

Code of Conduct enforced 365 days a year

Administration looks at individual actions to determine punishment

by May Paddor

Three strikes and you're out doesn't only apply to baseball. The Extracurricular Code of Conduct, which is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days every year, is administered by the Student Activity Coordinators to every athlete, student club leader, and performing arts member.

Despite its governing effect, not many students are aware of the Code of Conduct and its jurisdiction. The Code of Conduct is found in the NTHS guidebook and, "seeks to foster the health, safety, and welfare of participants and promotes high standards of conduct, citizenship, and good decision-making."

Junior and performing arts participant Sally Kozminski said, "The student code of conduct is necessary for extracurricular activities, even if it is not mentioned very often. In theatre specifically, the code is not brought up much because our teachers and directors assume that we as students are aware of the code's rules and consequences, but

in case they are needed, they can be reiterated easily."

While not everyone may agree, junior rower Josephine Olson said, "It is unrealistic for the code to be 365 days a year. Since kids see it as just another rule that no one follows or enforces, it is not taken very seriously. If we changed the wording to focus on in season violations and then seriously enforced the rule, we would have a lot less people ignoring the code of conduct."

Student Activities sponsors, coaches and directors all enforce the Code of Conduct and make sure students stay in line.

"All extracurricular leaders get notifications of Saturday school and things like that, any disciplinary issue. We get those notifications in emails from the advisor chair offices and the assistant principle," Student Activities Coordinator, Stacy Kolack said.

Violations include substance abuse, truancies, failing classes, and vandalism. Director of Student Life Athena Arvanitis said, "Of all of our infractions, the biggest ones that you hear about are substance abuse and academic integrity."

Code violations, or infractions, are found out in a number of ways. "If it's completely out of school, we get information all sorts of ways. Any extracurricular leader has the

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The 2016-2017 New Trier Guidebook includes the code of conduct NTHS

obligation to investigate and to do their diligence to figure out what the context was and what happened," Kolack said.

The standard for violations is that first violations can get you suspended from each activity for up to 25% of that season or the time available of participation. Severe violations can lead to longer suspensions. During a student's suspension, they can attend

their club's meetings or try out for a sport but they cannot participate in club or athletic events.

Performing Arts is a little different. The guidebook states "a student's participation during the suspension will be determined by the Performing Arts Coordinator in accordance with the specifics of the performance opportunity." But the suspension from the code violation

will not carry over to the next show or production.

The second violation can lead to 50% suspension of the time allotted for the extracurricular activity. The same rules for participation apply as the first code violation. While the third violation can mean that students cannot participate at all for the rest of their high school career.

However, Kolack stressed that most code violations consequences are case by case and depend on the student coordinator. Most violations will not carry over into the remainder of a student's high school career.

Like with state and federal laws, students and parents can appeal the consequences given. When a family appeals the decision, the principal, superintendent, and assistant principal can get involved, said Arvanitis.

The Code of Conduct was created to help students. Arvanitis said, "Kids make mistakes. It's all a part of growing up and being a teenager in high school. But how do we create moments where we can create moments with the student, come to some common understanding on why some behaviors are not sought after or how they could make better decisions and then move forward from there. It's not about the penalty, it's about working with the student."

The debate continues: is it better to have finals before or after winter break?

More students prefer finals before break

by Jack Soble

The majority of students are unhappy that first semester exams were after winter break again this year.

Many feel that the schedule change to move the exams back to after winter break was the wrong move. Some students prefer to get them over with in December and have two weeks of no studying over winter break.

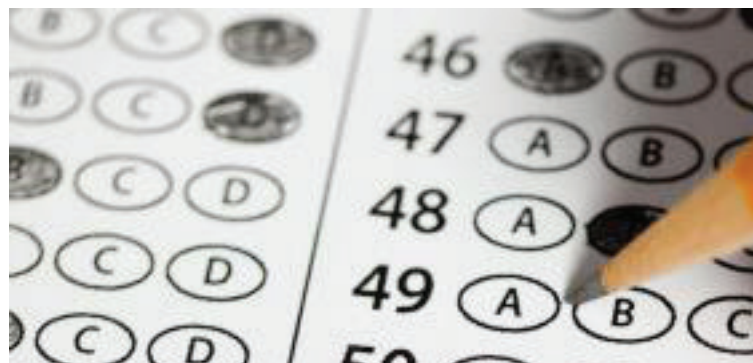
"I just think everything dies down over break," senior Matt Mulhern said. "It's a two-week gap, and you're not really focusing on schoolwork. Where if you did it before break, you'd learn all the material and then you'd take the final. It'd probably help performance."

"I prefer them after break, because they make the semesters more even. I also think they really felt rushed before break."

Mulhern also saw the decrease of stress in himself and among his peers when he took finals before break, explaining that it's "easier to bite the bullet."

Junior Brandon O'Neil agreed with Mulhern. "I would have [exams] before break, because then you don't have to stress over your winter break," he said.

Many students felt that having finals before break produced less anxiety. Sophomore Darcy Barkal said, "It's a lot less stressful, and it's



Students negatively react to the post-break finals schedule Collegeboard

nice to get a fresh start after break."

While these students felt that having finals before break made life easier, not all students share that sentiment. Senior Elizabeth Wei shed light on the issue. "Senior year, you have a lot of college applications due Jan 1, and it wouldn't be smart to put finals week together with college application deadlines," Wei said.

According to Assistant Principal for Administrative Services Gerry Munley, the biggest factor in deciding when to have finals was the construction on campus. The school was "trying to create a calendar to increase the length of the summer. They tried to make a very long construction season, and I think exams were moved as a function of that," Munley said.

Some faculty agree with the students who believe finals should be before break. "I liked them last year before break, because then when everyone heads into winter break the semester's over and nothing's lingering. There are no more stressors hovering through vacation," English teacher Jay Rosenberg said.

Science Department Chair Michael Lee also supports finals before break. Lee said, "When a kid has finals after winter break, there's two scenarios. Either the kid did not study, which is not good. Or the kid is studying, and that's also not good."

He also stated that based on informal conversations, he believes

that the teachers in his department would also like to have finals before break.

However, not all staff members agree. "I prefer them after break, because they make the semesters more even. I also think they really felt rushed before break," Math teacher Aimee Hart said.

Hart said that she understands why students would want to get finals over with and have a work-free break, while Lee pointed out that teachers who teach one-semester courses would have a problem with uneven semesters.

Both Hart and Rosenberg said that their finals were altered from last year based the length of the semester and the amount of topics they had time to teach.

While the school calendar has been solidified until the 2018-2019 school year, the class of 2020 and beyond could see changes to the finals schedule. Assistant Principal Munley didn't make any promises, but speculated that the schedule could be changed.

"People are considering moving it because they know that there was such positive reaction last year. This is something people have considered for a long time, and construction made the opportunity, and it was an experiment as well as a necessity. So knowing that people really liked it, I think some people would really like to do it again."

SAT mistiming mishap

Proctor's mistake causes distress

by Eleanor Kaplan

On Jan. 21 at Loyola Academy, many student's SAT scores, including juniors Rachael Chiao and Olivia Stensberg, were deemed invalid because of improper timing.

The administrative error caused confusion and anger from students, who believed their time was wasted.

Soon after completing the four-hour test on Saturday morning, Chiao said, "Everything seemed totally fine. In fact, everyone in my room seemed to be finishing up before time was called on each section."

Three days after the test, Chiao received an email from the SAT administration stating, "We regret to inform you that an administrative irregularity occurred in the room in which you tested." Included in the email were a formal apology and the details of the test makeup, which is to be at Loyola Academy on Feb. 4.

After calling SAT, Chiao discovered that the proctor of the exam had given the students less time than the test prescribed. For this reason, all of the exams were deemed invalid and scores were cancelled.

When registering to take an SAT test, all students must agree to the terms and conditions. Listed in the document are the following reasons why a score could be cancelled: improper timing, seating, unapproved accommodations, or defective equipment.

"When testing irregularities occur, ETS [Educational Testing Service] may cancel an administration or individual registrations, decline to score the test, or cancel the test score."

The document goes on to state that all decisions made by the SAT administration are final and that all students will be given a makeup

date for the test, free of charge.

Although the policies of SAT cancellations are made clear in the terms and conditions, most students are still unaware that administrative errors can happen and can result in an invalid test.

"I knew the test score could be canceled if one of the students messed up or cheated, but I never thought the proctor could be the one to cause the trouble," Chiao said.

This came as a surprise to testing coordinator of New Trier, Peg Stevens, as well. "I don't remember a mistiming ever in my tenure at New Trier," Stevens said.

In administering the tests, SAT representative Jaslee Carayol said, "Test center staff receive training and instruction manuals to ensure that the SAT is properly administered." However, mistakes can be made.

For the students taking the exam at Loyola, it was particularly irritating to be cooped up inside for three to four hours for the test because it occurred on an unseasonably warm Saturday that reached the highest temperatures since late October.

Chiao said, "I was really frustrated because even if I didn't have enough time, I still finished the test ahead of time so it didn't affect me."

However, on Feb. 2, about a week after receiving the original email about the score cancellation, Chiao and Stensberg were sent another email from the SAT administration offering the options of either releasing the scores of the original test or retesting at no additional charge.

The email stated that students can stick with their original score if they, "believe [their] performance was not affected."

If students choose the first option, their scores will be released within seven weeks of the date it was taken. To students such as Chiao who finished the test with extra time, the option to submit the original scores was an easy choice. "I'm not going to retake the test", she said