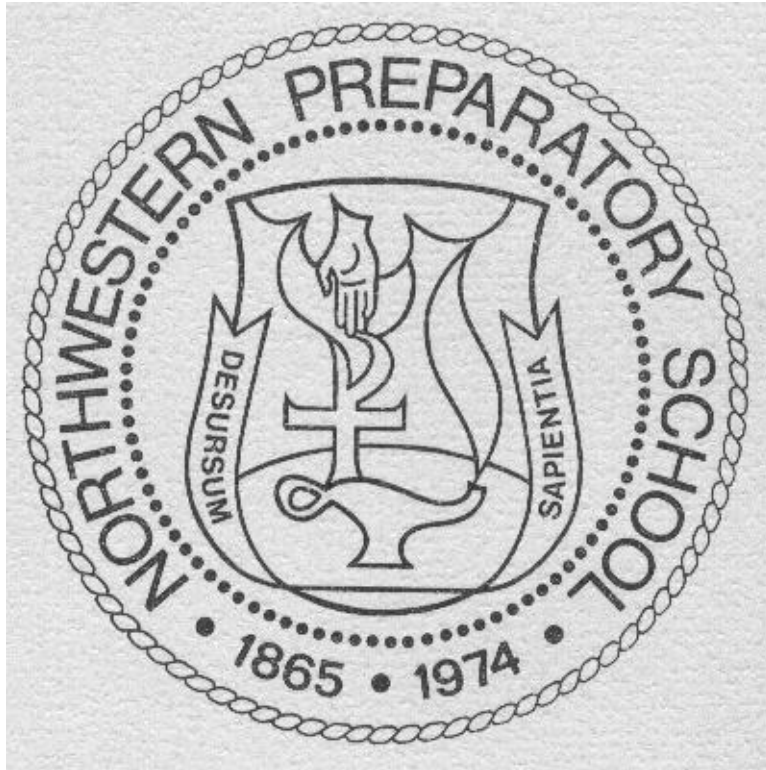


The Northwestern Preparatory School Papers

An Inventory



Archive of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Mequon, Wisconsin

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The Northwestern Preparatory School Papers

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Collection Level Description

Title: The Northwestern Preparatory School Papers

Dates: 1918-1995

Extent: 0.876 meters of textual records

Historical sketch:

An excellent history of Northwestern Preparatory School can be found in *Holding the Course: Northwestern College 125* by Carleton Toppe, particularly pages 90-101, as well as the appendices. This history covers the history of NPS as the “high school department of Northwestern College” through the first fifteen years of its life as a preparatory school independent of NWC. Unfortunately, this history only covers Northwestern Prep’s history from its inception in 1865 to 1990.

An older, but detailed, history of NPS can be found in *Centennial Story: Northwestern College 1865-1965* by E.E. Kowalke. The story of NPS is interwoven with the history of NWC, since at the time of its writing, the prep school was still the high school department. This history offers much more detail on the earliest years of the college and its high school department.

Little, if anything at this time, has been written on the final five years of Northwestern Preparatory School. During this time, NPS enjoyed increased enrollments, athletic success and continued to develop future pastors and teachers, as it had for the 125 years before that. In August 1993, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in convention determined to close Northwestern Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin after 130 years of preparing young men and women for the ministry. The decision was made to amalgamate NPS with Martin Luther Preparatory School of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin to form Luther Preparatory School on the former Northwestern campus in Watertown in the fall of 1995. On 17 May 1995, the final graduate of Northwestern Preparatory School walked across the stage with diploma in hand. At the end of the graduation service, the request was made to sing the school song, “Cheer for Old Northwestern”, one last time. As the final notes of the song dissipated in the gymnasium that day and tears were dried, the history of Northwestern Preparatory School drew to a close after 130 years of God’s grace.

Custodial history:

The custodial history of this collection is sketchy at best. Most of the materials have been donated over the years to the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library and the WELS Archives, Mequon, Wisconsin. The majority of the collection was donated to the WELS Archives from the Archives of Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota in September 2004. It is believed that these materials were stored at some point in time with the Northwestern College collection, formerly housed at Martin Luther College, instead of with the archives of Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wisconsin. They were donated to the WELS Archives when the NWC Collection was moved to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Little else is known about the custodial history of the NPS collection.

Scope and Content:

The collection is made up of materials produced by or about Northwestern Preparatory School since 1918.

The collection reflects the life of a vibrant, growing college preparatory school established for the purpose of feeding students to the worker training colleges of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, particularly Northwestern College in Watertown, Wisconsin. This collection reflects the joys and challenges that came with the co-existence of two student bodies that shared the same campus for 130 years of ministerial education. This collection leaves no doubt that the Lord used it as his instrument for the building up of his kingdom during the nearly century and a half of its partnership with Northwestern College and the synod at-large.

The collection consists of the following series:

Series 1: Documents concerning NPS administration and faculty

Series 2: NPS catalogs

Series 3: Documents concerning NPS graduations

Series 4: NPS handbooks

Series 5: Documents concerning NPS music programs

Series 6: NPS photographs

Series 7: NPS publications

Series 8: Documents concerning NPS recruitment

Series 9: Documents concerning the NPS *Rostra*

Series 10: Documents concerning NPS self-studies

Series 11: Documents concerning NPS sports

Series 12: Documents concerning NPA worship

Series 13: *The Sprinter*

Source of supplied title: Title based on the provenance of the records.

Arrangement: See appendix A for arrangement of the folders in the boxes.

Restrictions: None.

Accruals: The collection remains open for future accruals.

Series level description

The Northwestern Preparatory School Papers

Series 1: Documents concerning NPS administration and faculty

Dates: 1942-1991

Extent: 5 folders, 7.9 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of faculty reports, board of control documents, course syllabi, daily attendance records, and report cards. These documents reflect the busy challenges of administration during the final fifty years of Northwestern Prep.

Series 2: NPS catalogs

Dates: 1975-1994

Extent: 4 folders, 8.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of annual catalogs produced by Northwestern Preparatory School as a recruitment tool to be sent to prospective students considering enrolling at NPS.

Series 3: Documents concerning NPS graduations

Dates: 1953-1995

Extent: 1 folder, 2 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of service folders from nearly fifty years of graduation services at Northwestern Prep. The series also includes copies of annual graduation pictures published in the *Watertown Daily Times* announcing their NPS graduation.

Series 4: NPS handbooks

Dates: 1960-1990

Extent: 1 folder, 2.1 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of student handbooks produced annually by NPS for incoming students, with the purpose of informing them of the rules and regulations for the coming school year.

Series 5: Documents concerning NPS music programs

Dates: 1941-1995

Extent: 4 folders, 11.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of programs from annual band concerts, Christmas concerts, Easter concerts and Commencement concerts. This series includes a number of documents and programs from a number of area and national WELS High School Choralfests, as well as area and national WELS High School Band festivals. This series also includes a number of programs from a number of Prep Singers' tours.

Series 6: NPS photographs

Dates: 1918-1993

Extent: 8 folders, 14 cm. of photographic records

Scope and Content: This series consists of photographs of a variety of subjects taken by students, faculty and others. These photographs include numerous NPS graduations, sporting events, Homecomings, fine arts events and Winter Carnivals, as well as photographs of faculty members, dorm staff, athletics teams, various structures on campus and other subjects. The negatives for a number of the photographs are included in this series. Some slides are also included.

Series 7: NPS publications

Dates: 1931-1994

Extent: 3 folders, 5.7 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of recruitment and student publications from Northwestern Prep. This series includes the official school publication – *Preptalk* – which was mailed to potential students, families, and across the synod to inform them of the monthly goings-on at Northwestern Prep. Luther Preparatory School has maintained this monthly publication to this day. The series also includes the early issues of the student publication – *The Shrdu* – which began in 1931 and eventually became *The Prep Review*. Of note in this series is the introductory issue of *The Shrdu*. During the 1960s, the publication became *The Hornet*, named after the school mascot, which ended publication with the close of the school in May 1995. These publications reflect the changes that took place in the student body and on the campus over several decades.

Series 8: Documents concerning NPS recruitment

Dates: 1960-1992

Extent: 1 folder, 0.8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of pamphlets, photos, correspondence and other documents used for the purpose of recruiting students, who were considering studying for the preaching or teaching ministry. This series reflects the development of pamphlets and materials used for this purpose.

Series 9: Documents concerning the NPS Rostra

Dates: 1959-1993

Extent: 1 folder, 0.8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of programs, rehearsal schedules, constitutions and other documents pertaining to Northwestern Prep's Rostra. Rostra was the drama organization that put on several plays per year at NPS. This series reflects the long history of theater that Northwestern Prep had.

Series 10: Documents concerning NPS self-studies

Dates: 1961-1989

Extent: 5 folders, 10.8 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of reports, minutes, correspondence and other documents pertaining to two major synodical self-studies that involved Northwestern Prep. The first self-study, conducted 1976-1977, involved the purpose of the preparatory schools and the academies. This self-study eventually resulted in the 1979 amalgamation of Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge, South Dakota and Martin Luther Academy in New Ulm, Minnesota to form Martin Luther Preparatory School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The second self-study, conducted 1986-1988, eventually resulted in the 1995 amalgamation of Northwestern Prep and Martin Luther Prep to form Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin.

Series 11: Documents concerning NPS sports

Dates: 1962-1995

Extent: 2 folders, 2.5 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of programs from Homecoming and WISAA State Championship events, calendars of athletic events, an "N" from the mid-1960s or earlier, articles on Northwestern Prep graduate and Marquette University basketball player, Charles Luter, and other documents regarding the athletics programs at NPS. This series reflects the success that NPS enjoyed in athletics, particularly in football and basketball, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, as well as the role that athletics played in the lives of many NPS students over the years.

Series 12: Documents concerning NPS worship

Dates: 1977-1994

Extent: 1 folder, 0.9 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of bulletins from a variety of installation, ordination, anniversary, dedication and opening services conducted at Northwestern Prep.

Series 13: The Sprinter

Dates: 1945-1987

Extent: 20.1 cm. of textual records

Scope and Content: This series consists of copies of annual NPS yearbook, *The Sprinter*, as produced by the student body of Northwestern Prep. Of note in this series is a copy of the first yearbook produced by the NPS student body.

Appendix A

The Northwestern Preparatory School Papers
Arrangement

Box 1: Folders 1-19

Box 2: Folders 20-36; Yearbooks

Box 3: Yearbooks

Series 1: Documents concerning NPS administration and faculty
Folders 1-5

Series 2: NPS catalogs
Folders 6-9

Series 3: Documents concerning NPS graduations
Folder 10

Series 4: NPS handbooks
Folder 11

Series 5: Documents concerning NPS music programs
Folders 12-15

Series 6: NPS photographs
Folders 16-20, 34-36

Series 7: NPS publications
Folders 21-23

Series 8: Documents concerning NPS recruitment
Folder 24

Series 9: Documents concerning the NPS *Rostra*
Folder 25

Series 10: Documents concerning NPS self-studies
Folders 26-30

Series 11: Documents concerning NPS sports
Folders 31-32

Series 12: Documents concerning NPS worship
Folder 33

Series 13: *The Sprinter*