



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BARABOO

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Baraboo School District remains committed to providing a safe and secure school environment for all. To support those measures, the District has adopted a new strategy for incidents involving a violent intruder known as the A.L.I.C.E. plan. A.L.I.C.E., standing for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. The A.L.I.C.E. plan draws on new research on school violence, empowering staff and students to make informed decisions during a crisis, removing as many people as possible from the danger zone, and providing realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of staying safe.

We have begun implementing the A.L.I.C.E. plan in all Baraboo School District buildings. Unlike a tornado or fire drill, where each classroom follows the same protocol, in an A.L.I.C.E. drill, teachers and students problem solve together to determine the safest way to respond. This makes it even more important for students to carefully listen and follow directions as the drill unfolds. Before the A.L.I.C.E. drill is performed, teachers will use a common set of guidelines to address this sensitive topic and guide students through the process.

This fall, each building will perform a drill using the A.L.I.C.E. plan. It will follow these steps: **Alert:** An announcement from the principal will notify everyone in the building of the location of the “danger zone.” **Lockdown:** Those areas of the building within the “danger zone” will practice lockdown procedures and discuss alternative exits from the classroom, such as a window, but they will not physically exit their classroom during this drill. **Inform:** The principal will continue to inform the building of any changes in the “danger zone.” **Counter:** The counter portion of the plan will be introduced in subsequent drills. **Evacuate:** Those classrooms not in the “danger zone” will practice evacuating if hallways and exits are safe. Teachers will not know the location of the “danger zone” prior to the drill so that they can practice developing a strategy that provides the safest outcome for their students. It is very important that students listen to the directions given by their teacher, as the course of action during these drills will not always be the same.

Our goal as educators is to completely prevent violence in our schools, and we are taking many innovative, proactive steps to ensure we maintain safe, healthy schools. As parents/guardians, you play an integral role in collaborating with the school district in ensuring the safety of our students. Preparing for the worst case scenario is a responsibility we take seriously. Thank you for partnering with us in this process. We are confident that by implementing the A.L.I.C.E. protocol, our staff and students will be as prepared as possible to respond in a crisis. We thank you for your cooperation and support during the implementation of this new safety plan. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Chris Olson
BELC/ West
Kindergarten Center

Amy Fassbender
Gordon L. Willson
Elementary

Molly Fitzgerald
East Elementary

John Blosenski
Al Behrman
Elementary

Kathy Andreasen
North Freedom

John Gunnell
Jack Young Middle

Glenn Bildsten
Baraboo High School

Elementary

School