



# South Williamsport

{AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT}



March 12, 2018

## South Williamsport School District to have School Safety Week

This week students and faculty across the South Williamsport Area School District will participate in school safety activities as a part of adopting the ALICE emergency response program.

From March 12-16, there will be age-appropriate informational sessions about ALICE and school safety. This week also coincides with ENOUGH: A National School Walkout at 10 a.m. on March 14, which is taking a stand against school violence for every district across the country. The walkout will last 17 minutes which represents the length of time of the Parkland, FL. shooting last month.

School district administration, board members, and the South Williamsport Police Department will be there to stand with students in support of school safety.

“We want to show students that this is a cause we can work together on,” Jesse Smith, South Williamsport Area Jr./Sr. High School principal said. “There is no division when it comes to wanting safe schools and a safe learning environment.”

“We believe that participating in this event demonstrates that we as a student body, as well as faculty, that enough is enough concerning school violence,” Mike Allison, SADD club advisor said.

Each day during the week there will be time spent discussing and learning about ALICE, school safety, mental health and the laws set in place regarding firearms.

On Monday, students from seventh to 12th grade will be briefed about what is happening for the entire week. Tuesday, each social studies teacher will discuss current gun control topics during their classes providing students an opportunity to debate these critical and current topics.

District guidance counselors and professional mental health staff, will speak to each English class about mental health. Students will learn about what to do if someone talks about hurting themselves or others, how to report those concerns to staff and how to better connect with the school community.

The week will end with an ALICE PowerPoint presentation during first period. Students will be able to engage with the alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate procedure to learn what the potential best method recommends.

At Rommelt Elementary School, students will participate in classroom discussions about ALICE led by their teachers. They will learn how and when to inform an adult of a possible dangerous situation and review school safety procedures.

In the coming weeks, Central Elementary School students will read and discuss “I’m Not Scared, I’m Prepared,” an ALICE children’s book about danger and how to respond.

Though this is a heavy topic to discuss, it is essential for students and faculty to be knowledgeable about potential school violence. The week aims to be an informative experience as well as a way for students to unite together to say enough is enough.