

Lip Sync Battle

Reece Clausen Takes First Place with a Performance of Fergie's National Anthem

By Megan Lunny



Sasha Wilson performs "I Don't Dance" at the lip sync battle (photo courtesy of Emily Silver)

As he prepared for a performance that would leave his audience roaring with both applause and laughter, Reece Clausen stood backstage and channeled his inner Fergie. "I was not nervous at all," the Patriot Player tells me. "I just was conflicted on whether or not to wear a dress."

Moments later, Reece took the stage clad in an elegant black dress, and began to lip sync to Fergie's now famous—or is it infamous?—iteration of the national anthem, delivered at a February NBA All-Star game

to a mixed response of laughter and criticism. Reece imitated the singer's mannerisms, clutching at the microphone stand, swaying his head, and straining his face, as Fergie's voice trembled and croaked through the speakers.

On a night that also featured performances from crowd favorites Mr. Hayes and Mr. Pierangeli, Reece's performance stood out as best in show to a panel of five judges, who would later vote him winner of the CB East Lip Sync Battle.



Mr. Pierangeli performs "Party in the USA" (photo courtesy of Emily Silver)

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Sasha Wilson, who took on the role of both host and performer in this year’s battle, says a “small but energetic” crowd cheered on the performers and sang along throughout the performances, creating a welcoming atmosphere that calmed performers’ nerves.

Reece agrees, adding that “what I liked most about the battle was the audience... I had a blast on stage, and I’m glad that everyone who attended had fun, too!”

Lip Sync Battle fans can anticipate Reece’s return to the stage next year: says Reece, “I have to defend my title!”



Mr. Hayes performs “A Total Eclipse of the Heart” (photo courtesy of Katie Mannion)



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tries, ethnic groups and cultures are all coming together to compete in high-intensity, competitive games. If this sounds like the 2018 Winter Olympics, it’s not: it’s the hottest new video game, Fortnite.

Fortnite is becoming increasingly popular; in fact, as of January 19, 2018 Fortnite hit an astounding 45 million player count. To put this in perspective, that is higher than the entire population of California!

What is even more impressive is that on February 8, 2018, Fortnite hit a 3.4 million concurrent player count, meaning that 3.4 million individuals were all playing Fortnite at the exact same time. This would be enough people to fill over 42 NFL football stadiums! In fact, this overload of players was so great the servers crashed that very same day.

With the persistent release of new games with hundreds of different styles, gameplays, and stories, what makes Fortnite so appealing to the public?

Fortnite

Why the Hype?

By Will Lyons

People

of different countries, ethnic groups and cultures are all coming together to compete in

One of the most obvious reasons for Fortnite's growing popularity is the price: "I love the fact that it's free," says Fortnite enthusiast Greg Scholz. "It just makes it easier for everyone to play."



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Most Xbox, PlayStation and PC games cost somewhere around 20 to 60 dollars, with the more well-known brands placing themselves on the higher end of the spectrum. But, with Fortnite, all you need to do is simply hit download on the PC or console and start playing. No need to drive all the way to the closest GameStop and run the risk of dropping 60 dollars on a game you may not even enjoy.

This leads to the next reason as to why Fortnite has gotten so much hype: free advertising. How did Epic Games, the company that created the game, convince you to get Fortnite? The answer is, they didn't, because they didn't need to. Fortnite is being advertised by a source more powerful than any billboard or commercial: word of mouth.

"I had at least ten friends recommend the game before I finally decided to get it," says new Fortnite player David Closterman. As players spend more time on the highly addictive game, the more likely they are to recommend it to family and friends. This web of communication creates a domino effect that spans across



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friend groups of all ages, eventually conspiring into the hype that is seen today for Fortnite. This concept of free advertising is taken a step further as Fortnite has appeared on hundreds of Streams, YouTube channels, Snapchats, Instagrams and even news channels, all of which work to capture the attention of the

public, who unknowingly spread the Fortnite brand.

What about the game itself? Something about Fortnite must keep players coming back for more, but what? The ability to not only play with friends but work as a team with them is the most enjoyable and crucial part of Fortnite.

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“It’s just such a great team-building game,” Fortnite player Ryan K. says.

With so much relying on communication and cooperation, Fortnite tends to be more of a social game. Whether it be deciding where your team should land or trading guns to each person’s skill set, you are constantly interacting with your squad -mates. Your ability to work with others and come to quick agreements amongst your teammates is pivotal to your team’s survival.

Fortnite master John Gallow puts it simply, “No team work, no wins.”

At the end of the day, all other twenty-four teams are going for the exact same prize that you are. It’s up to your team to out-communicate and ultimately out-play these other teams until you have the satisfaction of seeing that “Victory Royale” flash across your screen.



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While there are many other characteristics that make the game fun—from the vast, open map to the constant updates and improvements—fundamentally, Fortnite is popular for three main reasons: price, free advertisement and team work, all of which have created the Fortnite hype that we see today.

No one can tell just how much longer the Fortnite craze will last, but, for the time being, you might as well hop on the Fortnite train and strive for those Victory Royales.

In Times of Crisis

CBSD Implements New Active-Shooter Protocol

Megan Lunny

“Do you know what ALICE stands for?”

I’m sitting in the CB East office of Dr. J. Luke Hadfield, junior class principal. He’s a tall, ruddy man with a booming voice and friendly manner: he greeted me with smile as I entered his office, and I’m forced to remember his dynamic chanting at

school pep rallies (“I say CB, you say EAST!”), or the time he visited my home-room and joked about getting old.

But as we begin to discuss the newly implemented ALICE safety protocol, his usual light-hearted demeanor fades. Dr. Hadfield leans back in his chair, hand on chin, wearing a look of stern contemplation.

I wonder what he’s contemplating.

Maybe my class principal is thinking about the students of Parkland, Florida, the latest victims of a growing trend of American school shootings that has spanned almost the past twenty years.

Or maybe he’s imagining a similar active-shooter scenario in our own school—a terrifying possibility that would be simulated in T-minus ten days, when CB East would practice its first-ever ALICE drill.



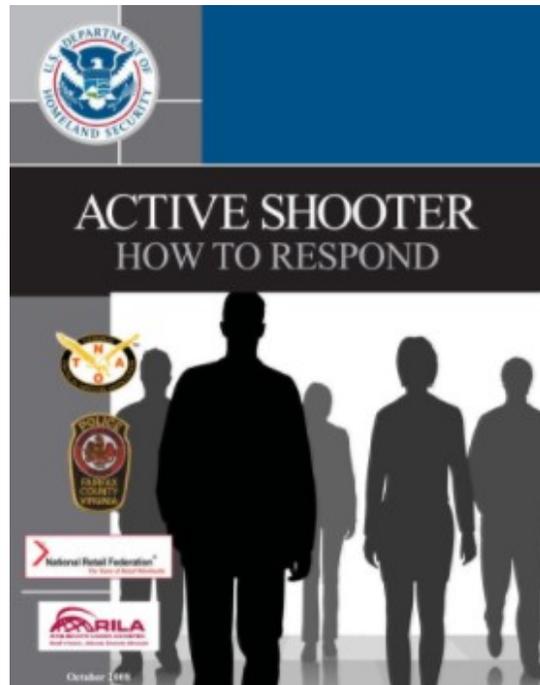
Alert
Lockdown
Inform
Counter
Evacuate

“Um,” I begin to say in response to his earlier question: *Do you know what ALICE stands for?* “Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter... Evacuate.”

“Right... but not necessarily in any specific order,” Dr. Hadfield says, and begins to explain to me the primary benefit of ALICE—what makes it, in his words, the latest best practice in safety protocol: its flexibility.

New to CBSD schools in the 2017-2018 school year, ALICE aims, according to the district’s FAQ page, to “encourage staff and students to respond based on their situation, rather than rely on centralized instructions in dynamic times of crisis”—radically different from the longstanding CBSD approach of locking doors and sitting quietly in a corner in an intruder situation.

Galvanized into action by recent fatal school shootings—of which there



On its website, the ALICE Training Institute provides guides such as this one to help students survive an active-shooter emergency through the use of Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate.

(From the ALICE website)

have been 25 since Columbine in 1999, according to Fox News—and by a rekindled national dialogue about gun violence, CBSD hopes to empower its students and faculty by teaching them to make informed decisions to protect themselves in an active-shooter situation.

“What’s great is that [ALICE] gives us options,” Dr. Hadfield explains.

The foundation of ALICE is open communication through the school’s speaker system (no use of confusing or misleading codes anymore, Dr. Hadfield tells me): to the best of their ability, faculty and administration will describe the shooter’s appearance, whereabouts, and any other relevant details.

After that, really, teachers and students have the freedom—or is it burden? —of making the next logical move.

If the shooter is on the opposite end of the building, students and faculty can choose to evacuate; if the shooter is approaching, individuals can barricade or rope down their doors, and prepare to fight for their lives.

The key word, I am reminded, is *individual*: gone are the days of school administration ordering students to sit helplessly and wait; now, students and teachers must think and act for themselves, taking into consideration for their individual safety or, should they choose, the safety of others.

This flexibility, Dr. Hadfield hopes, will give us the ability to “monitor and adjust” in order to “minimize the cost of life.”

Teachers and students, too, seem to recognize the benefits to the new protocol: ALICE “gives you more control,” says CB East history teacher Mr. Matthew Riley, adding that “the ability to make choices” in an emergency is “empowering” to those whose lives are at stake.

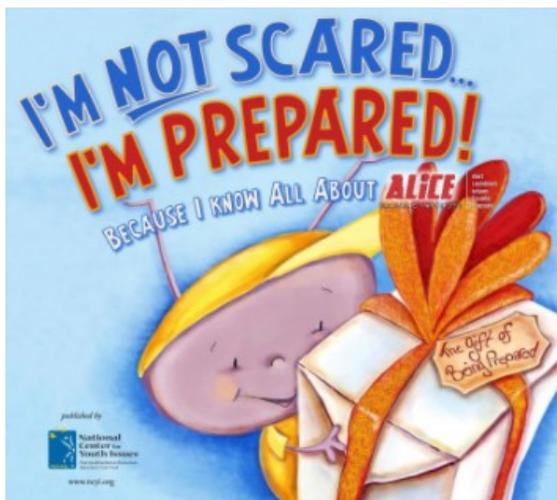


Students practice barricading their classroom door as part of their ALICE training (image included as part of CBSD ALICE presentation)

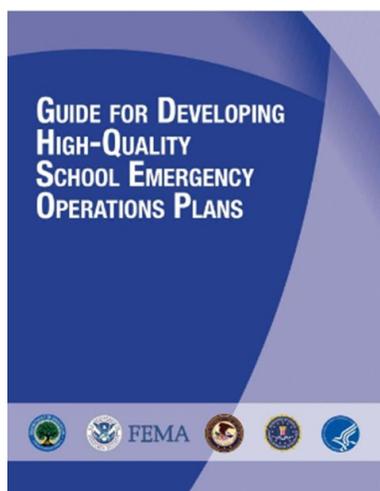
"[I feel] more prepared," junior Amara Chimezie says of ALICE. "The last gun defense program taught us to lock ourselves in a classroom and to hide... A group of students... just waiting in a classroom are sitting ducks."

Junior Amanda Plochanski agrees that "in some aspects," she feels more prepared—but, she notes, while ALICE is certainly "a step in the right direction," the new program is hardly "the perfect solution."

Indeed, there are drawbacks to the "latest and greatest" protocol. For one thing, the Counter component of ALICE, which encourages students to fight a shooter in close range, is "psychologically very difficult [for students] to face," says Mr. Riley. This is especially true for young elementary students, who, because they are small and weak, or because they may not be able to respond appropriately in a high-stress situation, are more or less excluded from protocol that require them to think and act for themselves.



A poster on the ALICE website for K-12 students



From the ALICE website

And for another, though ALICE's chief goal is to empower individuals to think and act in the interest of their safety, some feel that the new protocol's open-endedness creates a lack of direction, and that students, so used to being instructed by teachers and administration, will panic, in the words of Amara Chimezie, "as soon as bullets are fired."

But in the end, the CB school district can't control the outcome of a shooting: all they can do is prepare students to make the best possible decisions if or when their lives are on the line—and ALICE certainly aims to prepare.

"I don't know if you're ever going to have a school that's 100% safe," Dr. Hadfield says, leaning forward in his chair. All we can do, he adds, is "control what we have control over"—and hope that it's enough.

Springing Forward Into Track

A Preview of the CB East Girls' Spring Track Season

By Sarah Gray and Kyra Goldblum

This season of girls'

spring track is predicted to be successful with all-star runners and supportive coaches and fans. This year's season will highlight Sophie Curtis and Nicole Schmauk, who have been runners for CB East's spring track program for four years.

Sophie Curtis is a strong runner, racing in the mile and the two-mile race each season. "I have definitely watched myself improve as a runner throughout the past four years. I didn't have the stamina I had freshman year as I do now," Curtis says. She gives credit for her outstanding past seasons to her coaches who have helped her strive and her teammates who have supported her in each race.

Another senior who is approaching the end of her spring track career is runner and teammate Nicole Schmauk, a key player in her team's one mile and two mile races. Along with Curtis, Schmauk describes how she has watched herself and her team reach their respective potentials. "Without the coaches pushing us each day and helping us make our mental and physical health stronger, we wouldn't be the successful team we are today," Schmauk says.

Besides these runners, another team member who has watched her team thrive individually and as a whole is Paige Renneisen. Renneisen, a senior, was a standout runner and a huge asset to the CB East track team. This winter, Renneisen suffered a terrible break to her leg, ending her track career for this upcoming season. Though Renneisen is devastated about not being able to run with her team, she has found a position as manager for the track team so she can continue to support her teammates. "It doesn't matter if you're running or not—as long as you're supporting your teammates, you're a part of the team," Renneisen says.

Not only does the spring track team have competitive runners but also the atmosphere of the team is just as great. "Each person on the team supports each other. We are like a big family," Curtis says.



CB East Girls' Track Team