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Are the new math and science alarms beneficial?

BY LONDON GREGORY AND GEORGE KILROY
STAFF WRITERS

As of January 5th, Costa installed new alarms on the gates of the math and science building. The move sparked heavy debate among the students of Mira Costa as to whether these gates are beneficial to students or simply causing more inconveniences. Two La Vista staffers explore the pros and cons of this new feature.

Yes, they are beneficial.



ILLUSTRATION BY SADIE LEE

Like many high schools, Costa has faced challenges with students leaving campus during without authorization. To address this issue the administration recently implemented a simple but effective measure: installing alarms on the schools emergency exits.

One of the primary advantages of having alarms at emergency exits is that it fosters a sense of accountability among students. Knowing that their actions will have immediate noticeable consequences, students are less likely to attempt sneaking out of campus. This change can help reduce the temptation to skip class and encourage students to remain in the learning environment, where they belong. High school is a critical time for developing habits that carry into adulthood, and accountability is one of these essential life skills. By making it harder for students to avoid the responsibilities the school is reinforcing the importance of commitment and integrity.

California firm stance against e-cigarettes benefits youth

BY FINLEY SELLERS
EXECUTIVE OPINION EDITOR

For centuries, smoking has been a common activity. Whether with a pipe, a cigar, or cigarettes and e-cigarettes, smoking is the number one most addictive habit. To combat this, on Jan. 1st, California banned the retail sale of flavored tobacco products, more commonly known as vapes.

The leading drug in e-cigarettes, nicotine, is so addictive that it has prompted many complaints across the state. Most e-cigarette users do not know is that not only is vaping twice as addictive as a normal cigarette, it's also twice as harmful. According to John Hopkins, medicine reserachers who conducted two separate studies found that e-cigarette smokers had more negative heart disease risk due to the toxic metals stored in the device that decrease blood flow to the heart.

As of 2024, 5.9% of middle and high school students use e-cigarettes. That's 1.63 million children under the age of 21 illegally inhaling chemicals and toxins into their lungs. Vaping has become such a massive trend in recent years because major e-cigarette corporations have gone above and beyond with their marketing to present their

The primary purpose of an emergency exit is to provide a safe and efficient escape route during a possible crisis. Installing alarms ensures the exits remain reserved for their intended purpose. In addition, emergency exits and alarms enhance campus security.

Equipping the doors with alarms, the school maintains better control over who is entering and exiting the campus as well as setting a clear boundary: students are trusted to move around campus appropriately, but leaving without permission is not acceptable.

No, they are problematic.



ILLUSTRATION BY SADIE LEE

New alarm systems installed on the emergency exit doors of the math and science building at Mira Costa have been increasingly frustrating students. Though installed for safety, these alarms go off whenever someone exits, disrupting many students' classes.

Before the alarms, the emergency exits would be a shortcut for students, mainly while leaving the school. This method was effective in preventing congestion in the halls. The installation of the alarms has been forcing students to take routes that take them longer to reach their destination in addition to limiting exits for all students.

"They are horrible, and so loud and in my opinion, they do absolutely nothing," said sophomore Clementine Smith. When the alarms ring, blaring sounds inside the building echo through the halls, disrupting student's concentration. This is problematic

when students are trying to focus on their schoolwork and their are consistent alarms blaring, causing disruption and panic.

Sophomore Caroline Rackett said, "It affects me and my entire class because when it goes off, I become stressed and get all confused, thinking there's an emergency. Sometimes in the middle of my work I hear it, and I forget what I was doing."

Another concern is that the alarms could create a false sense of security. The system is designed to stop students from using the exits when unnecessary but in the process, it may cause problems in the case of a real emergency. If an evacuation were to take place, consistent alarms being set off in exit ways could distract admin and security from the real threat.

Instead of relying on the alarm system, Costa should think of more considerate solutions that would protect the students and take their needs into consideration. For example, adding more security to the doors or an alternate exit that would ease the crowding of the hallways.

While the intention behind the new emergency exit alarms is to enhance safety, they are causing more stress than protection. Classtime is constantly being disrupted, and the alarms don't seem to serve their purpose. The school should consider other ways to improve security that do not interrupt students' everyday life.

“While the intention behind the new emergency exit alarms is to enhance safety, they are causing more stress than protection.”

product to the market in ways that are especially eye catching to young audiences.

For example, a minor wanting to purchase nicotine illegally has a choice to inhale tobacco from a cigarette or "Blue Razz Ice" from a GeekBar e-cigarette. The fun flavors, colors, and the light-up features on these e-cigarettes unfortunately make these products much more desirable to younger populations. One vape can contain up to approximately 400

of electricity to charge an e-cigarette remains stored in the vape after it's finished charging and allows the user to inhale battery acid and nicotine simultaneously.

E-cigarettes have been said to not only contain cancer-causing chemicals but also toxic, heavy metals such as nickel, lead, chromium, tin, and aluminium. This is a serious threat to the health of younger people and could lead to complications later in life, just as cigarettes do.

In 2024 alone, the e-cigarette company GeekBar made \$76 million solely in online sales. That's excluding all the other in-store purchases which estimates their net product to be over \$100 million a year. Such an immense amount of money spent on chemicals infiltrating people's lungs have caused a surge of health concerns all across the country, and rightfully so.

These devices cause life long health issues and become more and more addictive as people continue to use them. This new ban in California causing limited availability of these devices will hopefully serve as a reminder to e-cigarette users across the state how harmful these devices are for their bodies and will hopefully help efforts to make users quit the unhealthy habit entirely.

“People don't realize how damaging it is for your body and how difficult it is to quit.”

cigarettes and users will finish these devices in only two weeks.

That equates to roughly 200 cigarettes per week if someone were to finish the device off in a two-week time period. This ban will mitigate the impact of e-cigarettes on youth, which is more prevalent than in non-electronic tobacco products. The use