



Hartland/Lakeside School District
800 E. North Shore Drive
Hartland, WI 53029

December 22, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This school year, the Hartland/Lakeside School District has dedicated professional development time to introduce new safety protocols and procedures, specifically A.L.I.C.E. training. A.L.I.C.E. stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. A.L.I.C.E. is a set of proactive strategies that increase chances of survival during a school intruder event. All staff have received A.L.I.C.E. training, and during staff meetings they have reviewed protocols so that we can coordinate our safety and survival efforts as a school community. Today, state and federal government agencies, including the U.S. Dept. of Education, have spent considerable resources researching response strategies to school emergencies. The findings have resulted in a change in guidance and a movement away from a "Lock Down" only approach. A.L.I.C.E. protocols are used almost exclusively in all new trainings for schools and institutions and demonstrates a 21st century standards of care and response.

A.L.I.C.E. stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate.

In recent years, school shootings have been widely televised from elementary schools to colleges across the nation. It is important that we discuss and design appropriate responses that are age appropriate and that provide our staff with an organized and structured plan for safety and survival. We believe that dedicating valuable professional development time to this important topic is well worth the time and collaboration.

We will be scheduling a parent information meeting in the North Shore Middle School Presentation Room on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. to present to parents our school training and communication plans. We would also like to discuss and coordinate how we will share information with students about new safety responses including lockdown and evacuation during an emergency. Information and resources from the meeting are also available on the district website under the District, Safety tab.

The A.L.I.C.E. plan will be implemented with students in phases. Parents will be kept informed of practice drills and next steps through the weekly parent email.

Phase I:

A practice drill will be conducted with students in late January 2016.

- Before the first drill is performed, the individual classroom teachers will use a common set of age appropriate guidelines to address this topic and teach their class the A.L.I.C.E. plan.

- Teachers will provide direction to the students on what action needs to be taken, so it is very important that students listen and follow the directions given, as this drill is not predictable like a fire drill or tornado drill.
- The first student drill performed will include an ALERT in the form of an announcement from the principal notifying everyone in the building of the location of the “danger zone”. Those areas of the building within the “danger zone” will practice LOCKDOWN and discuss alternate exits from the classroom, such as a window, but will not physically exit their classroom during the first drill. The principal will continue to INFORM any changes in the “danger zone”.

Phase II:

- Later in the school year, the COUNTER portion of the plan will be introduced in a subsequent phase. Those classrooms not in the “danger zone” will practice the EVACUATE portion of the plan 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.

Please contact your building principal if you have any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and teamwork.

Sincerely,

Glenn Schilling, Superintendent
Dave Risch, HS/HSCL Principal

Heather Grindatti, HN/HFALA Principal
Michele Schmidt, NSMS/LIFE Principal