

Crisis Response at Morris School

An Informational Session for Parents and Caregivers

Types of Crisis Response

- Fire Alarm: Immediate evacuation to fire drill locations, always checking to be sure evacuation route is safe
- Shelter-In-Place: Used when there is potential danger in an area in or around the school. Directions given over PA. Instruction continues unless otherwise specified.
- ALICE-style Response: Intruder or unsafe situation requiring immediate safety measures

The Lesson from Virginia Tech:

Passive – 28 deaths, Proactive – 2 deaths

<p>Room 210 No Class</p>	<p><i>STAYED DOWN</i> Room 206 - 14 Present Killed – 10 Wounded -2</p>	<p><i>JUMPED & BARRICADED</i> Room 204 – 19 Present Killed – 2 Wounded - 3</p>	<p>Room 200 No Class</p>
<p>Hallway – Killed 1</p>			
<p>Offices</p>	<p><i>STAYED DOWN</i> Room 211 – 19 Present Killed – 12 Wounded - 6</p>	<p><i>BARRICADED - AFTER 1ST TIME</i> Room 207 – 13 Present Killed – 5 Wounded - 6</p>	<p><i>BARRICADED</i> Room 205 – 12 Present Killed – 0 Wounded – 0</p>

Lockdowns of the past

- Lockdown called over the P.A. System to alert everyone we need to close and lock doors
- Staff locks doors to the hallway, close blinds and stay away from windows and doors
- Everyone remains quiet and hunkered down in a “safe spot” in a corner of the classroom

What is A.L.I.C.E.?

- **A** – Alert – make the lockdown announcement as quickly as possible
- **L** – Lockdown – Staff secures the doors and their rooms – this includes barricading doors, if possible, from inside rooms
- **I** – Inform – make announcements clear and with accurate information over the PA
- **C** – Counter – If there is an immediate danger, use countering suggestions
- **E** – Evacuate – If possible, using the information provided over the PA, evacuate building to predetermined safe areas

What are we doing at Morris to enhance

- Rallying points for evacuation have been identified
- Increase number of radios throughout the building: In progress. Officer Colvin is assisting.
- Increase number of video cameras both exterior and interior: Initial identification of locations made, in process for capital budgeting
- School maps have been updated and provided to Lenox Police
- Exterior doors and windows will be labeled

Lockdown Drill

Preparing Our Students and Ourselves

Developmentally Appropriate Language and Reassurance

- Relate a “lockdown drill” to a “fire drill.” It’s something we do to stay safe in an emergency.
- Reassure your child that odds are we will likely never be in an unsafe situation at school that requires us to lockdown, but if we ever are, we need to be prepared.
- Keep language simple. You may wish to explain that this is what we do if a “dangerous person” comes into our school. You can use terms like “good guy”/“bad guy”.
- Reassure your child that in a lockdown situation A LOT of adults will be working hard to make sure they are safe.
- These drills are a time when they should be doing their best to listen to and follow directions.
- You know your child and his/her temperament. You should decide how much or how little to talk to your child(ren) to prepare them for this type of response.

ALICE-style Drill

- We will do an ANNOUNCED lockdown drill sometime after April vacation
- Parents will be informed ahead of time via the all-call system.
- This drill will be similar to a real-life ALICE situation, however modifications will be made so students are minimally frightened and not traumatized by the drill itself.
 - Students will not be expected to prepare for or engage in counter measures
 - If the teacher decides to evacuate, students will evacuate to their fire drill locations
 - Specific, detailed information about the nature of the threat will not be used as it would in a real-life situation

Steps of Drill

1. Announcement made with as much information as possible
2. TEACHERS will decide what to do based on their location and give directions. Students will need to follow directions quickly and quietly. This *could* include evacuating like a fire drill or staying put.

Steps cont'd

3. Ongoing announcements made to INFORM staff of where the threat is. Teachers act accordingly.
4. Announcement will be made over the PA and radios to end the drill. In real life, classrooms in lockdown do not move until told to do so by a uniformed police officer. Evacuated classrooms follow directions given over radio.

Informing Parents in a Real-Life Situation

Priorities During Crisis

1. Police and Other Emergency Responders- Respond rapidly and neutralize the threat ASAP
2. Principal and Staff- Get all staff and students to a safe location

Communicating with Parents/Caregivers

- In the event of a real-life emergency, parents will be contacted as soon as possible after the first two priorities have been addressed
- An all-call will go out via the Blackboard Connect system with as much information as can be shared at the time
- The call will have very specific instructions about what, if anything, parents should do

Communicating Cont'd

- If there is a minor emergency in which students are cleared to return to their classrooms and resume business, an informational phone call will go out after school hours explaining what happened

Parent Response

- Remaining calm is helpful although understandably difficult
- Listen to and follow all directions given in the phone call
- If possible, try not to call the school as phone lines may be needed for emergency responders OR if we have evacuated, there may not be anyone in the office to answer

Parent Response Cont'd

- Driving directly to the school will likely not be an option. Chances are if there is an emergency that requires evacuation and shut-down of the building, the police will be shutting down traffic on West St.
- If evacuation to a reunification point is required, you will receive directions in the phone call as to where to pick up your child
- Reunification will happen in as orderly a manner as possible. Students will be closely monitored by Morris Staff until all are picked up and accounted for.

Questions and Discussion