



Student response to new security measures

Heath Stevens • theCharger




OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 - 2020




Junior
Julia Rae East

"I am very grateful to go to a school that is very protected of their students, but I hate that in today's society schools are starting to fell and look like prisons."

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OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 - 2020




Senior
Cady Pittman

"It all feels like a façade. I've known people who have come into the school, not checked in, and have not been approached by staff asking who they are. No visitors pass, no school ID, nothing. Although we are more fortunate than other schools because we have these security measures, I would like to feel more like it's being used and being effective."

Heath Stevens • theCharger




OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 - 2020




Sophomore
Miles Caradine

"The new security policies are not perfect by any means. There is still a lot more tweaking to the new security that needs to be done. With that being said, we are fortunate to have this level of security for a public school in America."

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OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 - 2020



Senior
Walt Johnson

"I felt perfectly safe before this year, and I believe this extra security is very odd and unnecessary. If anything, I believe this fence is giving students an uneasy feeling during school, and I believe students would feel just as safe, if not safer, if the fence didn't exist. I feel that the fence wouldn't help keep intruders out."

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OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 - 2020



Freshman
Carolina Cassisa

"I'm glad they're taking our safety into consideration. I think every decision was made with our safety in mind"

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OXFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
2019 - 2020



Sophomore
Kara Beth Purdom

"I like how we now have security in the front office. The security people in the front office are there for our safety, and there needs to be someone at the front entrance of the school to monitor who is coming in and out of the school."

Staff Editorial: security measures provide more obstacles than solutions

While we are used to the new changes that come with a new school year and new administrators, the security changes this year seem like they are just for show.

We understand that the fences are there for our protection and potentially to keep an unwanted person from getting into the building, but in reality, the only thing it is going to do is add that little time it takes for the person to jump the fence. It also seems to inconvenience students, who are either trying to get to class or leave school during different times of the day.

Trying to keep the students in a general area in the morning before school or during lunch has changed the school from being a learning environment to feeling a bit more like a prison to some students. While it may not be a problem this early in the year, once students begin needing help in the morning, it is going to make the process

longer since they are going to have to get a note or find a way to get to their teacher's classroom without being told to go back to the commons or outside to the courtyard. Students are very forgetful, and they sometimes don't realize they need help or have a question until that morning. So, how are we supposed to get the help needed to further our education if we aren't allowed to go to a teacher's classroom?

Another concern for some students is assigned parking, which doesn't serve as a problem on its own. After everyone was assigned a spot and got used to parking in that specific spot, it wasn't a big deal. However, the problem is that some students either didn't get the spot they wanted or didn't get one at all due to their inability to come before they were all taken. While this situation can't be avoided, it was brought to more people's attention this year after it became required to

park in our assigned spots.

While the attention to keeping the school doors closed has increased, this has not had that much of an effect. Most of the students trying to get into the building, whether it be for lunch or just because they are running late for class, manage to find a way into the building. Student IDs are new this year, but the only time students really use them are in the cafeteria or to get on and off the bus. So, their uses are good in the sense that the school district is able to see whether or not someone is on the bus and to speed up the lunch line a little. Hopefully, in the future, the school district can use the IDs for more uses.

In addition to the IDs helping with security, there now is a person, employed by the school district, sitting in the front office constantly watching all the cameras, which monitor and record the events that happen around the school. Just having a person there watching

the cameras means that situations that could potentially be dangerous can be found quicker, and administrators, Student Resource Officers and other personnel can get there as soon as possible and stop a potentially bad situation from escalating. However, the fact that this person's only job for the whole school day is to just sit there and watch the cameras seems a little "big brother"-like to us and may make some students uncomfortable, but like everything else, everyone will get adjusted to it and forget that it is there.

We understand that all these security measures have been added this year in order to better the safety of all students and faculty. These new additions seem like a step in the right direction while others seem like a hassle. We are fortunate to have a school that is trying to change, but more changes are going to have to take place in the future.