

# LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



## School Safety Presentation LTCAC SEPTEMBER 21, 2022



#WeAreLT

# Tonight's Agenda

- Start with Hello (National Start with Hello Week is September 19-23)
- Summer Building Leadership Team Planning
- Safety Updates for 2022-23 School Year
- Safety and Security Assessment
- Threat Assessment Protocol
- Violent Critical Incident Drill & ALICE Protocol
- Building a Say Something Culture at LTHS



# Start with Hello

- Youth Violence Prevention Program from the Sandy Hook Promise Organization
- Goal is to create closer, more connected, and inclusive classrooms, school, and community
- Social isolation can lead to bullying, violence, and depression
- All members of a school community can create connectedness by following three steps:
  - See Someone Alone
  - Reach Out and Help
  - Start with Hello
- Start with Hello was part of SEL Lessons
- Start with Hello Week 9/19-9/23



# Safety Updates for 2022-23

- APs were Recertified in ALICE Protocol
- Drill Dates Established
- Safety Committee Meeting to Solicit Feedback on VCI
- Classroom Flip Charts have been updated
- Visitor Protocol Updates
- Inclusion of Sandy Hook Programs within SEL Lessons
- Upgraded Camera System
- South Campus Severe Weather Evacuation Route Updated
- Partnership with Expert for Safety Audit/Assessment
- Use of the Tunnel at North Campus



# Safety Assessment

- LTHS partnered with leading expert Paul Timm to complete a Safety Assessment of our North and South Campuses
  - Thorough walkthrough of campuses was conducted in July
  - Secondary walkthrough completed during school day in August
- Assessment includes review of the following: facility, processes/protocols, application of technology, supervision/personnel, and emergency protocols
- Immediate adjustments were made based on report and recommendations made during walkthrough (i.e. use of tunnel at NC)
- Leadership will continue deconstructing report in order to categorize recommendations and develop plan for implementing recommendations
- Upcoming partnership opportunities



# Threat Assessment

- In 2019, the Illinois Education Association initiated, and the state legislature passed what's known as the School Threat Assessment Law.
- This law requires schools to schools to develop a threat assessment (TA) team and a threat assessment protocol.



# Threat Assessment Protocol

- LTHS District TA team

Brian Waterman, Leslie Owens, Ed Piotrowski, Jennifer Rowe

## South Campus TA Team

- Jennifer Tyrrell, Principal
- Greg Gardner, Assoc. Principal
- Adam Davis, Ass't Principal
- Drew Eder, Div. Chair for Student Services
- Jaclyn Doss, School Psychologist
- Sal Montes, Social Worker
- Patrick King, School Counselor
- Carl Rhineberger, Teacher
- Ofc. Taylor Ficke, WSPD SRO

## North Campus TA Team

- Jennifer Tyrrell, Principal
- Kevin Brown, Assoc. Principal
- Darrell Mathis, Ass't Principal
- Drew Eder, Div. Chair for Student Services
- Rachel Bogatay, School Psychologist
- Mary Palacios, Social Worker
- Kate Pruski, School Counselor
- Jennifer Bigenwald, Teacher
- Ofc. Kevin Comstock, LGPD SRO



# Threat Assessment at LTHS

Our process was developed from the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) a school-based threat assessment model developed by Professor Dewey Cornell and colleagues at the University of Virginia (Cornell & Sheras, 2006) and based on substantial research, field-testing, and input from educators and experts in violence prevention.

- Profiles and checklists don't work. What they do is tremendous harm by mislabeling students with no intention of harming others
- There is evidence that mental health counseling, therapy and support reduces violence
- Threat assessments are not designed to predict violence – but to find ways to prevent it





# Threat Assessment at LTHS

“What is the goal of the TA process?”

The goal of the TA team is to understand and classify a threat in order to determine the appropriate next steps. Threats are identified as either:

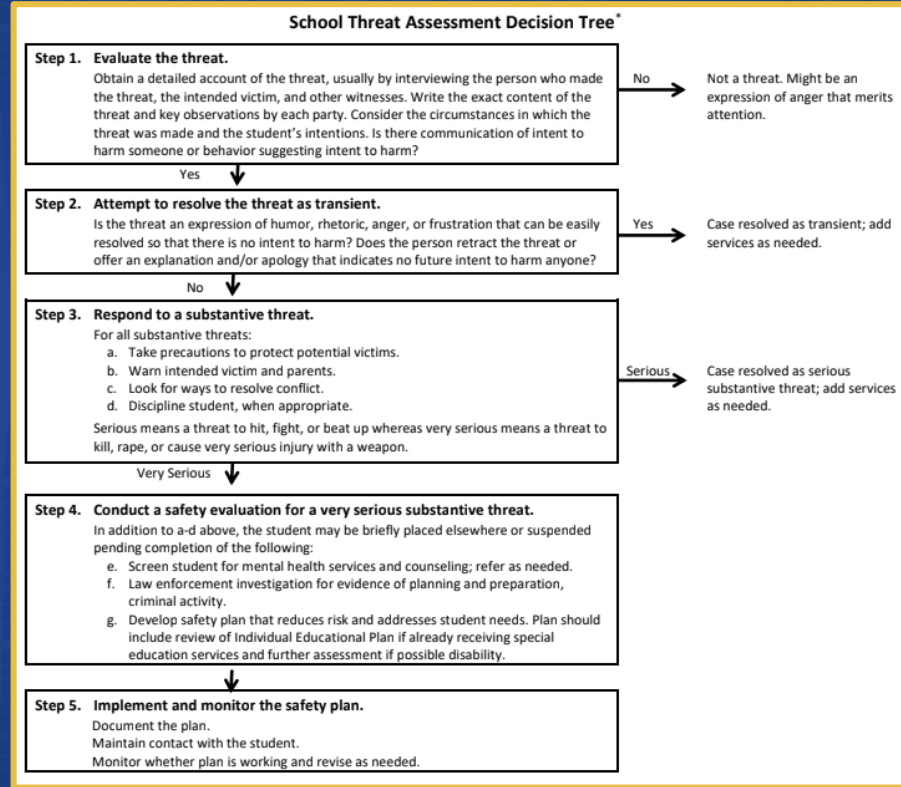
- Transient - no sustained intent to harm (approx. 75% of cases)
- Substantive - intent is present and therefore requires protective action (less than 10% of cases are very serious substantive threats)

The TA process is not intended for use with a report of self-harm. A different assessment process is utilized in such situations.



# Threat Assessment at LTHS

Utilizing the decision tree, the TA team gathers to review the threat and share all relevant information, which helps to determine next steps and student supports (if necessary).



# Violent Critical Incident (VCI) Drill & ALICE

- ALICE is a nationally recognized options-based protocol designed to empower individuals to make decisions to keep themselves safe in the event of a VCI.
  - A - Alert
  - L - Lockdown (with barricade)
  - I - Inform
  - C - Counter
  - E - Evacuate
- Safety experts agree that evacuation is the preferred response when it is deemed safe to do so.
- Each campus has reunification sites and students travel to them during PE classes each fall.



# Violent Critical Incident (VCI) Drill & ALICE

- IL School Code (105 ILCS 128/20) requires all schools to conduct one VCI (or “school shooter”) drill with local law enforcement each fall.
- LTHS engaged our Safety Committee this summer in planning for the VCI drill.
- LTHS conducted our VCI drill this September at each campus.
  - Announcement by Associate Principals
  - BluePoint activation with law enforcement
  - Classrooms practiced barricades
  - Social workers/counselors available to follow-up
- In order to continue to refine our practices and policies. LT administration debriefed with local police and fire officials.



# Building a *Say Something* Culture at LTHS

- School safety and building a *Say Something* culture was part of our SEL lessons at the beginning of the school year.
- Collective responsibility to say something if we see:
  - peers with social isolation or withdrawal
  - reckless or dangerous behavior
  - bullying, fighting, or harassment
  - peers violating school rules
  - other troubling behaviors or situations
- Importance of trusted adults
- Speak Up Line & Gaggle
- Say Something Week March 13-17 (SAVE Promise Club)





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