

Students develop skills through T-shirt business



Jack Croley, a transition student, folds a shirt for a recent order | Zervas

266 Designs helps integrate transition students from school to jobs

by Jessi Zook

266 Designs, a T-shirt company run by the NT Transition Program, offers students the opportunity to support the program, while also buying T-shirts and other apparel that they may need for classes, clubs, and sports.

The business was started in 2011 and is a part of the Transition Program.

The program gives young adults aged 18 to 21, who have developmental disabilities, the special attention and care they need. Students learn the life skills that they'll need to transition into adulthood, advance their careers, and thrive independently.

Kari Nakayama, a faculty member involved in the Transitions Program and 266 Designs, said, "We work on life and vocational skills to get them as independent as possible for the future." In the program, students are taught to handle money, socialize, cook, and practice safe behavior.

266 Designs derived its name from the transition program's room number and it's one of the ways that

the program helps students achieve these skills. Five years ago, those involved in the program wanted to start a class business. "We received a grant from the New Trier Education Foundation and that allowed us to get the shirt press and start the design company," Nakayama said.

"It's a great way for the students to stay connected around the school. It's just a smart, beneficial program and I'm so glad New Trier has it."

Currently, the business makes all of their T-shirts in house, ordering shirts and Designs to complete the process. "The students get to handle the money, fold the shirts, and then deliver them," Nakayama said. The whole organization is led by the students in the transition program, allowing them to experience a real working environment.

Francesca Maddock, a current student involved in 266 Designs, said, "I like it a lot, but we don't get a lot of help from teachers." The goal of the program is to teach independence through this hands-on learning experience.

Through the business, Maddock, along with other students in the Transition Program, have the opportunity to use the shirt press, fold shirts, and deliver them once they're done.

Along with making shirts, students in the program were given the opportunity to talk with advisers during a recent in-service meeting. They presented their business to advisers as a way to create more awareness and to get the word out about the company.

Sophomore Boys Advisor Chair Ted Kouletes said, "The business is relatively new, so introducing it to the advisory system is a great way to get publicity." It's allowed more staff and students alike to learn about the business.

Kouletes has also helped promote 266 Designs among special school groups. He previously worked in the special education department and has ordered products for advisory, bridge building, and exchange programs. "Whenever they deliver the shirts, they're obviously very proud of the work they've done. It gives them a chance to be recognized around school by their peers as contributors."

Senior Emma Hoholik thought the program thoroughly benefitted the students involved. "It's a way for the students to really stay connected around the school. It's just a smart, beneficial program and I'm so glad New Trier has it."

It's also a very beneficial resource for school organizations looking to purchase apparel. According to Kouletes, 266 Designs offers fair prices and a quick turn around. "I've found them to be reliable, fast, and cheap," he said. Unlike many larger companies, they're not as likely to

mess up orders, but are able to devote time to each one.

Nakayama said they're currently filling twenty to thirty orders a year, though their numbers are increasing annually.

Furthermore, prices are comparable to those of any other company. According to Kouletes, "the shirts are often cheaper than those from other companies. You can then customize and that plays a role in price, but generally, they're very comparable price wise."

Yet, the monetary aspect of 266 Designs has never been the main focus. Though it's beneficial for the students to work with money," Nakayama said, "It's not for the profit. It's for the learning experience."

All of the profits from the T-shirts go back into the program. The money earned is used to pay for classroom supplies and field trips for the students. According to Nakayama, it's a way to get the students excited about what they're doing and engaged in the business.

According to Kouletes, this is another reason he's so supportive of the business. "The money all goes back to the students, and that's something that I'm definitely happy to support. It's great to see the money making a difference with the kids."

While New Trier has made it a priority to promote ELS and the transition program, many schools aren't so readily accepting. Kouletes said, "it's so amazing to see students rally around their classmates and support them through this business."

Students ambivalent about features of the new iPhone

New iPhone features cause controversy

by Emily Challenger

With the new iPhone 7, has Apple pushed the limits with what they can and cannot improve?

Each year, Apple strives to release a new product with a bang. Something is always changed, whether it's phone shape, color, glass, or other features.

The iPhone 7 was a shock to all Apple users as well as everyone across the world. While the style and shape of the new iPhone is relatively similar to the previous generation, they have changed a few key features.

Unlike previous generations, a new color has been added to the commonly known four that iPhone users have: black, silver, gold, and rose gold, and now matte black.

They have also installed a dual camera into the phone, added a waterproof backing, a complete touch home button, faster features for apps and software, and even an improved battery life. But that was not what surprised and angered people around the world.

Since 2007, Apple has been promoting apple music through the iconic image of a person wearing headphones.

This image is widely distributed throughout the world on gift cards and commercials, but with the release of their next generation iPhone, people are appalled at the removal of the headphone jack.

Is it worth spending another \$1,000 for a phone that has barely changed and taken away one of the many features all Apple users love? Senior Peter Schmisek said, "It seems impractical. I don't think the new iPhone is worth it; AUX is life." But he's not the only one who misses

the faithful headphone jack. Junior, Maya Mistrik explained, "I don't like the missing headphone jack, I think that's something that should never have been changed."

Senior Hasti Movafaghi added the problems she noticed with the iPhone 7 converting completely to Bluetooth, "I don't like the missing earphone jack. Especially since my car doesn't have Bluetooth or aux, I use a tape recorder chord. So my friends with the 7 have no way of playing music in my car."

Yet, despite these reviews, there are still a few people who feel good about the iPhone 7 and their purchase.

Kasia Kolanko, a senior, said, "The missing headphone jack hasn't bothered me all that much because when you buy the iPhone it comes with headphones that have a USB cord instead of the jack, and you also get an adapter if you want to use old headphones."

Apple has made it their mission to constantly come out with better products and new features each year. Mistrik agreed saying, "Apple always does a great job improving their products."

While the prospect of a waterproof phone is interesting, Schmisek thinks differently, "I like that it's waterproof but it's a little late for that update," He said.

Kolanko agreed saying, "The iPhone 7 is water resistant which is really cool, but I've dropped my old iPhone 6 in water and it was fine after putting it in rice, so I'm not sure how great that is."

Still, there are mixed reviews if the iPhone 7 is worth the money. Mistrik said, "I don't love it but I also don't hate it." Movafaghi agreed saying, "It's pretty similar to the 6, so I feel like there isn't much benefit."

Students work to build their music careers outside of school

Musicians and bands create unique musical sounds

by Cammy Wray

Student musicians are making waves at New Trier.

Here, many students are known for being gifted in every aspect, whether it be academics, athletics, theatre, or other areas. One of the greatest areas is music.

While there are many students who play instruments for school, there are fewer that take their passion outside of school and turn it into something bigger. These students put their music on a sharing site called Soundcloud where people download and listen to their songs. Working on music outside of school gives these students complete control over their music, and how they want to share it.

A popular genre of music for student musicians is hip hop. Senior Ben McCormick has ventured into this genre and has found his passion. "I create what I would describe as post ironic experimental gangster rap alongside my friends Kilmer Bennowitz and Joe Borushek," said McCormick.

Many musicians post their music on Soundcloud for fun, but not for publicity purposes. "Soundcloud is a great tool to freely distribute music, which is all we ever want to do. I think I speak for my whole group when I say that we make music for the love of the craft and any public appreciation is just a nice bonus," he said.

Taking a different musical style is senior bass player Drew Bunge. He is more interested in blues, rock, or R&B. "I have always loved music



Senior Dylan Hardin of "The Bronski Boys" at work in the studio | Zervas

since I was a kid and my parents would always put Grateful Dead, Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, and Beatles CD's on in our car so a lot of my taste comes from my earliest memories," said Bunge.

Yet, while growing up in this area can have it's perks when it comes to finding good music teachers and places to learn, it lacks performance revenues. "I play the vast majority of shows across many different neighborhoods in Chicago, mainly because there are no music venues in the New Trier district," said Bunge.

While being a solo artist allows for control of music, working in groups is a popular choice among student musicians. "Kilmer does all of the music production, while Joe and I are vocals, although we all help out in terms of creative process and inspiration. Our rap group is called "NEET," and we're in production of our first album," said McCormick.

"The Bronski Boys," a senior hip hop group made up of Dylan Hardin and Ben Kleinberg, are also a popular group in the NT area, and they found working together was the

way to go. "I play the drums, I started playing when I was 10 years old when my dad bought me a drum kit for my birthday," said Kleinberg.

Hardin is the inspiration behind the beats for their songs. "I've been an extreme hip hop head for as long as I can remember, and I knew that I'd regret not trying to create original material while I had the opportunity to," said Hardin. They're more of a contrast to Bunge's style, a rap base. "We play rap, or suburban rap," said Hardin.

Some groups don't find it as hard to get their name out in the community. "The Bronski Boys" have music across the world. "We're on Soundcloud and you can see which countries are playing your stuff so it's pretty cool when we get a couple dozen plays a week in places like England, Australia, and Japan," said Hardin.

They do, however, still have problems with the live shows just like the other musicians in the New Trier area. "We have no live shows yet, but there's a 100% chance of one happening," said Hardin.