

LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Administrative Unit Thirty

"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"

Brendan F. Minnihan, Superintendent of Schools
Amy N. Hinds, Assistant Superintendent of Schools **Christine Blouin, Business Administrator**

October 5, 2018

Dear Families of Laconia School District students:

I hope the transition to the new school year has gone smoothly for all of you. It is hard to imagine that the summer months are behind us, and the evening darkness is coming earlier and leaving later. Each school year brings some changes, and I want to share with you a fairly substantial change to how we conduct our **school safety procedures**.

As part of our normal school operations, we regularly practice fire drills, lockdowns, and shelter-in-place scenarios to make sure the staff and students know what to do in case of an emergency. In the past, if a lockdown was announced, students were directed to go into a corner of the room away from the main door, while the teacher would lock the door and draw any shades across the visible windows. Then the teacher and students would sit quietly until the drill was completed, and the "threat" had passed.

Given some pretty tragic events in U.S. schools over the past several years, school systems have been re-evaluating traditional safety procedures.

This past spring, the Laconia School District provided a day-long training on a new practice known as ALICE, which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Several of the Administrators in the District have taken additional training to become certified instructors. This training will change how we approach threat situations which in the past would have led us into a lockdown procedure.

As part of this change in practice, we will be providing age-appropriate safety procedure training for the students in our schools. In addition, we will be holding two events where you can learn more about the ALICE program and get some of your questions answered.

The event for elementary school families will be, Thursday, October 18, 2018 at Woodland Heights School. The event will begin at 6:00 PM.

The event for middle and high school families will be, Monday, October 22, 2018 at Laconia Middle School. The event will begin at 6:00 PM.

Keeping our students and staff safe is one of our top priorities, and we believe that teaching students the ALICE program will help us in that regard. We thank you for your help and assistance in keeping our schools safe, and we look forward to seeing you on either the 18th or 22nd for the Community Conversation on the ALICE program.

Wishing you all the best,



Brendan Minnihan