

# MOUNTAIN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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THOMAS DANYLIK  
PRINCIPAL



CRAIG MILLEDGE  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

November 13, 2023

Falcon Families,

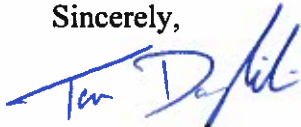
As we continue to digest the tragic events in Lewiston in late October, we want to address our continuous efforts in keeping MVHS as safe as possible. We want you all to know that the safety of your students has been and always will be our number one priority. Students cannot learn if they do not feel safe. We believe it is important for you all to know the safeguards we have in place at MVHS in case of an active threat. First and foremost, all of our doors are closed and locked throughout the entire school day. This is the easiest way for MVHS to remain secure while school is in session. However, if there were an active threat, MVHS staff has been trained in ALICE, which is a federally endorsed safety protocol. The letters ALICE stand for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate:

- **Alert** – inform people of the threat, giving as much information as possible.
- **Lockdown** – 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.
- **Inform** – pass on as much information as possible to others and to First Responders, including calling 911.
- **Counter** – an effort of last resort, if an armed intruder is able to get into the space they are in, individuals can counter with distraction or other tactics. Staff are being trained to use every effort to stop the intruder, instead of relying on the traditional lockdown and hide response.
- **Evacuate** – If it is safe to do so, all are encouraged to evacuate the building, and remove themselves from the threat.

MVHS staff were first trained in the 2018-19 school year. All staff hired after 2018-2019 are trained before the school year begins and we revisit our training several times throughout the school year. During ALICE training, staff were trained in different options for responding to a school emergency. In certain circumstances, the “lock the door and hide” strategy may be appropriate. In some cases, the teacher may take precautions to barricade the entrance(s) of the classroom. Under certain conditions, it might be the best decision for the teacher and students to flee the building. The goal of ALICE training is that the strategies learned will increase the chances that our staff and students survive in an emergency, including if an armed intruder were to ever enter the building. Additionally, please keep in mind that the skills of ALICE protocols are transferable to multiple scenarios, beyond the walls of the school and school grounds.

During the year we work with students using homeroom advisory, classroom discussions, and school drills. We are very sensitive to the fact that this is a scary topic for both students and adults. However, we feel it is necessary to have our students practice and complete at least two ALICE drills each year. Hopefully, our focus on being prepared will reduce fear and anxiety about these difficult situations. If you ever have questions or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Danylik".

Tom Danylik  
Principal, MVHS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig Milledge".

Craig Milledge  
Assistant Principal, MVHS