

March 19, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Allegheny Valley School District has adopted a newer strategy for full lockdown procedures known as ALICE. ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evaluate. Prior to the ALICE plan, traditional lockdown procedures were in place, involving the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a secured part of the room, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. The ALICE plan offers a different philosophy in light of more recent school violence. This philosophy is to use information in a way that staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training. Our staff continues to be trained in ALICE, which teaches a leveled response to acts of violence. Potential responses include flight, sheltering in place, and/or fighting.

The ALICE strategy is not only for a school setting, but students can utilize the concepts for all environment such as malls, restaurants, field trips, colleges, place of employment, etc. This strategy has been implemented at Allegheny Valley schools in phases. A panel of Allegheny Valley staff and community emergency management officials provided input into how these concepts will be communicated to students.

**High School Training: Friday March 23, 2018**

All students in grades 7-12 will take part in ALICE training. Officer Downing and our Emergency Management trainers will be meeting with all the students during the school day to teach and discuss the ALICE concepts.

Parents can help support their child(ren) for the ALICE plan by having discussions about the following points:

- Ask what does the acronym ALICE stand for.
- Discuss with your child(ren) where he/she needs to go in case of an evacuation.
- Talking to your children often about school and their life.
- Monitoring your child’s social media activity and text messages.
- Know your child’s friends.
- Remind them safety is their responsibility as well and that if they know something they should tell an adult.
- Letting them know threats are serious.

Finally, please know the commitment to the safety of our students, employees, and visitors is always our top priority. We appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

High School Administration