

Public Comments
Safety Taskforce

Dear Marilyn Kirkpatrick,

My name is April, and I am a senior at the Las Vegas Academy, and I would like to share my thoughts regarding campus safety and preventing gun violence. I believe that I, as a student in CCSD, deserve the right to attend my classes and be on my school's campus feeling safe. I and many other students do not feel safe on our campuses, as we have one of the most open campuses compared to many others, as well as the location of our school is considered to be unsafe. As I am speaking for students of Las Vegas Academy, I would also like to speak for all of the students throughout the Valley. We all have a consensus—That we do not feel safe at school, and there IS something that can be done to strengthen our safety.

Recently, I posted a survey, for any LVA student to take and share their thoughts with me. An outstanding amount of results were that students did not feel safe, and that there are improvements that can be made, big or small. We would like to use our voice and let it be heard by you, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, and I hope that you are listening.

My government class had a discussion about what could be done to improve campus safety, as well as ensuring not only the physical, but most importantly the mental health of students. We believe that the root of violence at school begins with mental health. Looking at all school shooters, what do they have in common? That they were either isolated and bullied at school, or that they are mentally ill. We think that there should be more funding, or at least a bigger concern on mental health, which is not commonly talked about in school.

As well as focusing on mental health, we also think that there should be trained, armed or not, campus security. LVA's campus guards are loved and well-respected, but we do not think that they are able to protect our school in the case of a shooting—And many other students from different schools could say the same thing.

Furthermore, I would like to suggest there be multiple open meetings for students, staff, and parents, to discuss campus safety and gun violence in schools. Many parents and students go to staff to discuss these problems, but they are not taken seriously and their voice is not heard. We want to speak to anyone who will listen and CAN do something.

Regards,
April Senephansiri