

## Student Views

This week we asked Trevs how “Throw It Out For Real” has changed their attitude towards littering. Here’s what they said...



**Jill Lerner, Sophomore**

“I think it opened people’s eyes to see that it’s a real problem.”



**Albie Smith, Junior**

“I actually haven’t watched it yet, but it sounds really cool and I think it’s a good thing to be aware of.”



**Kat Eschel, Junior**

“When I see litter on the ground, I’m more likely to pick it up now and know it’s not the custodians job to pick it up. You’re literally ten feet from the trash can; you can throw it out.”



**Ben Klise, Senior**

“I didn’t litter in the first place, but “Throw It Out For Real” didn’t really change that. I still see lots of people littering in the cafeteria.”



**Sacha Appel, Senior**

“I think people are more conscious about where their trash ends up. I don’t usually eat lunch in the cafeteria but it seems like there’s less trash elsewhere.”

## What the ideal advisery morning looks like to me

by Madeline Hultquist

You step into advisery.

It’s Monday morning- a dreaded time for most high school students. You are tired and anticipating a week full of quizzes, tests, and homework.

Maybe you have a Starbucks drink to keep you warm or a cup filled with your favorite tea. Maybe you have nothing but your headphones and a song stuck in your head.

You make your way to your seat- the one you always sit at, even though it’s not really assigned.

It’s Monday morning, and you just want to start your week off in a positive way. Maybe that means listening to music.

Maybe it’s catching up on some homework you missed over the weekend. Maybe it’s talking with your friends about that awesome event you attended on Saturday.

*‘During free time in advisery, everyone should be free to do what they would like. But they should do so while being courteous and having respect for others.’*

The New Trier Guidebook for 2015-2016 says that “each adviser room reflects the combined personalities of the adviser and the advisees.

Ultimately, each adviser room develops a personality of its own as advisees make friends with students from different communities and with varying interests.”

In the advisery system at New Trier, every room is different, as the guidebook explained. As well as having different personalities, some adviseries have scheduled



Seniors Clare Rooney and Hope Hayward talk over Hannah Petry | Travis

activities that they participate in on a certain day every week.

On those days, when advisery is not filled with free time, there are no problems, no conflicts of interest, because there is no real choice with what to do.

It is the majority of advisery days that need to be discussed. The days with twenty five whole minutes of freedom.

And those days are filled with free time, really. But the thing is, everyone wishes to do different things with their free time.

Some people want to sit quietly and read a book or do their homework. Some people want to talk with their friends about something exciting happening in their life. Some people feel wide awake, while others would much rather still be in bed.

These are all legitimate activities that students spend their advisery doing. Most students at New Trier ask nothing of advisery except for time to do what they wish.

The problem is, you cannot do your homework when someone is blasting a ‘great’ song on their phone.

During free time in advisery, everyone should be free to do what they would like. But they should do so while being courteous and having respect for others.

Whatever your plans for

advisery are, they are yours, and yours alone. Just because you want to listen to music does not mean everyone else wants to. This is an important concept that everyone must learn.

You try to relax, and you put on your headphones and play some music. But all of a sudden, your music is overpowered by the voices of the student sitting next to you.

They are talking, or rather yelling, across the room to someone else. Their voice permeates the quiet solitude your headphones had provided.

If you want to play your own music, wear headphones. Do not force everyone in your advisery to listen to your preferred taste in music.

If you have a burning desire to talk to someone on the other side of the room, stand up and walk over to them.

It really doesn’t take a lot of effort. Just think, is what you’re doing disruptive to other people’s free time? If the answer is yes, rethink your actions.

At New Trier, we pride ourselves on being mature and accomplished young adults who know how to handle ourselves in different situations. As such, let’s be respectful of others and not act like barbarians during advisery.

## Tickets aren’t colorblind

by Jasmine Gonzalez

Time after time we are presented with the ways in which society privileges people based on factors such as socioeconomic status and race.

Yes, race and social class are two different things but they are very much connected. So it is no coincidence that the racial makeup of one of the most affluent townships in the country is over 85% non-Hispanic White, according to the Census Reporter.

Thus, the majority of New Trier students enjoy the benefits of high socio-economic status, or white privilege, if not both.

One of the stark differences between affluent minors and their less privileged counterparts is how the justice systems deals with them when they break the law. Something many New Trier students are familiar with, getting a ticket, is a perfect example of this disparity.

When a minor here is caught with marijuana, he or she receives, something called a municipal ticket, which, according to police liaison Josue Perez, is not uncommon in this area.

This ticket provides whoever receives it the option of paying a fine of \$250 (if they are over 18 years of age) or (for minors) a mandatory hearing; this usually results in some sort of community service. Either way, the minor will not be arrested or have the offense put on his/her record.

Now, if you are caught with any other illegal substance other than the cannabis (cocaine, heroin, etc.) you will face the same punishment as everyone else, arrest and a tainted record.

That fact that this option is only applicable to a cannabis related offense may make it seem like much less of an advantage than what it really is. However, when you take into consideration the fact that the most used illicit drug in the United States is cannabis, according to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the impact it can make comes into perspective.

But how did this system come to be? According to Officer Perez, the high crime rate in Cook County had the courts overwhelmed. The solution? Create a system that gives troubled minors a second chance to encourage rehabilitation, as opposed to having one mistake essentially

“ruin” your future.

In less affluent communities, where this is just not an option, any minor caught with marijuana is arrested, the offense put on their record, and likely to spend at least a night in jail. Too often, many continue down a path leading them to spend most of their adolescence in Juvenile correction centers. Something as simple as a ticket for cannabis can make a big difference.

The fact that less privileged minors in the rest of Cook County (and most of the United States) do not have this privilege, proves that this is more of a class (and therefore race) issue. This is another way in which society attempts to keep those less privileged from becoming successful.

Illicit drugs have always been a major issue. But not the way in which the issue is being addressed; the problem is that one mistake can criminalize a child for the rest of their life, simply because they were not born into privilege.

With countless cases of police brutalizing and even killing people from poverty and crime stricken areas (which overwhelmingly tend to be people of color), it becomes quite clear there is much more to fear than just a criminal record.

On the other hand, people from wealthier backgrounds (which overwhelmingly tend to be white) are often not punished for their crimes, and if they are, it is much less severe.

At this point you may still be confused as to why race is as much of a factor as class in this situation. Yes, there are many affluent people of color across the country as well as impoverished white people.

People of color face many obstacles to obtain the same socioeconomic status as their white counterparts. The history behinds this inequality is much too long to explain, but it’s real.

According to the Institute for Research on Poverty, Blacks and Hispanics are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than non Hispanic Whites. With impoverished communities also having the highest crime rates, the connection becomes clear.

When the justice system chooses to only benefit people based on their already existing privilege in society, they are pushing aside those with the highest need.