

# Closed Gates installed as protective measure

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This year, the administration at South Miami Senior High has decided to install "Closed Gates" as a protective measure to keep teens from trespassing. Other reasons have influenced this decision: tardies, accidents, violent crimes at Cobra Country and Herbies, fights and drag racing.

Administrators, Sam Scarneacchia and Alberto Rodriguez say that parents and neighbors were also an influence.

Scarneacchia explained that parents and neighbors are concerned with students safety. Parents hope that when they send their children to school they will return safely. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. Some students get involved in fights, robbing, and drag racing which has in the end caused cars to crash into neighbors homes. It's impossible to stop all these problems, but trying to prevent them is a must. This preventive measure is called "Closed Gates." Closing the gates has stopped fights up to now. Other problems have diminished considerably.

Students rush to lunch just to avoid the crowding of cars at the gate, while others have completely erdicated their right and privilege of out of school lunch.

Celines Santos, a senior, says, "There is no logic behind this new policy, because if they don't want trespassers to enter our school grounds by the front gates, they're still going to come in by the back."

Another SMSH student, Antonio Luis, a junior, feels it takes too long to get out of the parking lot and accidents are much easier to get into due to the fact that the administration won't open the gate.

Luis realizes that students rush to lunch and that students rush to the gate to avoid crowding, but he feels that security at the gates would avoid trespassers and still permit gates to be opened. Luis says, "The administration should be more worried with student safety."

Leslie Siero, a senior, says, "I think they should open another gate to leave campus because there have been some problems when they try to leave."

Yadira Vasquez, a varsity cheerleader says, "The students are still willing to leave for lunch, and closing the gates just causes more overcrowding and accidents. If both gates were open, traffic would run smoother."

Overall, the student's feel their safety is being put at risk with the new gate policy. But for now, it seems "Closed Gates" are going to stay.