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In the summer newsletter, it was shared that district staff has been trained in the ALICE active shooter training. This nationally respected training recognizes that depending on students' age and the circumstances of the event, there are safer alternatives to solely locking down and waiting for help to arrive. To better prepare their peers and students, every building administrator and one other staff member at each building have become certified ALICE trainers.

These ALICE trained administrators and staff members will begin sharing information with students regarding safety practices and procedures as part of a schedule of quarterly exercises/drills beginning September 25<sup>th</sup>. It is important to understand that your school's principal and teachers understand the emotional development of your student and his/her peers and will work in ways that inform and not frighten them so that they can recognize and carry out strategies to keep them safe.

Each building staff has a plan in place that they will share with students, some in grade level meetings and others in individual class meetings prior to the exercise/drill taking place at Linntown, the Middle School and High School on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Because of the age of students at Kelly, the exercise/drill will take place one grade level at a time between September 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> so as to have additional staff on hand to support our youngest students.

We encourage you to talk to your children about school safety in advance of the information being presented to help them feel more comfortable. Using examples of fire drills and severe weather drills, which students are most familiar, encourages positive support. Students typically respond positively to adults who support safety drills, reinforce that students are safe in school, and encourage trust in school staff.

While some students may feel anxious about these kinds of drills, we encourage parents to support the upcoming drills and to have ongoing communication about school safety. While we all wish these kinds of incidents did not occur, it is a reality that we must address proactively. We all want our students to feel confident and prepared rather than scared.

If you have questions or want more information, please don't hesitate to contact your school's principal.

Thank you.

  
Steven C. Skalka  
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