

School violence has become all too common. In the past 10 years violence in the schools has increased by 50%. This has many people questioning if schools are as safe as they were 20 years ago. I believe that they are. There are SROs in schools, we have drills for dangerous situations that we practice often, and teachers are better prepared for a crisis situation.

Twenty years ago it would not have even been considered to put a trained police officer in schools. However, almost every school now has one. It makes school safer because they are trained to handle dangerous situations. If someone ever brought a gun to our school there is someone here who is trained to handle that situation. Having someone who knows what to do in a crisis is very important.

I know at this school we have so many drills that we practice regularly. We even have an earthquake drill, and Tennessee is not known for its copious number of earthquakes. Being prepared for a violent situation is not the only key to keeping a school safe. Over the years, schools around the country have adapted many drills and procedures to insure safety.

Years ago when there was a crisis at a school the teachers were just as frightened as the students. Today, teachers are much more qualified to deal with these situations. Most teachers know CPR, and the faculty and staff have yearly meetings to go over safety precautions and drills. Teachers can pretty much handle anything today.

It has been said that schools are not as safe as they once were. Twenty years ago you had probably never heard of a school shooting. You also did not have SROs or teachers and students that were prepared for an emergency. I believe we are as safe if not safer today because schools are prepared for anything that could happen, not only violence but anything you can make an emergency drill for.