

## Student Views

This week we asked Trevians what their reactions were to the VPN being blocked. Here's what they had to say...



**Gabe Isaacson, Sophomore**

"I felt like the school didn't take the students' freedom into consideration. Especially for their free time like during lunch and free periods."



**Brooke Schofield, Sophomore**

"I was really annoyed because the school shouldn't be taking control of what I do in my free time. I have to waste data."



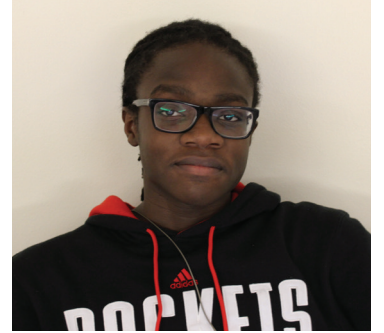
**Kameron Valdiva, Junior**

"My phone had an older OS, so I didn't even need one. But I thought it was stupid because it makes students feel even more like they have no rights or privacy."



**Tayyaba Ali, Junior**

"I didn't actually know about this until recently. My debater friends were really angry about it and they kept arguing about how stupid they think the school is."



**Earl Chase, Senior**

"I don't really care because I don't use most social media at school."

## C'est important de prendre un langue

If you can read that you'll understand why

by Will D'Angelo

Dropping a class opens up valuable time during the school day to do homework, eat lunch, or even screw around in the library.

Dropping a class, especially for juniors and seniors, is often much better than the alternative: sitting through repetitive or uninteresting classes with sometimes younger students.

All these reasons and more contribute to the epidemic of upperclassmen dropping their language courses.

While New Trier does not require students to take a language course, the graduation requirement document states that "colleges are looking for diversity and rigor in the high school academic record," suggesting that Trevians take two to four years of the same language.

Because New Trier accepts junior high credit for languages, many students enter high school in years 2, 3, or even 4 in the language they have been taking since middle school.

Not only are incoming freshmen on different levels, but this system puts some of them on track to attain the recommended number of language years by their sophomore or juniors years.

As a result, many students choose to take less than four years of the same language. While there are various extenuating circumstances and reasons as to why someone would drop an MCL class, the negative effects of it extend far beyond having an extra forty minutes to shoot the breeze with your buddies in the Scrounge.

Language, whether it be Spanish, Chinese, French, or even Latin, can only benefit you after your time as a Trevian.

Going into college with four-plus years of a language under your belt can help you gain exemption from language courses (which can cost hundreds of dollars) at your post-high school institution, as well as help you pick up an attractive foreign exchange student by impressing him or her with a simple "Bonjour."

But seriously, knowing a language will help you in the real world. Being

proficient (even slightly) in a foreign language can help you if you decide to travel abroad for a semester in college or if you are looking for a job that might hire based on knowledge of other languages.

One MCL teacher in particular is quite experienced with various foreign dialects and is adamant about students staying in the program here at New Trier.

Venera Stabinsky, the only German teacher at Winnetka, grew up speaking Russian and Tatar, and it wasn't until college that she learned English.

"I have been speaking German for almost three decades and English for about 15 years," Stabinsky said, noting that it was in high school that she first learned German, the language that has provided her a career.

"Students' [language] proficiency develops over time and with a lot of practice. If you do not use the language, you lose it, and I can attest to that."

Learning a language takes commitment. It is on the student to complete nightly homework and even practice in his or her free time, because as everyone knows, practice makes perfect.

Despite this obligation, Stabinsky said it's worth it. "Nowadays, languages are essential for careers in a lot of different industries."

Another multi-lingual student chimed in on his love for foreign languages and the role they play in our daily lives. Matthew Mickiewicz, a native Polish speaker, has been studying German since freshman year and adds that he has not regretted one moment of it.

"It's essential to know other languages (like German) because it gives you an entirely different point of view. People who speak English their whole lives don't know anything outside of America," Mickiewicz said. "Knowing a language gives you a completely different perspective on the global community, and most importantly, it gives you another identity."

Although dropping a language class in favor of a free period might be tempting, you gain a cultural identity and receive an edge that English-only speakers can only dream of receiving.

## Here's why I dropped the Droid

The past me would not be happy with the present me

by Michael Blickstein

Since I got the iPhone 3GS in 2010, I've had eight smartphones. Five of them were iPhones and three of them were Android phones. I, along with most New Trier students, carry a shiny new iPhone and there's a one-word reason why: prestige.

If you have an iPhone, you have an iPhone. You have power and privilege. You belong with the rest of a big world that sends those blue bubbles back and forth and chimes that familiar marimba sound that can send a whole room diving into their pockets.

What companies like Apple, Starbucks and Beats by Dre have in common is that they put all of their efforts into advertising and making consumers understand that these products are for everyone, and that's why they sell so much.

None of these first world commodities are the best bang for your buck. These products are not inherently better than products with a main focus on quality and value, but these corporations spend far more time and money making consumers think they are.

Now, this isn't to say that an iPhone is a bad smartphone. It's far from it. iPhones are consistently exceptional devices, at least until Apple thinks you should buy a new one.

They are widely regarded as the best all-around phone by most tech critics every September because they've been incrementally perfecting their product since the initial release in 2007.

One of the bigger edges Apple has over every Android manufacturer is that it doesn't need some absurd hardware to make their phone run smoothly. Apple's specifications are laughed at by critics until they get their hand on the device and never want to let go because the phone runs smoother than even the most outrageously overpowered Android phones.

The most important example of this is that an iPhone battery is only about 50-66% the size of the average Android battery, and the iPhone typically lasts longer and charges faster than the average Android phone.



The Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge (L) and iPhone 6s (R) | [Apple.com](http://Apple.com) & [Samsung.com](http://Samsung.com)

The iPhone just works like it's supposed to. I can use it anywhere at any time, and if something breaks, I can take it to any of the 481 Apple Stores around the world to get it fixed.

Getting a new iPhone, which I can do every year because of my financing plan, is like buying the brand new edition of a college textbook: you would be at a disadvantage if you bought an older version.

iPhones are also generally more universal than Android phones. Even though Samsung has about 10% more adoption from smartphone users than Apple does, Samsung released 27 new smartphones last year compared to Apples two flagships. This means there are more top of the line iPhone units in circulation than top of the line Samsung units and this will give case/accessory manufacturers more incentive to design for Apple and makes it hard for Android users to find accessories.

Android's biggest problem is system fragmentation, which is when the Android ecosystem is broken up into smaller parts because different manufacturers develop custom software on top of the underlying Android OS.

This results in bugs and an all around lack of support because of the open source nature of Google's OS.

If you have a Nexus (Google's flagship) this isn't a problem because Android was built for Nexus phones, similar to how iOS is built for iPhones.

But if you have a phone from any other manufacturer (excluding Motorola), you will be waiting between several and infinite months to get a software update because developers have to account for compatibility with custom software.

Despite the older versions of the Android OS running fairly well, everyone knows that Apple releases a new iPhone and a new stable feature-packed version of iOS every September.

And it's designed so that almost every iPhone can run it. Having an iPhone makes your connected lifestyle simple and easy.

Beyond all of the specific reasons, New Trier students, and people in general use iPhones because the phones work and everyone they know uses them. Admit it, you get really annoyed when you're texting someone who has the green bubbles instead of the blue ones or you have to call them instead of FaceTime. I like my iPhone because it just works. I don't think I will go back to using any more Android train wrecks anytime soon.