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## LOCKDOWN/A.L.I.C.E DRILL

Dear Parents,

Providing a safe environment for learning is of the utmost importance – for students, teachers, education support staff members and parents. While schools today are safer than ever, it's an unfortunate fact of life that we always need to be prepared and remain alert in the event of a school emergency. Ensuring a safe environment means being prepared for emergency situations, whether a natural disaster or a man-made situation. The Cajon Valley Unified School District's first priority will always be prevention. This includes nuts and bolts items like comprehensive school safety plans, safety checklist's drills on emergency procedures, and building strong relationships with our emergency responders. Prevention is much more than just securing a school site. It's also building a culture that is inclusive and invested in the well-being of each member of the community.

The idea that someone might want to harm our students and coworkers is hard to imagine. But we cannot allow ourselves to be unprepared. Since 2013, an options-based response has been established as best-practices when confronted with an active threat to personal safety.

The Cajon Valley Union School District has adopted the A.L.I.C.E. system as our options-based response program. A.L.I.C.E stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. Options-based systems empower users during a crisis. Staff and students must choose the best option available to preserve their own safety based on the limited information available. This is a fluid response and the options chosen and/or available may change as the situation develops.

Each campus within CVUSD will receive site-specific training on how to apply the A.L.I.C.E. system during training, drills, or an actual emergency. This Wednesday, October 2nd, at approximately 9:00 am, Empower Academy will be conducting a Lockdown/ALICE TRAINING drill in preparation for a man-made threat. The objectives for this drill will be to access the need to initiate a lockdown or an ALICE response, justify the safest location to place students during a lockdown and design a lockdown drill while evaluating staff's ability to complete performance steps.

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We understand that even in a training scenario, emergency drills in schools, and how to respond, is a sensitive topic. Awareness and routine training will greatly enhance the safety and security of our schools and keep us prepared. Reporting any threat allows law enforcement time to identify, assess, and manage the threat. Together, let's make sure our students are safe, supported, and ready to learn, grow, and thrive. Below are a few things to remember as we continue into the 2019/2020 school year:

- Our entire CVUSD, the San Diego District Attorney's Office, and the entire San Diego County Law Enforcement Community takes every threat seriously.
- If your child comes to you with something alarming they heard or saw on social media, help them report it to the appropriate source. Report *any* suspicious behavior as early intervention can prevent a situation from escalating.
- CVUSD has adopted the Students Speaking Out Program through San Diego Crime Stoppers and provides an avenue to anonymously report a crime or incidents on campus. We believe this partnership will make our schools safer and more secure.
- The San Diego County law enforcement community follows up on every tip and suspicious activity report they receive.
- As always If you see or hear a threat, call 911 if there is any possibility of immediate risk to someone.
- The consequences of making threats, can include suspension or expulsion from school and criminal prosecution.

If you or your child have questions, please contact your child's school or the Cajon Valley Unified School District directly at 619-588-3005.

Sincerely,

Ryan Love  
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Principal, Empower Academy