



Effectiveness of Tinkle Times up for debate

by Nora Crumley

Located in every New Trier bathroom are posters for the Tinkle Times, which broadcasts true facts about drug use at New Trier to the disbelief of many students.

Most, if not all students, have seen the flyers that line bathroom walls stating facts like “80% of New Trier students did not smoke weed in the past month” or “smoking weed can cause your IQ to drop.”

These flyers are part of a social norms campaign called Tinkle Times, named after its location in the school bathrooms. A social norms campaign, like the “click it or ticket” campaign to increase the use of seat belts, takes common misconceptions about society and shares true facts about these misconceptions that may not be available to the public, and the Tinkle Times is no different.

The Tinkle Times shares true facts about the prevalence of drug used at New Trier, showing that it is not as high as some students believe.

Kristine Hummel, Student Assistance Program Coordinator, is part of the group that creates the Tinkle Times. “A social norms campaign is trying to hold off the behavior,” said Hummel, “We want to get the real facts out there. We want to show the student body that not that many students are taking drugs or drinking alcohol. Drug use in New Trier is not as prevalent as the student perception.”

The original idea of putting the

Tinkle Times in school bathrooms came from a panel of students five years ago. “Students came up with the idea to put the posters in the bathroom. They thought that students might stop and look at it,” said Hummel.

The data used in the Tinkle Times flyers is collected every two years through a survey taken in kinetic wellness classes. The survey was taken last year and will again be taken next year. “We have been doing this survey since 2002. The goal of this survey is to spread facts. The survey is a prevention strategy to hold off drug use in New Trier teens,” said Hummel.

Hummel also assures that all the facts are true. “We have a statistician not connected to the school who checks all the facts, and we throw away those surveys that are not taken seriously,” said Hummel.

Despite Hummel’s assurances that the facts are 100% real, many New Trier students still question the accuracy. Sophomore Jackie Thompson said, “I think that more people are doing drugs than they actually stated. I feel like many people lied on the survey.”

Sophomore Natalie Shumate said, “Last year when I took the survey I didn’t even finish, and I know that a lot of people lied and treated the survey as a joke.”

The last question on the survey asks students whether or not they took the test seriously. According to Hummel, close to 90% of students

reported that they answer the survey truthfully, but close to 60% of students believed their peers answered the survey truthfully.

“This also shows the student perception verses the reality of the student body at New Trier,” said Hummel.

With close to 90% of students claiming they answered the survey truthfully, the facts broadcasted in the Tinkle Times appear to be true and accurately represent the New Trier student body.

“I don’t think anyone takes them seriously,” said sophomore Alec Lestrud. Senior Bella Morgan said “I read them for fun sometimes but I don’t find them helpful to the student body. They’re just something people make fun of.”

“I think the Tinkle Times would make a bigger impact on the student body if it had facts that scared people away from doing drugs,” said Thompson.

But according to Hummel, using scare tactics is not proven to work as well as using basic facts to prevent drug use from the beginning.

Another common critique from students is that the location of the Tinkle Times is in the school bathrooms. Junior Ryann Tuffield said, “I do take them [Tinkle Times] seriously but they seem out of place in the bathroom. I am not going in there to read about drug use at New Trier.” Morgan added “they would be better in advisory rooms or in hallways.”

TREVIANS, STRIVE TO DO YOUR BEST.



USING WEED DECREASES YOUR MOTIVATION.*

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).

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Whether or not the Tinkle Times is benefiting the student body is questionable, but Tinkle Times is well known throughout the student

body. “You remember them,” said sophomore Hannah Coffey. The reason why is still up for debate.

Alumni join the Hall

by Blake Sammann

There seems to be no correlation between Rainn Wilson, Christie Hefner, Donald Rumsfeld, and Rahm Emanuel.

After all, how does Wilson, an Emmy award-winning actor best known for his role as Dwight Schrute on the “The Office,” have any connection to former White House Chief of Staff and current mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel?

The answer is simple, yet speaks volumes. They graduated from the same high school, New Trier.

It seems unthinkable that a high school could boast such a wide range of distinguished alumni. Wilson (‘84), Emanuel (‘77) are just a few of the names most associated with New Trier.

Other distinguished Trevians are actor Charlton Heston (‘44), current CEO of Boeing James McNerney (‘67), dean of Harvard Law School Martha Minow (‘72), three time Pulitzer prize winner Archibald McLeish (attended), and Fallout Boy front man Pete Wentz (attended).

“I think it is very cool to know that New Trier has a consistent track record of preparing students for the real world,” said junior Meg Riordan.

Communication between New Trier and it’s alum is maintained through the alumni community website, which keeps communication between alumni and New Trier in ways such as promoting upcoming

events, donating to New Trier, spirit wear, and an alumni directory.

However, one way that alumni are giving back to the students of New Trier is by coming back to speak to students about their past and present experiences in order to give students a look at life after high school.

Nicole Dizon, Director of Communications said, “One of the greatest benefits for students is hearing about the very different paths these leaders took to rise to the top of their fields and how their New Trier experience helped set them on those paths.”

Senior Jack Klein said, “It would be great to hear from Bruce Matthews [‘07 NFL Hall of Fame]. Being a Hall of Fame offensive lineman, I feel like he would have great advice for up and coming college football players such as myself as I am playing football at Saint Olaf next year.”

Alumni from New Trier have no problem with success in the real world, but for those who go above and beyond, the alumni association has come up with a way to honor such achievers. The Alumni Hall of Honor was created in 2011 to honor the best and brightest from New Trier and celebrate their success.

The 2015 class of the New Trier Hall of Honor are: James Collins (‘57), Christine Ebersole (‘72), Peter Henry (‘87), William Kellogg (‘87), Mark Kirk (‘77), Michael Pyle (‘57), Mary Lu Roff (‘72), Sarah Ruhl (‘92), Michael Shamberg (‘62), Clifford Tabin (‘72), and Paul Zelinsky (‘70).

Administration expects little change from enrollment dip

by Sarah McAtamney

New Trier has experienced a recent drop in student enrollment, causing concern among students and staff.

According to Superintendent Dr. Linda Yonke, this drop is minor and expected.

“There was a population growth for about ten years that started in the mid-90’s and went until around 2005,” stated Yonke.

This growth was natural as housing was turning over in the early 90’s, causing older families to move out of the district and younger families to move in.

However, the district was aware that this growth in enrollment was going to taper off.

“There are two factors which impact enrollment; housing and birth rate,” said Yonke.

Every two years the school hires a demographer who looks at many factors and patterns including schools students come from, how many families move into the district each year, and why families are moving to the district.

“The demographer looks at housing prices, how many houses are in the district, the age of children in the houses, and tries to figure out all of the trends,” said Assistant Principal of Administrative Services Gerry Munley.

Over the past 6 or 7 years, the birth rate has dropped significantly in

the area.

According to Yonke, this impacts New Trier because there aren’t as many children being born in the district, so there are fewer kindergartners, leading to fewer 8th graders and so forth.

However, kindergarten class sizes are unhelpful in determining high school class size. “We never have been able to look at a kindergarten class and predict how many students we will have freshman year because so many families move in when kids are in elementary school,” said Yonke.

Additionally, the economic downturn of 2008 affected the size of enrollment. Not as many families were moving into the district because they couldn’t afford the high cost of living.

At the same time, families haven’t been moving out because the value of property had gotten so low, said Yonke.

“The good thing is that housing has stabilized and we are starting to have more families moving in; however, the birth rate is still low. We are predicting that we will stay around 4,000 kids for at least the next 5 years,” said Yonke.

The freshman class next year will be a very large class, and those students are called “9-1-1 babies.”

According to Yonke, after a large event or tragedy, there is a big increase in the birth rate, which we can see happened after 9/11.

The demographer looks ahead

15 years in their projection, going until the 2029-30 school year.

“Usually the demographic projections are pretty accurate for the first five years, but everything beyond that becomes less accurate,” said Munley.

The demographer gives three projections: one that shows lower enrollment than projected, one for higher enrollment, and one for currently anticipated enrollment.

Contrary to popular belief, the amount of students who choose to attend private schools in the area does not affect the enrollment change for New Trier.

About 10% of Loyola students live in the district, while the other 90% live outside the township.

New Trier has not seen a notable increase in the number of children choosing to attend those private schools recently.

Regardless of the enrollment change, teachers and class sizes will stay roughly the same.

“We added a lot of teachers when we were growing and we have kept a higher number of teachers. However, there has been a minor reduction in the teaching staff,” said Yonke.

There are almost 400 teachers in the school and although some reductions are being made, the administration said they are trying to keep the teaching staff steady.