

# Student Views

We asked Trevians if they felt the pep rally built school spirit. This is what they said...



**Jibriel Saqibuddin, Junior**

“Yes. We put an earthquake magnitude device on the ground and it was a 5.5. It showed everyone was happy.”



**Frances Dolan, Senior**

“I think it did. It brought awareness to spirit week and the homecoming dance.”



**Richard Jo, Junior**

“In some sense because we could talk to kids in our advisories, but the loud music was off-putting to some people.”



**Ava Crowe, Sophomore**

“Yeah. It was really fun and got everyone out of their seats.”



**Meici Yang, Junior**

“I think it was intended to, although it lacked a bit of motivation.”

## The pun-damental problem



by Arjun Thakkar

During my summer job as an aftercamp recreation counselor, a camper asked me to help him write a script to perform for his ‘bad jokes’ routine for the talent show.

Since cringe-worthy humor is my default mode of speaking, I leaped at the opportunity. Later in the day, we went on stage, ready to entertain the audience.

When the kid told me how he wasn’t watering his garden and I asked him “water you doing,” I heard the expected response (they were bad jokes after all), loud groans and boo-ing from the older folks in the auditorium, but beneath their voices, a few laughs.

Even though a few of my co-workers were temporarily disgusted by my use of puns, that camp made that summer the best I’ve ever had.

It was the highlight of my day to write a silly joke and make campers light up with joy and other counselors shake their heads and cringe.

On the opposite spectrum, though, is the senseless hatred I receive among peers at every single attempt at humor. If I ever toss out a pun with my friends, I hear common, demeaning insults from a few of them, including “You are actually terrible” or “I hate you now.”

I know these insults are in jest, but why is there such harsh treatment for a harmless attempt at humor? Whenever I get alienated for cracking a joke, I feel like *cracking*

someone’s skull open to see where that hate stems from.

Many of my friends ask me why I use puns so often, and I do so primarily because I find day-to-day interactions as so formulaic and lacking in any charm. I go through the standard “Hi, how are you, good thanks” kind of conversation at least seven or eight times a day.

I don’t mean to devalue that polite chit-chat, but it’s almost always required before we can move on to more interesting discussions. So why not try and make that part less mundane by throwing in a little wordplay here or there?

I also employ my dry sense of humor to break up boredom. An academic environment simply can’t keep students excited to learn at all times.

I especially try to break someone’s Monday morning routine. You might be sitting in chemistry studying ions, and science might not be your favorite subject.

In that case, I’ll throw in my joke about suspicious electrons “keeping *anion* you,” and if I’m lucky, I can at least make you chuckle, and if I’m really lucky, that effort can make school a little less miserable for you.

If I can make at least one person’s day more positive, then I’m willing to take the negativity from a few ‘electrons.’

Even making a friend cringe is rewarding in its own way. I can’t count the number of times I’ve cracked a joke that was so genuinely terrible that my friends and I all started to shake our heads, grinning while cringing at the failed attempt at humor.

What I’m trying to get at from this defense of puns is that there’s no better feeling than making someone laugh, smile, or cringe, especially if they’re feeling down.

That gleam of hope that arises if

I break someone’s string of sorrow, even for just a moment, makes my presence on Earth feel justified.

I also recognize, though, that puns aren’t always necessary and can be excessive at times. There are some moments that are already great and don’t need an espresso of lighthearted humor to spur them into further greatness.

I understand how sometimes puns can take a really special time and make you remembered for ruining the moment.

Asking a friend “water you looking at” while enjoying a superb view of a river valley might just bog down the event and ruin it’s unspoken beauty. I’m definitely not speaking from experience for that one.

That idea of unspoken beauty gets at the core issue of contention regarding puns and their usage.

A conversation can feel abruptly interrupted when someone throws a pun into the mix, rendering the conversation as a frivolous thing to be made light of and not something to be taken seriously.

*There’s no better feeling than making someone laugh, smile, or cringe, especially if they’re feeling down.*

In the situation where you’re talking and you suddenly think of something funny to say, you have to make a crucial decision.

Will you speak your mind aloud and risk being shunned, or just *mind* your own business and keep it unspoken?

How’s that for a *pun*-chline?

## HURRICANE RELIEF AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

In mid to late August, Hurricane Harvey devastated areas of Texas and Louisiana. 39 people have died, and survivors are struggling to rebuild their homes and businesses.

Not long after, Hurricane Irma passed through the Caribbean as well as the Southeast in early September, killing at least 80.

As if these two storms weren’t enough, Hurricane Maria ravaged Puerto Rico in late September. Parts of the island are still without power, in part due to the delayed response by the federal government.

**Contribute to the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund online here:**

<https://ghcf.org/hurricane-relief/>

**Donate to GlobalGiving’s Irma relief fund here:**

<https://www.globalgiving.org/hurricane-irma/>

**Help out victims by donating to United for Puerto Rico here:**

<http://unidosporpuertorico.com/en/>

## The New Trier News

Published Fridays during the school year by the students of New Trier Township High School, 385 Winnetka Avenue, Illinois 60093.

Correspondence may be directed to the New Trier News Office, Room 011, or by calling (847) 784-2278.

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