



## Linden Middle School

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Good afternoon Linden Middle School families, our district continues to put student safety at the forefront of everything we do. Linden Middle School has partnered with local law enforcement to adopt the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) model for student safety. The ALICE model teaches a set of proactive strategies that anyone can use in an active shooter situation. This training was provided to our district staff this fall and we are now ready to do so for our entire Linden Middle School student body. The district also offered an ALICE Community Awareness Forum on November 6<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium. This was very well received by those who attended.

On Thursday, December 20th, we are partnering with the Grand Blanc Township Police Department, Argentine Police Department, and other emergency responders to conduct an active shooter drill. The day will begin with an assembly led by certified ALICE trainer, Jon Swartz, that will use previous school shootings as examples of how ALICE, and the proactive approach it teaches, could have saved lives in those tragedies. Students will then participate in a classroom drill. After the drill, students will debrief with their teachers and with the ALICE training team. Students will attend all of their classes (shortened) after the drill is complete. The ALICE team has asked all teachers to spend a few moments talking with each class about the specific approaches they can take to evacuate, barricade, and counter in their individual classrooms.

I am saddened that we even have to think about preparing our children for tragedies like this. Unfortunately, this is the reality of the day and age we live in. The goal of the day is to simulate an actual active shooter and to practice appropriate responses for the situation. As such, the Grand Blanc Township and Argentine Police Departments will use whistles to simulate gun fire in empty areas of the building to initiate the drill. I will also inform students of what is transpiring in the building using our public announcement system. The middle school staff will ensure that every safety measure is taken during these drills—from bringing in additional first responders to staffing our hallways with extra adults to keep students calm as they move around the building. Counselors will be on hand throughout the day and will be available to any students that need them. If you have any concerns about your child participating in the ALICE drills, please do not hesitate to contact my office. I want to THANK YOU in advance for your continued support!

Sincerely,



Kraig Enders