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Active Intruder Training

Huron Academy Families:

Over the past several years we have seen a dramatic increase in school violence and school shootings. As the experts analyze these horrific events it is apparent that we need to do more, not only taking steps in an attempt to prevent the event from occurring, but training of students and staff on procedures that we all need to survive an active intruder in our schools.

If you look at what has occurred in our schools and colleges throughout the country it is evident that if an armed intruder wants to get into any school building, there is a good chance that they may succeed. The fact is, even though Huron Academy has taken great steps in the matter of securing our school buildings, i.e. installing monitored entry systems, buzzer systems, and installing additional cameras throughout our school buildings, one question still needs to be answered...and that is, "What if?"

In the past, schools across the country have answered that question with a method we call "Lockdown." It is designed that in the event an unauthorized person enters the school grounds and is a threat, a "Lockdown Alert" is given and students and staff are instructed to lock their classrooms with lights outs and to hide in a far corner of the classroom, while remaining calm and quiet. This could keep people safe if the intruder is outside the building, but now that these events are happening with intruders entering school buildings and harming individuals we have to look at this differently.

Huron Academy has adopted and began implementation of a new procedure that we, as well as experts across the country, believe will increase the chance of survival during an active intruder incident. We started by training the staff (provided by Sterling Heights Police Dept.) and are going to begin training our students this week. This new procedure mirrors the A.L.I.C.E. system. What does it mean?

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| Alert | Get the word out! Armed Intruder in the building instead of the use of any codes. Use clear, concise language to convey the type and specific location of the event. |
| Lockdown | If evacuation is not possible, we will lock down and barricade classrooms. |
| Inform | Continuation of the use of clear, concise language to convey the type and specific location of the event. |
| Counter | Apply Skills to distract, confuse and gain control. |
| Evacuate | Reduce the number of potential targets for the intruders and reduce chances of victims resulting from friendly fire when help arrives. |

The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training so that those involved have a better chance of surviving.

In short, using the above A.L.I.C.E method we will teach our students and staff multiple tools to use in order to evade an armed intruder/active shooter who enters our school, including:

1. Listen carefully to the location and type of event and evacuate if capable.
2. Get to and/or remain in a secure area until it is safe to evacuate.
3. Should an armed intruder/active shooter invade their area, apply skills to distract, confuse and gain control.

Please understand, in **NO WAY** are we asking or teaching our students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed intruder outside of their secure area. However, we will provide them the knowledge that if faced with a situation there are methods that can be applied to greatly enhance their chance of survival. The methods that will be taught in the event an armed gunman directly confronts them are:

- Cause distractions to interfere with the ability to shoot accurately
- Cause as much chaos in the room as possible to create sensory overload
- Do not be a stationary target
- How to control the attacker using body weight, not strength (not for younger children)
- How to interact with responding Law Enforcement

Younger students need constant reminders of in order for them to make good decisions related to their personal safety. Parents can prepare their child(ren) for the A.L.I.C.E. plan by helping them understand the following objectives at home:

- There are people that can be mean and may wish them harm.
- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are hard and getting better each time.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When your child is prepared for difficult situations, they can make informed decisions and will have more self-control.
- Your child is smart and capable if they have the tools.
- Help your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child demonstrate the ability to get away from someone who has their hands on them. (Stranger Danger)
- Have your child explain the different safety drills and what they mean. (Fire, Tornado, Evacuation, Lockdown, Shelter in Place, and A.L.I.C.E)
- Help your child name where they need to go in case of evacuation.
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher's directions without hesitation.

Safety is of utmost importance at Huron Academy and we will do our best to prepare our students for any intruder events. We look forward to working alongside of you to educate and protect your children. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Best Regards,

Huron Academy Administration