

# NF campus on lockdown after Loyola fire alarm

Incident occurred on anniversary of two school shootings

by Cleo Pool

On Feb. 14, New Trier's Northfield campus went into a 'soft lockdown' due to an activated fire alarm and police activity at neighboring Loyola Academy.

That day marked the anniversary of a school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in 2018.

On this same date in 2008, there was a shooting at Northern Illinois University. Schools across the United States were on heightened security due to the events.

It was early in the day when Loyola's fire alarm was triggered, which was concerning due to the fact that the shooting in Parkland began with the gunman pulling the fire alarm. Police soon arrived at the school and it was later discovered through a preliminary investigation

that the alarm was activated due to faulty wiring, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Maeve McNulty, a sophomore at Loyola, didn't realize the severity of the situation until after she returned to class.

"It wasn't that scary until we learned that it was the anniversary of the Parkland shooting, and we were told that the school had received threats of a shooting," said McNulty.

Once it was clear what had happened, McNulty struggled to remain focused.

"After that, it was really hard to go back to class, because I just kept worrying that something might happen," explained McNulty.

Meanwhile, the Northfield campus was warned of the nearby police activity. Paul Waechtler, principal of the Northfield campus, was informed of the situation by the officer on staff.

"Our school resource officer told us there was police activity at Loyola. A few minutes later, he informed us that a fire alarm had gone off at

Loyola," said Waechtler.

Alongside his colleagues and the Wilmette Police Department, Waechtler decided to go into lockdown to practice the utmost caution.

The lockdown allowed the school to get a better grasp of the situation. "Our priority was on keeping kids safe. My energies and thoughts were about how to communicate to students and staff, what needed to go out to parents, and who else needed to know about the situation," said Waechtler.

The campus was under this soft lockdown for about 30 minutes, until the police activity calmed down and the two schools had a full understanding of what had happened.

During this soft lockdown, the freshmen could continue on with their usual routines, but they were not allowed to leave the buildings.

"They [the students] are allowed to move within the buildings to access their classes, and classes are going on as normal," stated a tweet from New Trier.



The 'soft lockdown' meant students had to remain inside buildings | Marshall

During this ordeal, New Trier released three total tweets to keep the community aware. The tweets walked through what was going on at the other campus, with the last tweet stating, "The Northfield Campus soft lockdown is over. Police have cleared the area of any active threat and assured the campus is safe and secure."

NT freshman Piper Dooley was in between classes during the soft lockdown: "I was going from second period, and there was no one outside. Then I heard everyone talking about a lockdown," said Dooley.

Dooley, like many, was unsure of the true cause of the lockdown: "When I got home, my mom was

like, 'did you hear there was a lockdown' and I said, 'yeah because of the fire,' but then she told me that it was the anniversary of that really big shooting."

Due to the strong relationship between Loyola and New Trier, information was shared between the two easily, allowing for the situation to be handled in a timely manner.

"We have a good relationship with them and our assistant principal called their assistant principal on her cell phone," said Waechtler.

"It was scary but it was even scarier because it was so confusing. I had no idea what was going on when the fire alarm went off," said McNulty.

## Twins and triplets in the spotlight

Hagedorn triplets describe balancing independence and collectivity

by Mattea Carberry

Multiple occasions over the past few years have placed New Trier's twins and triplets in the spotlight, continuing with a talk show this year.

On Feb. 15, a producer from the TV talk show, "Windy City LIVE", came for a quick follow-up interview with the record setting class of twins to include in their twin-themed show which aired Feb. 22, according to an email the school sent to the parents of twins and triplets.

Junior triplets Bridget, Kelly, and Sabrina Hagedorn attended this filming in which they, and the other duos and trios who came, taped a section preceding a commercial break. The three acknowledge that this event wasn't as big of a deal as it has been in the past.

"I feel like the big thing was last year when all of the news outlets came to school and interviewed the twins and triplets," said Bridget. "This year it was just a progression."

Despite all the attention that surrounded the records set by the twins and triplets in the last few years, the Hagedorns didn't get to take full part in it.

"They said we could get into one or two shots, but we didn't have the proper registration so we weren't allowed to be interviewed," said Bridget.

But the fact that they were allowed to be in some of the pictures amounted to nothing due to their lack of proper registration.

"And the pictures we were in, they would not be going in the book," said Sabrina.

Not only that, but they noted the pictures they never received copies of the pictures they were in. To them, what was more disappointing was the fact that they always had to shoot down the assumption family members made that they were included in the world record.

"We had people asking 'oh, I heard you were on that show,'" said Bridget. "We had to explain the whole story and it was rough."



Bridget, Kelly, and Sabrina Hagedorn getting their licenses | Hagedorn

Though they weren't able to take much part in the excitement that surrounded the record number of twins, being triplets has still played a significant role in their lives.

"You become really close," Sabrina said. "We're all each other's best friends."

The other two agreed that the bond they share is unique and special. "When you're together it doesn't feel like you have to hang out or spend time with them, it's just very natural," Bridget said.

Not only do they have built-in friends among the three of them, but their connection also makes it easier to socialize with others.

"It's really nice because you kind of have built-in friend groups," Kelly said.

Despite some of these upsides, they acknowledge the fact that they sometimes have struggled with being looked at as individuals.

"It's been hard because in the past we've been treated very collectively," said Bridget. "Like in our family, we're 'the triplets' or 'the girls.'"

The three sisters agree that being triplets has made their lives better and life would look completely different if they hadn't been born that way.

"[I think] I'd be much more individual with everything in my life," said Kelly.

But though she acknowledges life would be different, Sabrina thinks she wouldn't feel any more individual if she didn't have two sisters in her grade.

"I don't know if I would feel more independent," she said. "Because I feel really independent with all of us being in the same grade. I feel like we're all spaced out since we still have all our different friend groups and stuff like that."

Due to their collective front, they intentionally tried to remain independent going into high school. But as they near college, they are unsure of exactly what they want for the three of them.

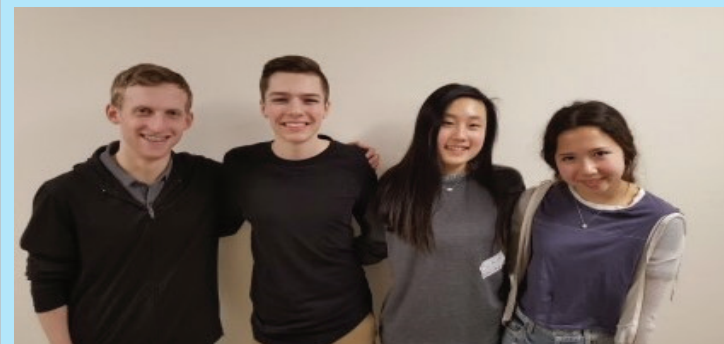
"We thought that we would be separate going into high school," said Bridget. "But in college it's like 'do we really want that?'"

No matter what happens, they know they will stay in touch and their bond as friends and sisters will keep them connected.

Sabrina said, "If you need help on something or you feel like you want to talk to somebody in your family, you always have someone of both of them if you need."

## Meet your 2019-2020 Student Alliance leaders

by Hope Talbot



Max Rosen, Ethan VanGosen, Janice King, and Mia Rhee (left to right) | SA

Big changes are underway in Trevian politics as new Student Alliance leaders have been elected for the upcoming school year.

This new wave of student representation will be led President Max Rosen and Vice-President Ethan VanGosen, along with Treasurer Janice King and Secretary Mia Rhee.

Student Alliance is the self-proclaimed "heart" of New Trier's 130 student organizations and works to bridge the gap between administration and the student experience by supporting and allocating funds to each one of these clubs.

The liaison group takes on the task of communicating the voice of a massive student body, which is why the election of officials as well as student voting turnout are crucial, according to Student Alliance sponsor, Stacy Kolack.

"Through their work, Girls' Club, Tri-ship and Student Alliance serve other clubs and the student body at large, so every year we rely on responsible, reliable and passionate students to lead these groups," stated Kolack. "As the voting electorate, the student voice is instrumental to this process, so it is wonderful to see that New Trier students take this responsibility seriously."

Following the Mar. 7th assembly, poll statistics projected an encouraging trend, with 76.5% of students voting overall--a 19.5% increase from the 2016 elections.

Rosen, along with officers and the SA Board at large, look forward to matching students' enthusiasm by continuing to establish platforms for feedback.

"To make sure we hear every student's voice, I look forward to having Student Alliance explore every avenue possible to expand our student feedback system," said Rosen. "We want to broaden our understanding of every Trevian's experience, looking at both what students have enjoyed and also what they feel can be improved."

Rosen stressed that he plans on promoting this openness by exploring the potential expansion of the Alliance Constituent Board, which would consist of monthly meetings where student representatives and the alliance board meet.

"Our current president has established a great relationship with the New Trier News, which has enabled us to inform students on a regular basis as to what Student Alliance is working on through the Student Alliance column, allowing us to be transparent," explained Rosen.

While Student Alliance initiatives often take a significant amount of time to become reality--as administration and board members must agree--Rosen has already implemented improvements throughout his campaign such as adding menu items to the "Bean Team" in the cafeteria.

Between students and teachers, the overwhelming sentiment is excitement for what the board will bring to the table going forward, noted Kolack.

"Leadership can take many forms, and with or without a title, all of these students will go on to do great things in their service to our school," said Kolack.