

FERN RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Fern Ridge School District 28J

88831 Territorial Road, Elmira, Oregon 97437

Phone (541) 935-8230 FAX (541) 935-8234

Olivia Johnson, Principal

Sarah Wartenbee, Assistant Principal

Ryan Chambers, Counselor

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Dear Families,

Fern Ridge School District is committed to providing the safest possible environment for its students. Three years ago, a new safety protocol called A.L.I.C.E. was implemented by the district, to train our students and staff on how to respond appropriately, in the unlikely event of an armed intruder in one of our school buildings. This training encourages staff and students to respond based on their situation, rather than rely on centralized instructions in dynamic times of crisis. Each year students and staff review A.L.I.C.E. procedures as part of our emergency procedures such as fire drills or earthquake drills. This year FRMS, along with other schools in the district, has been planning a more intensive A.L.I.C.E. training for students.

FRMS will be conducting our training in three parts:

11/28 A short introduction to A.L.I.C.E. guidelines in Homeroom

12/4 More comprehensive A.L.I.C.E. training during first period

12/6 Follow Up Discussion and Practice Drill during first period

The A.L.I.C.E. protocol is a federally endorsed safety protocol for schools that is used throughout Lane County, and is an acronym that stands for:

- **(A)lert** – inform people of the threat, giving as much information as possible.
- **(L)ockdown** – Students and Staff can choose to lockdown and barricade the room that they are in if they determine that it is not safe to evacuate.
- **(I)nform** – pass on as much information as possible to others and to First Responders, including contacting 911.
- **(C)ounter** – an effort of last resort, if an armed intruder is able to get into the space that they are in; students are being trained to use every effort to stop the intruder instead of being passive victims.
- **(E)vacuate** – If it is safe to do so, all are encouraged to evacuate the building, and remove themselves from the threat.

Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. The A.L.I.C.E. plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. 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 in a crisis have a better chance of surviving.

We, at FRMS and FRSD, as well as experts across the country, believe that following the A.L.I.C.E. safety protocol will increase the chance of survival during an active shooter incident. We would like to emphasize that we are not asking or teaching our students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area. However, we will provide them with options that if faced with a life or death situation, can be applied to greatly enhance their chance of survival. These options include escaping, barricading the door, and protecting oneself by any means necessary should an armed intruder enter the room, and training will emphasize that the best way to survive an active shooter is to **escape**. When that is not possible, being mentally prepared and having been given the authority and ability to act will save lives.

Please contact us, if you have any questions about the A.L.I.C.E. safety protocol or trainings, or if you prefer that your student not participate. If you feel that this training might trigger issues for your student, please let us know so staff can help to support your student during this training.

We look forward to working with your students to provide them with skills they might need at school and in the community if confronted with a violent intruder.

Further information on A.L.I.C.E., can also be accessed at www.alicetraining.com.

Sincerely,

Olivia Johnson
Fern Ridge Middle School Principal