

# the NEW TRIER NEWS



## Administrators and teachers to analyze link between homework and stress

Math classes experiment with no-homework policy

by Danielle Kurensky

As students express the levels of anxiety and sleep deprivation they experience, the administration and teachers seek to create more balance and less stress for them.

Many students have said that they feel overwhelmed due to large amounts of homework on top of their extracurriculars. Many feel that they never get a break from the constant cycle of homework and activities.

A vast majority of students feel they don't get enough sleep on a nightly basis. This consistent lack of sleep can be detrimental to students' health. "Lack of sleep can cause a

range of neurobehavioral deficits, which include lapses of attention, reduced speed of working memory, reduced cognitive functioning, depression, and perseveration of thought," said Social Work Department Chair, Tiffany Myers.

New Trier's philosophy on homework states, "Teachers are trusted to use their professional judgement in assigning homework that complements the learning objectives of the various courses. It is to be expected that there will be variation in the type, frequency, and amount of homework for any given course."

While this philosophy allows the discretion of teachers, some ideas are being brought forward at the administrative level.

"In the last few years we have moved towards homework-free breaks. Department chairs and

administrators have agreed on that. If a student is to have homework on a break, a teacher might assign nothing more than a regular weekend," said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Peter Tragos.

While having homework-free holidays is appealing to many, students feel most stressed about homework during the regular school week.

"The most stressful time is after school when I have a million things to do. I am overwhelmed by everything I have to do and at the thought that I have to get up the next day and do it all over again," said junior Kathleen Hopps.

Many teachers agree with assigning less homework and have decided to change their homework policy. This year, all of the Level 4 Precalculus and Trigonometry

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## Beauty pageant comes to the North Shore

Have pageants lost their place in current culture?

by Jasmine Gonzalez

Illinois International Pageants announced on Sep. 5 that it would be holding a new pageant from Nov. 10-12 at the Renaissance Chicago North Shore in Northbrook for the girls and women of the North Shore.

Registration for the upcoming event is now closed, but New Trier students as well as those from surrounding schools in the area were offered a 50% discount off of their entry fee if they had registered before Aug. 1. Registration for next year's event will open Dec. 10.

"The [pageant] is dedicated to making the world a better place through sisterhood, scholarship and community involvement with local, national, and international charitable organizations," according to their website.

This is the first time the pageant is being held in the northern suburbs.

"I have been doing business in the northern suburbs of Chicago for 10 years now. I have never found a more amazing area filled with companies and individuals focused on making the world around us better," explained Executive Director and former Mrs. Illinois International 2014, Randi Mox, on her decision to use this location.

This year, Mox is the head of a new leadership team that includes Jessica Carlevato, who held the title of Miss Illinois International in 2014, and Constantine James, a celebrity hair and makeup artist and image consultant, as Assistant Directors. A pageant coach, various former titleholders, and volunteers are also on the new leadership team.

The organizers of the event have also introduced a new Miss Pre-teen division for contestants ages 10-12. The remaining divisions are as follows: the Miss Teen division



The pageant will be held in Northbrook this weekend | IL Intl Pageants

for contestants ages 13-18, the Miss division for contestants ages 19-30, and the Mrs. division for contestants ages 21-56 who have been married for at least 6 months.

Areas of competition include interview, fun fashion wear, fitness wear, and evening gown. Each area carries a different weight depending on the division.

The pageant mainly advertises the opportunity to win scholarships in order to attract students. Winners also receive packages that include a variety of prizes and opportunities for community service.

"By competing in the system you obtain life skills, additions to college applications, scholarships, prize packages, and opportunities to serve the nonprofit communities and the causes you have a passion for. Our winners also have the opportunity to model all over Chicago and be featured at large scale events, on TV, and in photo shoots," said Mox.

Bridal Elegance, which, according to the Chicago Tribune, is "the largest name in Illinois for evening wear and pageant apparel," will be the official National Stage Wardrobe sponsor for all divisions except the Miss Pre-Teen division.

Organizers will be holding a trunk

show to provide more information on the event on Sunday, Sep. 10.

In addition to Bridal Elegance and a number of other sponsors, the pageant will be partnering with the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign to bring awareness to heart disease, which is the number one killer of American women, according to their website.

"The North Shore has embraced Illinois International Pageants with open arms and willing sponsorships and support. I know I made the right choice and [the pageant] has found its new home," said Mox.

Although the event advertises the empowerment of women, there are mixed feelings among students regarding how effective that may be.

"I believe that beauty pageants are a waste of time and resources and perpetuate the social expectations of gender and beauty," said senior Kimberly Tan.

The chance to win scholarships is often appreciated by students thinking about college. However, many students are unimpressed with the idea that you have to be "beautiful" to have these opportunities.

"I don't think people should be rewarded for being beautiful," added senior Eliot Smith.

## Heated debates arise over zoning proposal



Community members debate the proposal at a board meeting | Levens

Northfield residents contest proposal for building of townhouses

by Claudia Levens

Controversy over a recent multi-family residential development proposal for 1725 Winnetka Ave. came to a head on Nov. 6 as members of the Northfield community debated whether this was the best decision for area at a meeting of the Plan & Zoning Commission meeting.

From 1959 until 2016, Illinois Bell/ATT used the single-story building, parking lot, and storage shed to store and service the phone company's local service fleet, equipment, and materials.

Edward R. James Partners, LLC, a local privately owned company that develops, invests, and builds homes—acquired the property in Jan. 2016. By July 14 they had proposed a zoning map outlining plans to develop a residential community of 34 townhouses on the property.

"He's a quality builder who knows what he's doing," said local Real Estate Broker Joan Conlisk. She also noted that he has managed similar projects in the area that have been successful.

Despite this, the proposal was met with instant opposition. Dissenters created a petition that garnered over 130 supporters, a Facebook, and a website urging the community to take action against the development plans with the slogan "Too dense, too tall, too much."

They urged supporters to sign the petition, contact village officials and trustees, and attend the Northfield Plan and Zoning Commission meeting that took place on Nov. 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Northfield Village Hall.

Also on Sept. 11, the petitioners gave a presentation to the community, and answered questions from the commission.

The Nov. 6 meeting consisted primarily of speeches given by the community in response to the original presentation from the Sept. meeting, but also comments on a recent

addendum the petitioners had made.

The changes to the initial application were released Oct. 31, and included a decrease in unit count from 34-32, an increase in guest parking spaces from 12-16, a greater road width, additional space for snow plowing, and an additional sidewalk.

While this addendum addressed many of the resident's concerns about the high density and height, the changes were too slight to entirely address their qualms and change their views on the plan.

In fact, the addendum proved to be a subject of considerable concern for both the commissioners and attendees at the Nov. 6 town meeting some of whom did not believe the development should receive a zoning. Even some who did not see a problem with the rezoning said they needed more time to fully process and compare the changes, and were frustrated with the quickness of the recent changes.

Steve Gutierrez, who represented the petitioners, expressed frustration with the stubbornness of the residents who seemed unwilling to hear the new plan that the company had spent valuable time and money creating.

"In my years of experience doing this job, I've never experienced procedural issues like this before. We simply wanted to take into consideration what the residents had put forth," said Gutierrez to the commission at the meeting.

Attendees spent the first hour of the meeting fiercely debating what the course of action for the meeting should be—vote on a plan not knowing the minor changes made, listen to a representative from the company explain the new developments, or open the floor completely to the public for speeches.

The committee decided on hearing a brief summary of the changes and then hearing speeches from the residents.

Of the approximate 60-70 people who attended the meeting, the majority appeared to be opposed to the development.

A pivotal issue brought up by the opposition was that whether it be 34 or 32 units, this is simply too much. Residents worry that since the site is just down the street from New Trier's

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