Should Schools Have Fob Locks? OJSHS Students & Staff Share Their Thoughts.

By: Kaelyn Meeker

As of 2025, OJSHS adopted fob locks for the school's security system. Fob locks provide enhanced security through keyless entry, remote management, and instant lockdown capabilities. Doors in school remain locked indefinitely, including during passing periods, unless opened by students or staff. Many students and staff throughout the Oregon community have mixed opinions about the fob locks. Members of the district were asked about their opinions regarding the locks.

Senior students, **Alyssa & Keltie** were interviewed in regards to their opinion about the locks. Alyssa was asked, "Do you think the fob locks make the school safer?" She responded, "In a sense yes, but no. It doesn't make sense, because the doors can lock already to prevent people from getting in. It's a waste of money." She believes all doors throughout the school already have locks on them and they're much more convenient; therefore, these locks that are unneeded and cause distractions. Keltie was questioned, "What is the biggest problem with the fob lock system in your opinion?" She replied, "If you leave you have to disrupt class by knocking on the door. Some students stand in the hallway waiting to be let in, taking them away from class." Fob locks may protect students and staff of OJSHS but they seem to also enhance distractions during students' class time. Safety should protect students- not stand in the way of their education. Oregon School's resource officer, **Terry Lester**, was also interviewed about his opinions on the fob locks. He was asked, "Do you find the fob locks helpful?" He claimed, "For first responders, yes for overall safety. It keeps everyone safe, and keeps anyone from entering that shouldn't be." There are windows on the doors, and the locks prevent anyone from getting into the classroom at all times. Cases of emergencies at Oregon have been rather rare, and these extra precautions may not be necessary to this extent. For future reference, the interviewees were asked, "Do you think the school should keep using fob locks in the future? Why or why not?" Officer Lester

and Keltie both shared their opinion stating that in the future the school should continue the use of these locks to ensure the school's safety. However, Keltie pointed out that the doors should be unlocked during passing periods making it easier for students to get to their classes without getting locked out. Teachers are encouraged to stand outside the classroom, keeping the doors open which prevents the doors from getting locked during passing periods. However, teachers may have interventions with students or need to use the restroom leaving them unable to hold the door open for students' entry. While fob locks improve school safety, their current use creates unnecessary disruptions that need to be addressed. A solution that may need to be implemented would be to remove the locks, and use the locks that are already placed on the doors. While public concern remains minimal at this time, students, staff, and members of the community are encouraged to voice their opinion if they have concerns in regards to the locks. Overall, the statements from these students and the schools' resource officer remain clear about their opinions: the fob locks are helpful for emergency situations. The question is: do you think these locks are necessary and is it worth the disruptions it may cause in the school?