

Family Action Network (FAN) and the New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA) proudly present:

# Beyond Smart: How Grit, Curiosity and Character Help Kids Succeed and Thrive

## Paul Tough

*Author, Whatever It Takes: Geoffrey Canada's Quest to Change Harlem;  
Contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine and The New Yorker*

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012**  
**7:00 PM**

**New Trier HS/Northfield  
Cornog Auditorium  
7 Happ Rd., Northfield**

*CPDUs available.  
Book sale and signing.  
Free and open to the public.*  
**familyactionnetwork.net**  
*FAN's thirtieth anniversary*





**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Evening lecture sponsored by Family Action Network (FAN) and the New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA).**

**Thursday, September 27, 2012, Beyond Smart: How Grit, Curiosity and Character Help Kids Succeed and Thrive, 7:00-9:00 PM**, New Trier High School/Northfield Campus, Cornog Auditorium, 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, 60093. Is IQ the most important factor in a child's success? It's easy to assume so, given our culture's preoccupation with test scores from kindergarten through college and beyond. There may be a straight line running from IQ to ACT performance, but groundbreaking new research by neuroscientists, psychologists, economists and medical doctors has identified very different qualities, such as persistence, curiosity, conscientiousness, optimism and self-control, as essential for success.

The top journalist reporting on these innovative research threads is **Paul Tough**, who has written acclaimed articles about character and childhood in the *New York Times Magazine* and *The New Yorker*. His brand-new book, ***How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character***, synthesizes cutting-edge findings about child and adolescent success and failure. Tough uses the umbrella term "character" to incorporate what University of Chicago economist James Heckman (the key scholar in this work) calls "noncognitive skills;" or what a psychologist calls "personality traits;" or what a neuroscientist would call "executive function."

Tough interlaces the research narrative with inspiring, moving stories of kids trying to gain traction out of poverty via education, and the adults working to help them, and he doesn't gloss over the enormous obstacles that they all face. But he presents a new take – it's not just impoverishment that is detrimental to child's success; more significantly, the sheer amount of stress in these fragile, volatile environments eclipses all else. To that point, Tough cites contemporary research on the unique stresses faced by affluent youth that result in elevated levels of anxiety, depression, and substance use. In any family or neighborhood, stress and isolating home environments affect cognitive development. Please join us for a fascinating evening with an incisive, nuanced, compassionate reporter on this important topic.

Sponsored by the **Family Action Network (FAN)** and the **New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA)**. FAN is grateful for its 2012-13 partnerships with **Compass Health Center; North Shore Community Bank; Quintessential New Trier** magazine; and **The Book Stall at Chestnut Court**. **CPDUs available for education professionals; no pre-registration required**. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.fan-ntts.org](http://www.fan-ntts.org) or the NTPA page at [newtrier.k12.il.us](http://newtrier.k12.il.us)

