ALICE BLOG – NOVEMBER 2018

Rather than produce another routine ALICE blog I thought I should get some input from our students and from some of the local professionals outside our building to gauge perception as it applies to our school safety efforts…. after all,…perception is reality.

I asked about 100 students in both schools four questions.

* When a student suffers a personal emergency or crisis, someone is always there to help?

1. HS Student – without a doubt.  I feel I can talk to most of my teachers about my problems.  Especially those teachers that are also my coaches.
2. HS Student – Easily.  I’ve know most of the teachers my whole life so I would feel pretty comfortable if I needed help.

* What would you do if you thought (or knew) that someone was planning to bring a weapon to school?

1. ES Student – Tell my teachers or the Principal.
2. HS Student – Call 911 and inform school authorities.
3. HS Student – I would take even a joke seriously and tell our Safety guy, Principal or school teacher.

* I feel safe at school because?

1. HS Student – I feel safe because our school does really intense active shooter training and they take it very seriously.  It’s not just talk at Canton.
2. HS Student – I feel safe because I know that there is a policy and procedure in place for visitors or guests to enter our building.
3. ES Student – because we have the Red Night Locks and we practice the Sheep, the Shepard and the Wolf.
4. HS Student – I feel safe because school safety and doors being locked and not propped open is shoved down our throats to the point of nausea.
5. HS Student – The new large screen TV monitors and cameras means someone is always watching over us to keep us safe.
6. EL Student – The Lock Down Drills.  They are serious but at the same time…fun and we get to be a part of them.
7. HS Student- I feel safer here than I do at Tech or when I’m at the movies or even at church.

* I don’t feel safe when…?

1. HS Student – If there is any time that I might be cautious it is only at breakfast when there is a massive amount of student forced to stay in the café or lobby.
2. HS Student – When we were at the elementary school we got our breakfast then went to homeroom.  I liked that better because there were no crowds.
3. HS Student – Despite all the training and talk –there is still bullies and too much drama.

In addition to the student’s input here are a few comments from some of our local emergency responders:

Bradford County Emergency Operations center: “I would say from my stand point, dealing with all the schools in the district, Canton’s safety program is something other schools should strive for.  I was greatly impressed with not only the training but the students and faculty during the Lockdown drills”.

Chief of Police:  “Great training well put together.  Very refreshing to see the degree of intensity and involvement from the teachers.  Students clearly communicated that they appreciate and want to be a part of the ALICE training”.