



JOE LESTER
Sheriff

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SUBJ: **PRESS RELEASE by Sheriff Joe Lester**
Pioneer Intermediate School earns Safe School recognition

Pioneer Intermediate School in Noble is the latest school in Cleveland County to be recognized with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office Safe School award.

School staff and faculty were presented the award Oct. 8. Pioneer Intermediate School is the second school in Cleveland County and within Noble Public Schools to earn the recognition.

School employees along with Curtis Inge Middle School faculty completed training Sept. 26. Curtis Inge Middle School was the first learning institution in the county to be certified as a Safe School by the sheriff's office.

CCSO deputies introduced the safety program to area school districts in August. The instruction gives teachers the necessary training and tools to keep students safe if danger strikes on campus.

The program entails two phases.

Instruction begins with a presentation that focuses on signs and steps to follow once a child has reported abuse. It also covers how to observe signs that a child has been abused whether physical or sexual.

The second portion of training starts with the A.L.I.C.E. presentation. The acronym stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate.

Capt. Chris Tipton, SRT commander and patrol supervisor, instructs the program. Tipton is a certified A.L.I.C.E. instructor.

The course informs educators the proper techniques to defend against an active shooter. The last two hours consist of a series of realistic scenarios involving simulated suspects and actual police officers. School employees participate by playing their role and as students.

Deputies completed active shooter training with Noble High School employees in August. Upon completion of the child abuse course, the school will be identified as a CCSO Safe School.

CCSO Special Response Team and deputies provide training to faculty. Deputies collaborated with Noble Police and Noble Public Schools Campus police departments to present training to the school district.

Sheriff Joe Lester said he wants to ensure that all schools in Cleveland County are prepared to keep students protected from danger.

“The Safe School program gives employees and teachers the resources and training needed to keep children safe,” Lester said. “The child abuse course helps teachers recognize signs of abuse and the A.L.I.C.E. training shows faculty the best strategies to use if an active shooter is reported on campus.”

Any questions regarding this press release and/or information can be addressed to Meghan McCormick, Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office, community liaison/public information officer. McCormick can be reached at (405) 701-8847.