

02/08/2022

My name is Officer Johnson of the L.A. School Police Department. I have worked in and around schools for approximately 29 years. I will explain some of my past experiences for my support of a perimeter fence at Palisades Charter High School and every other school. The first thing a fence suggest to a person with bad intentions is that they are not free to enter; there are rules. In order to access the location they have to look, ask, and be allowed to enter. When such a person is caught inside the fence they know they should not be there. They had to sneak, lie, or enter by damaging the fence. This thought process alone will deter a majority of people seeking to enter and comingle with the children of a school. Additionally, in order to legally charge any person with trespassing there needs to be a sign at every entrance and exit. If there is no fence directing people to openings where these signs are located they will simply say they did not see them due to the fact they were spaced to far apart if such large openings exist.

The severity of what these trespassers will do is sometimes related to the social norms of each particular community. All I will say is I have arrested people who have trespassed illegally onto school campuses in middle and high school for the following criminal activity to the best of my recollection.

- Possession of weapons including brass knuckles, knives and loaded hand guns.
- Possession of illegal narcotics both personal possession and with the intent to sell to other students. This includes giving out free samples which have resulted in overdoses.
- Attempting to carry out threats made whether they originated from school or neighborhood activities.
- Successfully located and assaulted, battered, and/or inflicted enough damage to be taken to the hospital or even death
- Assisted in keeping out angry family members who come to defend their children with violence. It forces them to enter via the main entrance where their demeanor and actions can be observed and appropriate actions taken by school staff.
- Sex trafficking is more persistent than people know. A guy and his friend or business partner who is a girl will befriend new recruits by offering money, drugs, and any lie you can think of that someone will say yes too. I will spare you the rest of the gruesome techniques which find our young women kidnapped, drugged, and much worse.
- Gang related aggression which is equal to and just as problematic as children and even adults arguing and wanting to harm each other over SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM nonsense.
- A rapper (input any name) will put on social media they are appearing at a location (It happened at Palisades). Not only will you have students leaving the school but you will have people from all over Los County showing up to the school trying to promote their music. The rapper, their entourage, and loyal fans WILL enter a school with perimeter breaches and access the students and staff. You will have no control over what may occur until the local police are called via a Help Call. I have seen this happen several times and in all cases there were injuries either to police officers, students, staff and/or innocent bystanders.

If fences are not a necessity at a school for safety as part of a combined effort why do we have security guards, campus aides, cameras, school resource officer or doors. We obviously cannot expect people to do the right thing and in this case respect the school and all its incumbents or we would not have police and laws.

A fence is an extension of the security guard whose job is to look toward the outside of the school.

A fence is an extension of the campus aide's ability to safely interact with students by limiting interference from outsiders who they may or may not recognize until it is too late.

A fence keeps out domestic violence suspects, stay away order suspects, unhoused people, dogs, burglars, and all other unwanted persons.

And finally in the present time of covid-19 access needs to be restricted for the continued safety of everyone who is on campus due to following guidelines for testing, etc.

-Officer G.E. Johnson

