

Dear Parents,

We want to reiterate to you our dedication to the safety and security of your children while here at Faith West Academy. In addition to having an armed, security officer on campus, the school formed a Security Team last year, who are also armed on campus every day. Those members attended in-depth training on active shooter situations. The program is called A.L.I.C.E. which is an acronym for ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER, EVACUATE. This program has been adopted by the federal government as the best response to such an incident. Please take a moment to browse through the website for the program, <https://www.alicetraining.com>. Our Security Team members are certified trainers of this program.

All faculty and staff have been trained using the A.L.I.C.E principles. Everyone now sees first-hand that the traditional lock down procedures simply do not work. Each fall, we will provide our students with refresher training based on the A.L.I.C.E. protocols.

In addition, we have formed a relationship with the Harris County Sheriff's Department. In partnership with them, the FWA staff participated in an active shooter training scenario before school started this year. Five different law enforcement and first responder agencies joined in the training day, and it proved to be a beneficial step towards being prepared for any emergency situation.

We would like to encourage you to remind your student that we take all reports of inappropriate comments and threats seriously. Likewise, students who make credible threats will be disciplined to the fullest extent allowable by law and school policy. While we have not experienced any threats, we also encourage you to talk to your children about the importance of reporting inappropriate comments or potential threats to you or school administration. Faith West Academy is blessed to have loving and caring teachers, who build strong, positive, Christian relationships with your children. This, in and of itself, is a key deterrent to evoking school violence.

It is our privilege to partner with you in the education of your child. If you have any questions or would like more details, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mary Strickland, M Ed.
Principal, Faith West Academy