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Dear Parents:

At Langdon Area Schools, we take the safety of our students and staff seriously. We believe that the best course of action is to equip our students and staff the best way possible. We already have students participate in fire and tornado drills. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, we are going to have students in grades 7-12 participate in ALICE training.


The Langdon Area School District has trained its staff in the principles of ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate). These are nationally recognized protocols for keeping everyone safe. Students are going to learn about the protocols in a lecture-based setting, but then we are also going to practice these skills in different scenarios. After each scenario, we will meet back in the gym to debrief and discuss what was learned.

- Traditional lockdown – We will have a teacher shooting a NERF gun to demonstrate how the traditional lockdown is ineffective.
- Barricade – We will have the student practice barricading classroom doors with the supplies they can find already in classrooms
- Counter – We will “arm” students with crumpled pieces of paper to represent everyday objects that can be used to distract a shooter. Again, we will be using a NERF gun to demonstrate how it is much more difficult for the shooter
- Decision – We will have two more classroom-based drills, where the students and teachers will have to decide if they should evacuate or counter. We are going to have a final drill where all the students are in the commons, as if it were lunch time. Again, during these last three drills, we will have a teacher with a NERF gun.

We know that going through these scenarios may be difficult for some students. We encourage parents to talk to their children about the drills, and emphasize the need to stay calm, not be scared, listen carefully, follow instructions and take the drills seriously. While it is our hope that a real emergency never occurs, these drills are an effective way to ensure that students and staff know and can follow the procedures in an emergency. If, after talking to your child, you feel that participating in the scenarios would be too traumatic, please let Mrs. Hochhalter know. These students will still participate in the discussions but will stay in the gym during the scenarios.

During the drills we will have a member of the Cavalier County Sheriff’s Department on hand to assist us. We will also have Edmore’s Counselor, Katie Henry, available if students need to talk to someone.

**Empower Every Child ~ Every Chance ~ Every Day**



If you are interested in more information, please view the following PowerPoint.

<https://tinyurl.com/LangdonALICEppt>

We are also doing a parent night on February 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00. There, we will have parents participate in the drills so they know what their child can expect. Administration and a member of the Cavalier County Sheriff Department will also be available to answer any questions you may have. This meeting should last about an hour. If you are interested, please sign up by filling out the online form found at the link below, or by calling the office.

<https://tinyurl.com/LangdonALICEparent>

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

Mrs. Stephanie Hochhalter  
Secondary Principal

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