

## Niles West Tour 6/29/2012 Notes

- **Study patterns are reversed from our day**

Principal Kaine Osburn said students are now required to buy a netbook computer which they bring to school and use at home. There is financial aid for those students who can't afford a netbook. The pattern now is that they study the new lesson for each class on the cloud at night, then do practice exercises in class on what they learned the previous night. Teachers are much more effective this way and students learn the material much better. Students are allowed to bring laptops, cellphones, netbooks and mobile internet devices to school, with use in the classroom at the discretion of the teachers. Parents can see online how their kids are doing. There are many online resources on the school's website. <http://d219tv.niles-hs.k12.il.us/>

- **Student population changes**

About 60% of the students don't speak English in their homes. About 35 different languages are spoken. The largest ethnic group is Asian at over 33%. <http://www.zipdatamaps.com/60077>

- **Do mainly less wealthy families go to Niles?**

No. The main reason parents choose to move to Skokie and the towns around it are so that their kids can go to Niles West and North for the excellent education.

- **Daycare is offered on the campus**

Teachers can drop off their young children at a well equipped daycare at Niles West. There is a small playground outside for toddlers in a grassy pocket park between the building walls. There is limited space, so this service is not offered to students' children.

- **The arts**

Niles West's arts program was voted #1 in the nation a few years ago.

- **The gym**

The gym looks great, with two tiers of bleachers now instead of one, to accommodate the larger school population. The bleachers fold back against the wall, as in our day. There are colorful posters and lots of foam mats. There's an indoor track building, plus a fitness center with weights and cardio rooms.

- **Some areas didn't change**

The swimming pool looks good and the same, but it was locked, so we could only see it from the door windows. It was built the summer before our senior year. The auditorium also looks the same. Except for computer stations, the library looks the same as well.

- **The home economics kitchens and shop facilities**

The kitchens and shop facilities were huge and very well equipped. There is drafting/CADD.

- **There is a new academic wing of the building**

To accommodate the expanding student population, they built a new wing on the building.

- **The wolf mural**

In the hall next to the auditorium there is now a nicely done mural showing wolves in a woods with a few shadowy Indians showing behind a few trees, to give homage to the name of the former school mascot name from our day.

- **The Indians logo our class donated for the hallway floor is now gone**

Because the school mascot changed, they removed the Indian logo that was embedded in the hallway floor that our senior class had given the school.

- **What is the dress code?**

Prohibited clothing is: sleeveless undershirts, lifter shirts, tube tops without a shirt over them, visible underwear, uncovered midriffs, and clothing with holes in inappropriate places. No bare feet or hats. He said the largest part of his day, almost daily, was dealing with "inappropriate dress" issues. A day never went by without him having to ask a student to pull their pants up over their tushies, or to put a shirt on, or take off clothing with cut-offs, or holes.

- **Textbooks will be replaced by iPads**

All the textbooks are eventually going to be on the IPADS, doing away with the books completely. However, any access to the internet's social networks would be blocked. In other words, the students would not be able to use the devices to log on to Facebook, or do other social things not related to their school work.

- **The High School is doing extremely well financially.**

- **Students tutor other students in academics.**

- **A sample of clubs offered (from the online Student Handbook, not mentioned in the tour)**

<http://www.niles-hs.k12.il.us/sites/default/files/uploads/2011-2012%20Handbook.pdf> pp. 60-61

Assyrian Club	Model UN
Black Student Union	Niles West Sports Marketing/Game Operations Club
Bosnian/Montenegro Club	Ping Pong Along
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club	Poetry Slam
Breakfast Club	Pop 'n Rock
Chinese Club	Qur'an Study
Cricket Club	SADD: Students Against Destructive Decisions
Croatian Club	SAVE: Students Against a Vanishing Environment
Filipino Club	Serbian Club
Friends of Amnesty	Skateboard Club
Futuro Latino	Ski & Snowboard Club
GameSpot	Sports Medicine Club
Gay-Straight Alliance	Ultimate Club (Frisbee)
Go Green Club (Recycling)	Urban Exploration
Korean Club	WHO Club (West Helps Others)
Master Jedi Science Fiction Club	Wild Wolves (Outdoor Club)
Mock Trial	