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Hello, my name is Jake Patino, this is my essay on how to make schools safer. One of my ideas is that all schools need a way of communicating around the school, in case there is an intruder on school grounds, all of the teachers and staff can better communicate with each other. Keeping the students safe and simultaneously minimizing potential harm to everyone. How do we do that you may ask? Well, walky-talkies!.. Simple and inexpensive as we all know most schools don't have much funding. But that shouldn't be a reason schools should skip out on safety. Also, I believe better training the teachers and staff with self-defense classes is very important, as well as providing them with a personal defense kit, including pepper spray, taser gun, etc. That could hold off the intruder until help arrives. Monthly intruder drills should be a must, teaching the students how to act and behave in this situation could save their lives, and the lives of others. As unfortunate as it sounds we all know the statistics aren't the best here in the U.S. Another way we could keep our schools safe is to have a camera/ alarm system that connects to the nearest police station, in case an intruder does manage to break into the schools. Police officers can quickly locate it, and catch it before it has time to cause more harm. Also, there should be a couple of police officers at every school during school hours. The government should donate to schools for bullet-proof glass doors/ windows, and call it a school safety program.

Now, another topic is fire drills. I think that if there are no exits available at the time of a fire, like if your classroom is on the second or third floor. Then they should have ladders, I have this ladder at home that you can place on the bottom of the window and quickly get to safety. I suggest something like that could be helpful to get all the students out safely. The students would go out first, while the teacher makes sure no student is left behind in the classroom. That will prevent the students from having to jump out the window and hurting themselves in the process or worse, losing their lives. Also, when there is an unexpected fire drill the teachers need to go in front, check to see if there is any fire nearby, and guide the students safely out of the building. While looking around to make sure their surroundings are also safe for the students.

Another topic is tornado drills, which I think are not the best because all you do is just get down and protect your head with your hands. I think every school should have a metal underground room, where all the kids and teachers can take shelter in case of a tornado. This would protect everyone from being blown away or getting hurt by flying debris. Keeping this shelter-like room stocked up with water, snacks, and flashlights would be great!

Also, bullies are another safety problem that needs to be talked about. Teachers and school staff need to help fix this neverending problem. Although this should be the job of the parents, most often the parents of the bullies as well as the person being bullied don't know this is happening. One way to fix it is with guidance counselors, talking to the bully and the student being bullied, separately and together. Find out why the bully is bullying others. Most often they

too are going through something hard at home. Counselors can get to the bottom of what's going on before it's too late, and someone gets hurt. No one should feel scared to go to school every day, that's not okay. I also think there should be a monthly "group share" time. Where everyone comes together and shares one thing they are personally struggling with. That would help everyone bond, and let everyone know that they are not alone, not the only ones going through something hard.

Another thing to add to my list of unsafe things at school would be kids saying bad words, and disrespecting their teachers and staff. I believe that comes from kids wanting to be cool and popular. Also, hanging out with kids older than them who are a bad influence on them. Introducing them to bad things like vaping, starting at 11-15 years old, which is insane, that's a reason the UK banned vapes. Thankfully this doesn't happen in my school, but I do hear from other schools that have these problems. The only way that it can be fixed is for parents and schools to work together, and be more aware.

Dismissal time, how to keep students safe after school? One thing that could help keep kids safe is that when they go to their cars, a teacher can be out there to see if they went to the right car. Another thing could be a license plate scanner that scans every license plate that enters the school grounds. Because bad people kidnap kids by telling them their parents sent them to pick them up. This can be so easily prevented if school staff works together.

In conclusion, schools nowadays are just unsafe for everyone even the teachers, so this could make them safer because school is a place to learn and not to be put in harm's way.