

BY: CHALLENGER STAFF

END VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

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Staff Editorial

We're Still Fed Up

Violence in and around schools has become a frightening new normal in America. Des Moines Public Schools has not been spared of the increasing brutality.

In the spring 2019 edition of *The Challenger*, a staff editorial was published titled “We’re Fed Up.” This piece detailed the shocking displays of violence and unrest that students faced during the school year. An uptick in hallway brawls and shots fired at the Homecoming football game were a few instances of violence our community experienced that school year.

The future did not prove to hold a happier story. Multiple stabbings on school property and gun violence in the surrounding neighborhood are now common occurrences in DMPS.

On March 7th, this school yard violence reached its boiling point. The tragic events that occurred at East High School left one student dead and two others in critical condition. The devastation of this event was felt like a shockwave through all Des Moines. This incident marks the 13th shooting on an American campus so far this year.

Any loss of life, especially of life this young, can send a community reeling. East High School was given the remainder of school off until after spring break, but the aftermath of an event like this doesn’t just end there. Ten people were to be arrested in connection with the shooting, and it cannot go without mention that eight of those were current or former Hoover students.

So, what next?

How can we as a school, as a community, and as collective world create a solution to the devastation we have continuously faced in our schools?

Unfortunately, the answer has been hard to find. Des Moines Public Schools has taken actions to improve student safety over the past several years, but when will it be enough? After the recent events at East High School, community events have been put in place in several schools for community members to come together and advocate for the safety of our students. Continuing to have conversations and offering students with mental health resources is *just the beginning* of a long road to a collective recovery.

After all this time, **we are still fed up.**