

Momence Community School District #1

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ADMINISTRATION

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I am certain that many of you are somewhat disappointed with the multitude of violent and malicious acts that have become all too common in our nation's schools. The impact on individuals, families, the school, and the community is devastating. Unfortunately, the comment "It won't happen here" is a phrase that we have heard all too often. As schools plan and prepare for these types of incidents, and the endless possible scenarios that could transpire, we have discovered one obvious conclusion, that each of us must be ready to think quickly and act decisively in these life and death situations.

It is important to remember that there really is no way to be 100% prepared for every possible situation, however, please be aware that the school district is transitioning to a new methodology to prepare for this type of crisis. The program, called ALICE, is a method that provides us with a very effective model designed to consider our own personal actions during a shooting.

Our administrative team has been working very closely with the Momence Police in developing a training program for our staff utilizing the ALICE technique and strategies. The administrative team has attended training to become ALICE instructors. The training will cover a wide variety of topics for our staff including- recognizing gun fire in a building, barricading a room, exiting a building, and considering what to do once you have left a building.

ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. In short, using this method we will teach students that in the event of a shooting they should:

- Listen carefully for information to determine the location and type of event.
- Remain in a secure area until it is safe to evacuate.
- Enter a secure area and distract, confuse, run away from, or if necessary/possible gain control of the shooter, should one be in the area.
- Evacuate, when safe to do so

Please understand the ALICE program does not ask teachers or students to attempt to subdue a shooter outside of their secure area. We will provide age appropriate knowledge to students that if a shooting occurs, there are options that can greatly increase survival. Some of these things include:

- Cause distractions to interfere with the ability to shoot accurately.
- Do not be a stationary target.
- Controlling an attacker if you are able to subdue.
- Interact with responding police.

Having to prepare for these types of incidents can be difficult to come to grips with, but we find ourselves today in an environment in which we should not ignore reasonable preparations for such tragic events.