a prerequisite for taking any of the other business courses that are offered at the Winnetka Campus. We offer semester and yearlong courses in marketing, accounting, business law, financial management, iOS app development, and entrepreneurship. There are NO prerequisites in our department.

#### Do I need to have the software programs used in Web and Multimedia Development on my computer at home?

No, you don't need to have those programs at home because there are many computer labs with those programs available for student use at school.



## DANCE (KINETIC WELLNESS)

### KW 1/Dance (Coed) Freshman Dance 2 (Coed)



**Do I need to audition to be in a dance class?** No, you do not need to audition for KW 1/Dance 1 because it is open to all students. However, if you would like to be placed in a higher level dance course, you must take a placement class in order to be placed in the appropriate course. These placement classes are typically offered in January and are listed on the Dance Division website: <http://newtrier.k12.il.us/dance/>.

#### Do boys take dance?

Absolutely! In fact, although dance courses at the freshman level are coed, both Menz Dance and coed dance courses are offered at the Winnetka Campus.

#### Can I take dance instead of Kinetic Wellness?

Freshmen can take KW 1/Dance 1 to fulfill their kinetic wellness graduation requirement. Students who choose Freshman Dance 2, which fulfills the fine arts graduation requirement, must also take Kinetic Wellness 1. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may take dance for Kinetic Wellness credit.

# Questions About Elective Departments



## MEDIA and BROADCASTING SPEECH and DEBATE

Freshman Speech and Debate  
Freshman Media Production



### MEDIA AND BROADCASTING

#### How do I get involved with media and broadcasting at New Trier?

You should register for Freshman Media Production to learn how to create a variety of media products, including websites, podcasts, short films, and advertisements. In addition, you and your classmates will produce weekly radio shows for WNTH Radio. Technical skills introduced in this course lay the groundwork for taking Film Production, Broadcast Journalism, Radio Practicum, WNTH Radio, and Trevolution TV. All freshmen are welcome to apply to be a member of the WNTH staff in the fall.

### SPEECH AND DEBATE

**Why take Freshman Speech and Debate?** Speech and debate develops strong social, academic, and critical thinking skills. Students will have the chance to work individually and in small groups to construct persuasive arguments, become effective leaders, and outwit opponents in a fun environment. Students have the option of participating in the after school competitive debate program as an extension of the course. This course is the gateway for Congressional Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, and Public Forum Debate at the Winnetka Campus.

#### But I already took this in junior high school.

Not like this you haven't! You will learn enhanced argument strategy with new and engaging formats. Take your basic skills to the next level, learn about tournament competition, and take advantage of opportunities to debate at university campuses.

# Questions About Elective Departments



## MUSIC and THEATRE

Freshman Boys' Chorus  
Freshman Girls' Chorus  
Freshman Concert Band  
Freshman Jazz Ensemble  
Freshman Orchestra  
Theatre 1: Freshman Theatre Workshop  
Technical Theatre and Design



## CHORAL MUSIC

### How do I get involved in singing at New Trier?

You should register for Freshman Boys' or Girls' Chorus, which are choirs for anyone who wants to sing. These choirs include students of all levels of experience and abilities and do not require an audition. You must be in a choral music course in order to sing in choral performances at New Trier.

### Why are boys and girls separated in the freshman choirs?

Boys and girls are in separate choirs in order to effectively address voice issues that are gender specific and to perform music specifically written for boys and girls. At certain times during the year, however, the boys' and girls' choirs perform together.

### How do I prepare to be in upper-level choral courses and musical theatre productions?

Freshman choral courses prepare students to enter Concert Choir, Choir Opera, and Swing Choir. Vocal technique, sight-singing, and music theory are components of the freshman choral curriculum and are also criteria for placement auditions for those choral courses. Choral students work on developing these skills every day in class and, as a result, are more confident auditioning for upper-level ensembles, solos, and musical theatre productions. In addition, students often have time to practice audition material in class.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

### What course should I take if I am interested in the orchestra program?

You should register for Freshman Orchestra. Adjustment to your orchestra placement will be made after your audition. Go to [www.newtrier.k12.il.us/orchestras.aspx](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/orchestras.aspx) for additional information.

### What course should I take if I am interested in the band program?

You should register for Freshman Concert Band. Adjustment to your wind ensemble placement will be made after your audition. Detailed information about wind ensembles can be found at [www.newtrier.k12.il.us/wind-ensembles.aspx](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/wind-ensembles.aspx).

### What course should I take if I am interested in the jazz program?

You should register for Freshman Jazz Ensemble. Detailed information about the jazz program can be found at [www.ntjazz.com/8th-graders](http://www.ntjazz.com/8th-graders).

### Is it true that I also need to register for Freshman Band or Freshman Orchestra if I register for Freshman Jazz Ensemble?

Yes, with the exception of pianists and six-string guitar players, who are exempt from this requirement. All bass players registered for Freshman Jazz must also be registered for Freshman Orchestra.

### If I am enrolled in an upper-level instrumental music course at the Winnetka Campus, how will I go back and forth between the campuses?

You will take the shuttle bus to Winnetka during your lunch period or after 8th period. By doing this, you will not miss a class period.

### Are private lessons available?

Yes, students interested in studying voice or an instrument may take a lesson during their study hall, lunch period, or music class. Private lessons are also available during the summer. For more information, contact the Performing Arts Office at 847-784-7521.

## THEATRE

### **If I have had a lot of experience in a children's theatre group or in junior high productions, can I skip Theatre 1 and take Theatre 2?**

No, all students, regardless of experience, begin with Theatre 1. The course is designed to meet students at their own level of expertise and challenge even the most experienced freshman student while remaining accessible to students without any previous theatre experience.

### **How can I prepare to be in upper-level theatre courses?**

Theatre 1 will prepare you for all other theatre courses, including those requiring a placement application. Text analysis, characterization, voice, and audition techniques for plays and musicals are components of the freshman theatre curriculum. You will need Theatre 1 or departmental approval to enroll in upper-level theatre courses.

### **How can I prepare to be in the crews and casts of plays and musicals?**

Enrolling in Technical Theatre and Design is a good first step for students who are interested in being in stage crew and would like to have leadership opportunities in design and stagecraft in the future. With the exception of the Freshman Play and the Choir Opera junior-senior musical, there is no course enrollment requirement for participation in plays and musicals. However, most cast members are also in theatre classes, especially those students cast in principal roles. Theatre students build their acting skills every day and also have opportunities to practice audition materials in class. As a result, they are generally more comfortable and prepared during the audition process.

### **What is Technical Theatre and Design? Can freshmen take it?**

Yes, this course offers hands-on experience in stagecraft and design for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Since Technical Theatre and Design is only offered at the Winnetka Campus, freshmen must commute during 9th period in order to take the course. Freshmen who do not wish to commute should consider taking Theatre 1 instead.

### **Do I need to have previous theatre experience to be in a theatre course?**

No, we welcome students at all levels of experience and skill. We focus on individual students and tailor our instruction and assignments to make sure that every student is challenged and supported.