

BOARD BRIEFS

News from the New Trier Township High School District 203

Board of Education Regular Meeting

September 18, 2023

NT Class of 2023 Profile Gives Perspective on Course-Taking Patterns

New Trier High School's 2023 graduates had numerous post-high school options available to them regardless of their course-taking patterns and academic levels, dispelling some common myths about the college admissions process.

Assistant Superintendent Peter Tragos presented a Class Profile showing that more than 90% of the Class of 2023 took a mix of academic class levels (college preparatory-2, honors-3, and high honors-4) during their four years at New Trier, with 14.6% taking courses at levels 2, 3, and 4. Tragos said the statistics show the flexibility of the level system in helping students pick the most appropriate course pacing throughout their four years. The vast majority of students chose to go to college directly after graduating, attending more than 230 different institutions.

The Profile includes tables of the types and numbers of courses and levels taken for institutions where more than 5 New Trier graduates from the Class of 2023 are attending. Tragos noted that the tables show that institutions admitted students across levels, with many enrolling students who had never taken an AP course at New Trier. While the tables should not be seen as a formula for admission to certain schools, Tragos said, they do give general perspective on what different schools factor into their admissions decisions.

The Class of 2023 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in a way other classes were not, experiencing five different schedules in their four years, with the pandemic beginning at the end of their freshman year. Tragos praised them for their resilience and adaptability.

The class was typical in seeing the highest concentration of students taking 19-20 core academic classes, with 71.8% taking 19 or more. There was a slight increase in the number of students taking fewer than 19 core academic classes, and Tragos said the flexibility in dropping classes during the pandemic likely contributed to that number.

Colleges across the country continued to see a spike in applications, leading to a decrease in acceptance rates, particularly at highly selective schools. For New Trier's Class of 2023, the average number of applications was 8.9 per student. Many schools have gone test-optional, meaning they do not require ACT or SAT to apply, and 53% of New Trier students submitted at least one application that did not include test scores.

Post-High School Counseling Department Chair Jill Cervantes said her department has been tracking admissions trends closely, consulting with professional networks, and drawing on strong relationships with college admissions officers to help give New Trier students the best possible counsel amid a changing landscape. Click for the [Class of 2023 Profile](#).

