

Cyril D. Locke Middle School

110 Allen Road, Billerica MA 01821

Phone: 978-528-8650

<https://www.billericak12.com/schools/locke-middle-school>

Follow us on Twitter: @LockeMiddle Instagram: Locke_Middle_School

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October 23, 2022

Dear Locke Parents and Guardians,

On **Thursday, October 27th** we will be conducting a safety drill, an ALICE drill. This drill will be in conjunction with the Billerica Police Department. We are fortunate to live in a community where our public safety departments are forward-thinking in preparing for any event that may impact student safety. The drill will have some added features as we continue to refine our training each year. We will have multiple supports in place, in order to guide and support students during and after the drill. This is a training exercise, and we hope this practice will support our learning and help us make adjustments to planning if needed. While our current students have been practicing ALICE drills their entire school careers, some students may feel uneasy about the content of this drill. I encourage you to discuss this drill with your child. We will be discussing it with students during our Advisory block on Wednesday. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please see below to review the ALICE protocol.

The Billerica Public Schools, in conjunction with the Billerica Police and Fire Departments, utilize the ALICE protocol for our lockdown procedure. Although Shelter in Place will remain a viable option, when appropriate, the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice have recommended implementing the following ALICE protocol.

Alert: We will get the word out using clear, concise language and describe the location of the event.

Lockdown: This is still a good starting point. We will continue to lockdown students in secure areas and will increase effectiveness through the use of barricading.

Inform: Keeping the staff and students informed continually allows for good decision-making.

Counter: Only to be used as a last resort. In the event an intruder enters an area, do whatever possible to distract, confuse, and gain control.



"Educational Excellence ~ Community Service"

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Evacuate: If safe, evacuate the building to get away from potential harm.

We are in our eighth year of using the ALICE protocol. This protocol will improve our chances to keep our students and faculty safe if the need should ever arise. This protocol is not encouraging our teachers or students to subdue an intruder in our building, but it will provide them with options to enhance their ability to survive an unthinkable incident. Our training emphasizes the best manner to survive a violent intruder is to escape. However, when that is not an option, being mentally prepared and having the authority to act will save lives.

Although it is unfortunate that this type of training is necessary, we want to make sure the members of our community have the skills and training necessary to respond if confronted with a violent intruder.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the ALICE protocol.

Respectfully,

Anthony Garas, Principal



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