



Perrysburg Schools

Parent Safety Task Force

Newsletter



Mission

To share information and new ideas about school safety between the school district, local emergency services, city resources and families in order to ensure the highest level of education and understanding across the local school community.

This marks the Parent Safety Task Force's first newsletter! We hope each newsletter provides useful information as it pertains to a specific area of safety. Earlier this year you may have received information from the school district regarding school safety drills involving the ALICE lockdown and evacuation procedures.

ALICE strategies are designed to give students, teachers and administrators tools to use in order to mitigate harm if a violent and aggressive intruder gained access to the school. ALICE was decided as a strategy to employ after careful review by teachers, staff and the Perrysburg Police Department. Steps of ALICE include:

Alert - use plain and specific language that there is a safety concern.

Lockdown - if evacuation to a safer location is not possible.

Inform - supply emergency personnel with all knowledge of situation.

Counter - distract the intruder in any way possible.

Evacuate - when safe to do so, remove the students from danger.

If the decision is made to evacuate, each school has preselected evacuation sites. Parents will be kept informed through the District's automated text, email and telephone system and/or radio/TV. In order to swiftly and efficiently evacuate, each school has detailed plans outlining the role of every employee, including administrators, teachers, custodians, clerical personnel and cafeteria personnel.

At the Elementary schools, in addition to drills, teachers use resources such as the book "I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared!" and the "Stop and Follow Me" game to teach ALICE strategies in an age-appropriate way. Older students learn more specifics about their role in ALICE and participate more actively in emergency drills.

Task Force Objectives

- To facilitate and grow communication from the school district to families and from families to the school district.
- To develop ongoing community partnerships.
- To encourage school safety training and education.
- To offer ideas, action and policy recommendations.



Why do we have drills?

State law mandates schools practice drills that involve student participation for dangerous persons on property (safety drills), fire and natural emergencies. Throughout the school year, fire drills are conducted at least six times; safety drills are conducted at least three times and tornado drills are conducted on a regular basis during the tornado season. When our students learn in school how to safely escape/survive a fire or tornado through drills, they are learning life-long, life-saving techniques they can use at home, in the community and place of employment. The same concept applies to safety drills; students are learning life-saving skills for how to survive a violent intruder situation. When safety plans are in place, clearly communicated and well-practiced, it can result in better efficiency in crisis situations and lessen personal injury.

Questions for the Parent Safety Task Force: Contact

Perrysburg High School - Thomas Shine - PHSsafetyparent1@gmail.com

Perrysburg High School - Jamie Vaughan - PHSsafetyparent2@gmail.com

Perrysburg Junior High School - Jennifer Helton - PJHsafetyparent@gmail.com

Hull Prairie Intermediate School - Meghan Michael - HPIsafetyparent@gmail.com

Fort Meigs Elementary - Kristen Kameen - fortmeigssafetyparent@gmail.com

Frank Elementary - Ty Conger - franksafetyparent@gmail.com

Toth Elementary - Vanessa Ayestaran - tothsafetyparent@gmail.com

Woodland Elementary - Adam Cassi - woodlandsafetyparent@gmail.com



If you see something, say something!

We are all stakeholders when it comes to school safety. If you see something that raises a safety emergency, contact local police at 911 or 419-872-8001. If you see something that raises a safety question regarding our schools call Kadee Anstadt, District Assistant Superintendent at the Central Office at 419-874-9131 ext 2180 or a Parent Safety Task Force representative listed on the front of this newsletter.



DID YOU KNOW?

Perrysburg School District has an Anonymous Safety Tip Line.
1-800-4-1-VOICE or
www.safeschoolhelpline.com

The tip line is run by a third party who takes information and contacts the school regarding an individual's concerns, while withholding their name. If you contact the helpline and request more information from the school district regarding your concern, the third party company acts as the intermediary. This is in place so students and parents/guardians feel comfortable reporting concerns of suicide, self-harm, bullying, violence, harassment and threats.

TIPS FOR: Talking About School Safety Drills with Students

The school district's priority in exercising safety drills is to enhance a student's sense of safety, not create an atmosphere of anxiety. Parents, guardians and caregivers, along with teachers, administrators and staff, are in partnership to help students process, understand and learn from safety drills. Below are some quick tips for talking with our students about safety drills, but you can find more extensive information at:

Safe and Sound Schools - www.safeandsoundschools.org

National Association of School Psychologists - www.nasponline.org

Scholastic - www.scholastic.com

ALICE Training Institute - www.alicetraining.com

- 1. Make time to talk.** Review what they learned in school and reassure them that extreme acts of violence at schools are not common.
- 2. Listen to their questions** and talk honestly about your own feelings about school safety, so students know they are not dealing with this alone.
- 3. Keep dialogue brief and simple** with early elementary school children. Remind them that generally their school is safe and adults work to help and protect them.
- 4. Discuss efforts to keep them safe** made by the school and community. With upper elementary, middle and high school children, they may be more vocal in asking about whether they are truly safe and what is being done at their school.
- 5. Identify an adult at school and/or in the community** who a student can go to if they feel threatened or at risk, or to report a safety hazard or concern.



Empowering our students with skills and knowledge are essential to keeping them safe!