
Mary Kay Gallagher
Superintendent



Michael Zopf
Assistant Superintendent
Finance and Operations

September 26, 2016

Dear Northville Public Schools Parents and Families,

Providing a safe place for students and staff to learn and grow is one of the most important responsibilities of any school system. When a crisis occurs, Northville Public Schools officials follow detailed emergency response protocols – developed, practiced and refined in partnership with local police and fire officials – aimed at keeping students and staff safe during an emergency situation.

With this in mind, Northville Public Schools – in consultation with local police agencies and the ALICE Training Institute, along with guidance from various federal agencies – is adopting the ALICE protocol to enhance our existing safety and security procedures specifically in regard to a violent intruder response.

Like fire and tornado drills, training for such an event, even though highly unlikely, dramatically improves the odds that those faced with the situation will be less likely to freeze, and more likely to respond in ways that help keep themselves and others safe.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) is a set of proactive strategies that move beyond traditional lockdown and increase the chance for survival during a violent intruder event. ALICE is supported by more than 2,300 law enforcement agencies across the country and complies with the new standard of care recently developed by the Federal Department of Education, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We believe that adopting the ALICE protocols will ensure Northville Public Schools has a robust incident response plan in place should the unimaginable happen.

ALICE training empowers adults and students with strategies to keep themselves and each other safe – through access to more information, a greater emphasis on evacuating when possible, enhancing lockdown protocols, and providing age-appropriate lessons and information.

District administrators, principals and other key staff members, together with police liaisons, participated in two full days of on-site instructor training facilitated by the ALICE Institute in June 2016, in addition to online instructor training. Online training modules were provided for the entire Northville Public Schools staff, in addition to on-site scenario training led by principals and our local police liaisons scheduled from August through November 8, 2016, at each of our schools.

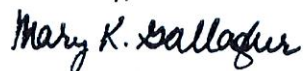
Following the staff on-site scenario training at each building, there will be an **opportunity for parents to attend an informational meeting, including a review of the information that will be shared with students**. At our elementary and middle schools, the parent information meetings will be scheduled during the month of October. Student lessons will take place during the early part of November, with the first enhanced lockdown drill taking place after the student lesson, during November 2016.

HILLSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL will host a parent information meeting immediately following parent-teacher conferences at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, 2016** in the Hillside Auditorium.

We extend our gratitude to the Northville Township Police department for its leadership and partnership in this effort, together with the City of Northville, and City of Novi police departments. We also appreciate the support of Mothers' Club of Northville, which donated a copy of the children's book, *I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared* for each Pre-K/Elementary classroom, and Home Depot of Northville, which donated 500 five-gallon buckets to assist with emergency preparedness materials for each classroom across the district.

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact your child's principal. We take the education and safety of our students very seriously and appreciate the partnership with law enforcement and the broader community to provide a safe and secure environment for our students to learn.

Sincerely,



Mary K. Gallagher

Superintendent



William R. Jones

Principal, Hillside Middle School