

iPad curriculum not set in stone

by Michael Dugan

The 2014-2015 school year marks the first year in New Trier's history when every student uses an iPad for their classes.

This year, technology has played the biggest role in the lives of both the students and the faculty. Some classes use the iPads for the occasional project, while others will use it for everything, from daily homework assignments to test, essays, and presentations.

The conventional Powerpoint presentation has been reinvented through applications like Prezi. Any document can be changed on multiple levels while using UPad. PDF Expert allows students to annotate and write any amount of notes on an already existing document. The list of examples continues on with one common thesis: the iPads open up a plethora of opportunities, big and small, to both students and staff.

The use of the iPads is exercised in unique personal ways. If a teacher feels it's not appropriate to use the iPad, the academic decision is ultimately up to him or her. "One thing that makes New Trier unique is the preservation of autonomy for teachers," said Jacqui Pritchard, Instructional Technology manager at New Trier. "New Trier hires highly-skilled teachers and the district trusts in their abilities. If a teacher decides that the iPad does not add value to a particular learning activity, he or she is empowered to leave those iPads in the backpacks."

Ultimately, the iPads are a solution to technology for now. In the future, the demands will change, and so might the way that New Trier looks at technology in school.

Essentially, the iPad is an all-in-one device. As a result, one may be inclined to believe that the use of iPads may make the value of the computer labs decline slightly. According to



Junior Kevin Parra and Sophomore Jessica Eudy collaborate on an iPad | Lee

Pritchard, it's the opposite. The use of such technology in the labs is unique in that it provides software that plays a huge role both in the present and in the future. "I think there will always be a need for computer labs," she stated. "They provide access to specialty software in curricular

areas such as programming, CAD (computer-aided design), sequential art (animation software), the full Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator), and advanced video editing (Final Cut Pro)."

While adapting to the new iPad curriculum is challenging for

some, it certainly provides a more modern way of learning. Pritchard believes the iPads are a perfect fit for education now. "iPads make sense for New Trier today," she says. "The district refers to this initiative as our 'Mobile Learning Program' because we understand that over time, the device may change. It's not a device-specific program."

A point of emphasis that Pritchard expressed is that technology is an ever-changing field, and it will be for a long time. "I think that technology will continue to adapt to support the changing needs of our world," she said.

"The world's issues are complex, and, therefore, we need to prepare young people. We need creative problem-solvers and collaborators, and synthesizers and analysts of information/data. Our technology will continue to reflect these changing needs."

Ravinia 2015 headliners lacking in star power



Ravinia Music Festival located in Highland Park will cater to an older audience this summer | ravinia.com

by Emma Willcocks

Ravinia recently released its 2015 summer performance schedule, featuring a noticeable lack of well-known bands in comparison to other years. So what happened?

While Ravinia is better known for its classical music, in recent years it has been attracting some big name performances from the world of pop.

However, the 2015 schedule only features one immensely popular star: Lady Gaga. She will be performing with Tony Bennett, an 88 year old singer who hit his artistic peak in the late 1950s but has never stopped performing. He has actually performed at Ravinia multiple times already, once in 2012 and again last summer.

Other than their two evening shows, there does not appear to be any other big headlining groups performing at Ravinia this year.

In contrast, 2014 had a star-studded line up, which featured John Legend, One Republic, The Script, American Authors, Darius Rucker, Gavin DeGraw, Train, Carry Underwood, and John Mayer.

However, 2013 appeared to be a slow year again, featuring only Darius Rucker and Journey. In recent years, there appears to be

a natural fluctuation in the amount of popular performances, 2012 had Colbie Caillat, Andy Grammar, Gavin DeGraw, Idina Menzel, Demi Lovato, and Train. 2011 had Maroon Five, Jennifer Hudson, and Carrie Underwood.

With past years featuring so many big names, Ravinia has attempted to build up a reputation as more than just an outdoor classical music venue.

New Trier students often go for the popular performances, so Ravinia has been gaining popularity in the list of local music venues. While it still can't compare to the United Center, House of Blues, or Aragon Ball Room, it is at least on the radar when checking for upcoming concerts.

This year's schedule shows Ravinia's roots with 65% of the performances devoted to classical music. These classical performances range from Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony to Tchaikovsky's "1812" Overture and the pianist Frank Fernández's first debut in America.

Yo-Yo Ma has performed at Ravinia every summer out of the last 5 years, but he is not included in this year's lineup. Most of the remaining 35% of performances are older or lesser known groups, more-so appealing to a slightly older generation, like Sheryl Crow, who

peaked in the 1990's, or Steely Dan, who peaked in the 1970s.

When Lollapalooza's schedule was released, some people were surprised to see that Paul McCartney was one of the headliners for the event. He is 72, but his age certainly isn't stopping him from continued success. He recently recorded "FourFive Seconds" with Rihanna and Kanye West, which they then performed at the Grammys.

Perhaps McCartney would have been a better fit at Ravinia, where he would appeal to an older generation that probably has a greater connection to him.

Lollapalooza is attended by a much younger crowd, and McCartney doesn't seem to fit in with the likes of Metallica or Tyler the Creator.

Junior Ally Bloomer also said, "I've been to Ravinia to see One Republic, Train, and Journey. Usually there are a bunch of famous people each summer, but I would go to see Lady Gaga." However, she is "absolutely not" interested in going there for the classical music.

So while Ravinia's summer schedule isn't as appealing to high school students as it has been in the past, it is always an option if you're interested in Lady Gaga or an evening of classical music.

Wellness Week 2015 April 12-17

Wellness Week kicks-off with the Trevian Trot 5K on Sunday, April 12

Take part in daily advisery and KW class challenges throughout the week

Tuesday April 14, Wellness Club will be making smoothies after school

During lunch periods participate in activities such as a hula hoop competition or a hockey shoot-out

Wellness week ends on Friday, April 17, with the Day of Silence

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Most NTHS students choose not to use weed because they might lose their eligibility for sports & extracurricular activities.**



*Data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens.
**Data from the 2014 KW Survey. N = 3,127.
Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).