

Topic: How can we make our schools safe?

Prize: \$250 for the winning essay for each grade range (3 – 5, 6 – 8, 9 – 12)

Guidelines: Essays should be no more than 1000 words. Be creative and original in your ideas.

Judging Criteria: creativity and originality, clarity and coherence, practicality of ideas

Recently in the United States school safety has been in increasing jeopardy. There's practically a school shooting every month, and who knows what else goes on. A school shooting recently that hit too close to home was the Covenant shooting in Nashville. I personally attend school twenty minutes away at a similar private Christian school. Six individuals, three adults and three young, innocent children were sadly taken because of this crazed shooter. The police response time was admirable and they neutralized the threat within a few minutes; however, if police were present on campus or patrolling around the school the response time could be shortened further combined with the bravery of our selfless officers. Those few minutes are in all truth the difference between life and death for a preschooler. Stronger and more integrated on campus security such as an entrance booth or just a bar could drastically reduce the chances of a shooter driving or walking on campus unnoticed. This would highly discourage or prevent a potential shooter from attempting to gain access to the building.

A third simple yet useful idea are random or daily security checks. Having the previously mentioned on campus officers use handheld metal detectors and swiping them over students bags every morning combined with random locker checks would easily dishearten ~~as~~ in school threats and other illicit activities. In conclusion my previously mentioned ideas in Tandem with the Active Defender Security System would severely hinder, discourage, and prevent shooters from acting out.