

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Regular Meeting

June 6, 2022

2022-2023 Calendar Will Include Finals Before Winter Break

New Trier will end its first semester before Winter Break for the 2022-2023 school year in part as a response to rapidly changing college admission practices and deadlines.

The Board approved a calendar change that will end the first semester on December 22, with Mathematics and Science courses holding traditional final exams on December 19 and 20. Other courses such as languages, English, and Social Studies already have moved away from the traditional exam schedule to final papers, projects, or assessments during class time at the end of the semester.

Superintendent Paul Sally said that with more colleges and universities moving to test-optional applications, providing a full picture of an applicant's high school grades by early January is more important than ever. Many of New Trier's peer schools already provide a 7th semester transcript to schools by their early January deadlines, and New Trier wants to make sure its own seniors are not at a disadvantage in the process.

In addition, Sally said that many New Trier students may not have taken an AP course before senior year or may be taking multiple AP courses in the first semester, and being able to provide those grades to colleges helps show that those students are able to handle a rigorous curriculum that is familiar to admissions officers. In addition to the benefits for seniors, the change will benefit all students by allowing them to go into winter break without the worry of exams soon after their return.

The change will not affect already announced dates for the opening and end of the school year, Thanksgiving break, winter break, or spring break. While it will mean an unbalanced number of days in the first and second semesters, teachers and course committees will work to adjust their curriculum and assessments to provide a rigorous learning experience in each semester.

Some other changes to the calendar include adding an institute day on Wednesday during the final week of December classes and ending with an anchor day (all classes) on that Thursday, December 22. Two early dismissal professional development pairs in December and May were also moved to earlier dates, and the January 27, 2023 Grading Day is now a school day. Click for the [updated 2022-2023 calendar](#).

East Side Academic and Athletic Project Update

Excavation activities are mainly complete and structural steel work has begun as the District continues to make progress on the East Side Academic and Athletic Project. When completed

at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year, the project will include a new main gym, an auxiliary gym, indoor track, climbing wall, fitness center, and 13 new classrooms.

Despite the loss of many days of construction activities in the winter and spring due to bad weather conditions, project manager Pepper Construction has been working with the different trades involved to make up days and keep the project schedule on track. Concrete work will continue into June on a revised schedule, and the steel contractor has been able to begin its work alongside the other trades using multiple cranes.

Masonry work has also begun, starting with work on an elevator shaft and then moving to exterior walls adjacent to the existing building. Work on the exterior facade is scheduled to begin in July, with concrete slab work beginning in August.

The District has added a [second construction camera](#) to provide a better view of the ongoing activities. You can watch construction live by [clicking here](#) or visiting the [East Side Project web page](#).

Other News from the June 6 Meeting

- The Board held its spring Recognition Program to honor students and staff for their accomplishments at the close of the 2021-2022 school year. Those honored included state and national award winners from the M3 Math Modeling Challenge, the ICTM Math Competition, Science Olympiad, the Infinitec Student Technology Achievement Award, ACES Club, Japan Bowl, German High School Competition, DECA, Illinois High School Art Exhibit, Illinois Journalism Awards, Boys Tennis, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Water Polo, Girls Water Polo, Boys Track and Field, Girls Track and Field, Powerlifting Club, and Boys and Girls Rowing.
- Superintendent Paul Sally provided the Board with a [draft of strategic plan work and expected outcomes for the 2022-2023 school year](#) in each of the plan's six framework areas: 1- Intellectual, Engagement, Growth, and Readiness; 2 - Personal Engagement, Growth, and Well-being; 3 - Culture, Climate, and Equity; 4 - Leadership Across the School; 5 - Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Governance; and 6 - Finance, Facilities, and Human Resources. Sally will present the final *New Trier 2030* Annual Plan for 2022-2023 at the July Board meeting.
- The Board approved an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget to account for unanticipated budget changes including additional federal reimbursements for costs related to COVID-19, the reclassification of payments to certain funds, and adjustments to the expense budget for technology maintenance to take advantage of discounts for paying contracts in the current fiscal year. The amended budget is balanced. Click for the [FY 2022 Budget Amendment memo](#).

The New Trier Board of Education generally meets on the third Monday of each month, with the business portion of the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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 <https://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/boardofeducation>