

# PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**NEW**   
**UPDATE**

## PROVIDENCE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

As you may know, we had an all-school assembly back on September 8th to inform our students and staff about ALICE principles for school safety in the event of a hostile intruder. ALICE training is widely used for school safety, and the presentation was done in conjunction with local law enforcement. For those interested, more information about ALICE may be found here: [www.alicetraining.com](http://www.alicetraining.com).

One of the main goals of ALICE training is to empower students and staff to make decisions in the event of a crisis, but also to inform them in advance that they have some control over such possibilities. ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. The training explained each step, and the two drills that followed allowed us to practice which steps to take in different scenarios. Our drills did not involve simulated shootings but replicated an intruder walking around different parts of campus. We learned some things as a result of our training and drills, and we will follow up with staff during a meeting this Thursday during late arrival.

I want to share something I read over the PA to the students at the end of that day, hoping to empower students and diminish their concern or anxiety over the issue of school safety. Perhaps it will alleviate some of your concern as well, and provide an opportunity for discussion with your students.

- *"When it comes to school shootings, there are nearly always advance indications. These warning signs, if appropriately identified, can offer an opportunity for intervention. The Secret Service study of incidents from 2008 to 2017 found that 100 percent of the perpetrators showed concerning behaviors, and that 77 percent of the time at least one person, most often a peer, knew about their plan. [www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting\\_Americas\\_Schools.pdf](http://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf)*
- *These data suggest that fostering a trusting and emotionally safe school climate—where students are willing to both ask adults for help and to report any destructive thoughts and behaviors, such as gun threats on social media or weapons carrying—can be effective tools for prevention. Taking immediate action on those warning signs is essential."*

If any place can foster a trusting and emotionally safe climate—where students are willing to ask adults for help, it is Providence Catholic High School. I hope this follow up is helpful and gives you a sense of what we are doing and why we are doing it. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,



Paul Houston | Principal



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