



# The New Trier News

NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL, 385 WINNETKA AVENUE, WINNETKA, IL 60093

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## The future starts sooner for early graduates

Graduating early allows students a headstart on their future

by Caroline Fix

Each year, a small group of seniors choose to graduate New Trier early to pursue their interests.

Susan Thorngren, a faculty member in post high-school counseling said, "Students may choose to graduate early to take college level courses at a nearby community college or university, take a semester program out of the state or country, work full time, or for family reasons." Students will meet with their post high-school counselor regularly throughout the process.

Thorngren said taking advantage of the extra five months to pursue your interests by graduating early is definitely something to consider.

The school registrar, Mary Ellen Nickels, said students can either graduate a year early or, more commonly, graduate at the semester their senior year. Typically, three to six students decide to graduate New Trier early.

This number has decreased dramatically compared to the twenty students who graduated early from New Trier in 2004, according to the



Natanya Granof, pictured left, spent second semester of her junior year in Israel with 70 other students | Rabinowitz Chicago Tribune.

Two students decided to graduate New Trier early this year: Natanya Granof and Cassandra Radulovic. Both left at the semester.

Granof has since been "relaxing and enjoying life. I've done a little traveling and catching up on some reading. I have also been studying Hebrew for an intensive language studies program I am participating in called Ulpan," Granof said.

Granof took part in Ulpan the second semester of her junior year. She traveled to Israel with seventy other kids from North America and

"had eleven hour school days, which included two hours of Hebrew and three hours of Jewish history."

"Twice a week we would travel around the country and learn about historical events. We also spent a week in Poland. It was an amazing experience," Granof said.

Last July, Granof decided to graduate early her senior year and take a gap year. She will return to Israel in a few weeks to continue the program. Granof has been studying Hebrew daily as she needs to be proficient in the language for gap year.

"I earned extra credits studying abroad and realized if I took English and Consumer during the summer, I would meet all of the requirements necessary to graduate early," Granof said.

Each student considering this option must have a total of nineteen credits and still must fulfill the graduation requirements, which includes four years of Kinetic Wellness.

Granof said her wide range of activities, such as hiking and climbing mountains in Israel, allowed her to receive an extra Kinetic Wellness

credit.

Graduate Radulovic doubled up on English classes prior to graduation to earn her enough credits. "I am happy I left," Radulovic said. "I miss seeing my friends, though."

Radulovic is leaving on Feb. 13 for a six month trip to Europe. "The trip is a gift from my dad because I have always wanted to go on an adventure abroad. This will be my first time out of the country," Radulovic said.

"I will travel to Serbia and see some of my family members and travel to Italy, France, Ireland, Greece, Germany, Amsterdam, Spain, and the United Kingdom by myself," Radulovic said.

In 2012, New Trier student Emily Barretta graduated early in order to play tennis during the spring of her senior year for the University of Illinois.

Last year, Kevin Quinn decided to graduate from New Trier at the semester of his senior year in order to travel to Los Angeles and further develop his acting career. Quinn took two English classes during the first semester of his senior year to meet the requirements of four years of English.

Reflecting on her plans, Granof said, "My parents were very supportive of me graduating early because I have a plan to utilize my time wisely, and I am extremely happy with my decision."

## Biliteracy informs global citizenship



Posters in the MCL hallways urging students to take a language | Sheffield

First annual test for students to receive a Seal of Biliteracy

by Daniel Fay

On Feb. 19, some students in years four or five of a foreign language class will have the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy.

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high schoolers who can demonstrate

the ability to communicate in two or more languages, including English.

Department Chair of Modern and Classical Languages, Lorri Starck-King, said, "This is very beneficial to our students who have worked so hard in their language class, because it opens a door for them to be able to use the language in college and the workplace."

About 100 students will take part in this year's pilot run of the State Seal of Biliteracy Test. Next year the test will be available to all students in the fourth or fifth year of

their foreign language education

The test will be held in the language labs and is expected to last about two and a half hours. The cost is \$20 and the test will be offered in Chinese, French, German, Spanish, Hebrew, Japanese, and Latin.

To get the seal, students must score at an intermediate to high level on the certification test and an 18 or higher on the English portion of the ACT, as well as a 22 or higher on the Reading ACT.

The test will be comprised of interpersonal reading and speaking, reading comprehension, listening, and writing sections.

However, this test won't be a standard scantron format. Starck-King said, "It's designed to measure how well you can speak in social situations, exchange info, and be understood by native speakers."

Most of the test will be spent listening and speaking to a computerized person, responding to fake emails, or responding to questions about passages.

Unlike most language tests, it does not evaluate set vocabulary and grammar rules, but instead focused on seeing how you can apply the language in everyday situations.

Senior Alec Chang said, "I think being biliterate would be a way to bolster any application and stand out, because as the world becomes more connected with technology, it is more important to be able to communicate with people in other countries. So being able to speak two languages will help you no matter what you do with your life."

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## New wave of voters want their voice to be heard

New law allows more juniors and seniors to vote

by Carina Brendl

In light of the relatively low voter turnout for 18-24 year olds, it will be interesting to see how many age-eligible juniors and seniors will vote in the primaries and the fall's presidential election.

According to a report from the United States Census Bureau, only 38% of 18-24 year olds voted in the 2012 election.

Kerry Hall, New Trier Political Science and U.S. History teacher, predicted that New Trier's age-eligible students will top the national youth voter turnout this year. He said that this is partly due to the League of Women Voters coming to the school.

"The League of Women Voters is a really important step, because you can register online on your own, but it's just kind of fun to do it in the EPI Center with everyone else," Hall said.

He explained that the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization which strives to inform people about political issues. They host debates, forums and discussions and even invite politicians to speak.

Senior Girls' Adviser Chair Susie Paunan helped organize the League of Women Voters' event which took place on Feb. 2 and 3.

She explained that the League

will come to the school and help students register during advisory for the primaries in March.

Paunan agreed with Hall in saying that students are more likely to become voting members of the community if there's a time and place set up for them to register, rather than doing it online on their own.

Hall also explained that the Social Studies Department tries to help students become more informed. The more informed students are, Hall said, the more likely they will be to care about political issues and vote.

According to a report from the United States Census Bureau, only 38% of 18-24 year olds voted in the 2012 election.

This year, a higher than usual amount of students will actually have the opportunity to vote in the primaries. Paunan explained that there's a new voting law which allows seventeen-year olds to vote in the primaries in March if they will be eighteen by the election in November.

As a result, Paunan explained, 250 juniors could vote this March.

Junior Ryan McGuiness is one of these 250 juniors. He plans to vote because, "It's your civil right. Continued on page 2