



Inspire ~ Empower ~ Succeed

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! We are excited about the learning opportunities your students will have this year. As you already know, student and staff safety is the top priority for Mason Public Schools. In order to keep up to date with best practices in the area of safety and security, Mason Public Schools has decided to begin the process of switching from our current safety protocols to the more current and widely used ALICE approach.

ALICE training is a research-based, proactive approach to responding to an active shooter situation. It has been adopted by businesses, schools and organizations across the nation to prepare employees, staff, students and personnel on how to respond to violent intruder situations. ALICE stands for *Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate*.

ALICE training for staff will consist of a 45-minute online module and on-site trainings, which began the week of August 20 with our faculty and staff. Other Mason Public School programs are being scheduled for training completion over the next few months. Our current protocols will be in place until training is complete. After Mason Public School staff is trained, we will begin the process to plan and schedule grade level appropriate classroom training for students. Your principals or administrators will be in touch with you about specific implementation and rollout plans for your building.

During the ALICE on-site training, staff may be engaged in live scenarios with local law enforcement as well as law enforcement from surrounding areas. The scenarios may include gun fire from cap guns that look, sound and smell like real guns and evacuation procedures that include yelling/screaming. It is intended to feel like real scenarios that have happened in a school setting, so that staff are as prepared as possible should a security issue arise. Please note, no students will be in the building when the initial staff training occurs.

The switch to ALICE will take time and training. We ask for your patience during this process. Hopefully, we will never have to use this training in real life, but rest assured that staff will be prepared to assist and lead should it be needed.

The Ingham County Sherriff's Office has released a video via social media that is an excellent introduction and approach to possible active violent situations. ALICE training for our staff will include the fundamentals of the Sherriff's video however, the training and included instructional modules will be much more comprehensive

Administration is working with local officials and the ALICE organization with the goal of becoming an ALICE certified organization. For more information regarding ALICE, please visit the [ALICE Training Institute \(www.alicetraining.com\)](http://www.alicetraining.com).

Educationally yours,

Ronald Drzewicki, Ed.S.
Superintendent