



March 1, 2019

Dear Parents of MATEC Students,

Nothing is of more importance than providing a safe learning environment for our students. In October, our entire staff was trained on the fundamentals of the A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) program. Moving forward, we will begin training our students by breaking down the information into separate drills. Our training is not meant to disturb or scare any of our students, but to educate them on how to react if need be. Below is a timeline of our projected trainings.

#1- Monday, March 11: Introduction to the ALICE concept. We will emphasize that Marshall Public Schools are a safe place to be and that these events are rare, but it is much better to be prepared so we know what to do in the same way that we practice for fire and tornado drills.

#2 - Tuesday, March 12: Alert, Inform, and Evacuate components. On this day we will teach students that the initial alert could be gunshots, an announcement, or yelling and can come from anyone. We will teach students to use clear and concise information when informing others of the alert. We will also teach them to run from danger when it is safe to do so, using non-traditional exits, if necessary, and to evacuate to the nearest rally point.

#3 - Wednesday, March 13: Lockdown and Counter concepts. Once an Alert is put out by anyone in the building hearing or seeing a serious threat, the teachers will guide the students through a "quick decision" process. Students will discuss and practice how not to be a sitting target. The second key item to practice will be barricading the door and how to make the entry point less usable. The Counter concept is not fighting but distracting and breaking the concentration of an unwanted intruder.

#4 – Thursday, March 14: Review and Practice the ALICE concepts and training program. We'll wrap up our training by reviewing the lessons from the week, answering questions the students have, and administering scenario-based activities.

The topic of a possible violent intruder in our schools is a scary one for all of us, especially for the students and staff in our care. While we hope we never have a situation such as this, our goal is to ensure our students and staff have the knowledge, training, and tools they need to react and keep themselves safe in any violent intruder situation.

For more information about the ALICE model, please visit www.alicetraining.com or the Marshall Public Schools website at www.marshall.k12.mn.us/ALICE. If you have questions, feel free to reach me at 507-537-6210.

Sincerely,

Chad Pederson
Asst. Principal
MATEC