

How UMS-Wright Preparatory School Transformed Campus Security with CrisisGo

# **App Adoption, Drills**

# Proactive by Nature, Prepared by Design

At UMS-Wright Preparatory School, located in the heart of Mobile, Alabama, proactivity is more than just a philosophy–it's a way of life. With over 1,200 students and a fully enclosed campus, safety is a top priority. But a few years ago, the school started looking into newer, innovative ways to enhance safety and security.

"We were using PA systems, announcements, generic texting apps. But we wanted something dedicated for emergencies," recalled Garrett Humphrey, the school's Director of Campus Safety and Security. Coming from a law enforcement background, Garrett knew just how vital real-time, clear, and accessible communication was during a crisis. The school needed a tool that would eliminate communication barriers and empower every teacher and staff member to act swiftly, no matter where they were on campus.



#### **Customer Profile**

Founded in 1893, UMS-Wright Preparatory School is an independent, college-preparatory K3-12 school in Mobile, Alabama, dedicated to fostering academic excellence, character development, and service to others. With a strong emphasis on wholechild education, UMS-Wright prioritizes safety and structure to support a thriving, well-rounded student experience.

Industry: K3 - 12th Grade Region: Mobile, AL Total Buildings: 8 Total Students: 1,270 Customer Since: July, 2023

### The CrisisGo Difference

After vetting several emergency communication solutions, Garrett and his team selected CrisisGo. What made CrisisGo stand out?

"The integration was seamless. Our IT director loved how easily we could upload rosters and onboard our staff. It wasn't a deluxe package with hidden fees-it was ready to go out of the box."

CrisisGo offered a smooth, intuitive interface and compatibility with their existing software. More importantly, it provided a rapid, reliable way to send out alerts, coordinate during drills, and maintain open communication–even from mobile devices.

### Mobilizing the Staff with Safety at Their Fingertips

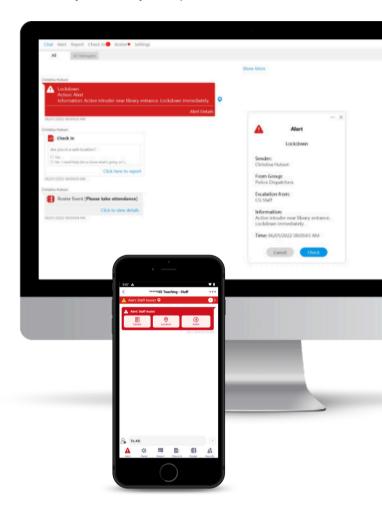
UMS-Wright made the mobile app non-negotiable. "If you teach here, you're required to have CrisisGo on your phone. It's not optional."

This policy transformed how quickly and efficiently information could be shared. During drills and real emergencies alike, teachers check their phones for instant updates. Whether it's a role-play evacuation with a mock intruder or a real-time severe weather alert, the app becomes the hub of communication. That connectivity reaches far beyond campus boundaries.



"Even teachers off-campus or on field trips respond to drills. That level of connectivity is unmatched."

For Garrett, this ability to connect everyone-no matter where they are-isn't just impressive. It's essential.



"Seconds are precious in a dangerous situation -even if it's just a minor threat. With CrisisGo, everyone gets the message instantly." Garrett Humphrey Director of Campus Safety and Security UMS-Wright Preparatory School

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#### **Drills That Mirror Reality**

Garrett's team drills like they play. Their drills aren't just box-checking exercises-they replicate real emergencies. Role-playing, off-campus relocations, and scripted scenarios ensure the entire school community is prepared for any threat.

"We don't just drill for the sake of it. We simulate what a real emergency would look like-real locations, real-time alerts, real check-ins."

Teachers learn to check in students they physically see and ignore those absent or already with a parent. It's accountability at a level that didn't exist before.

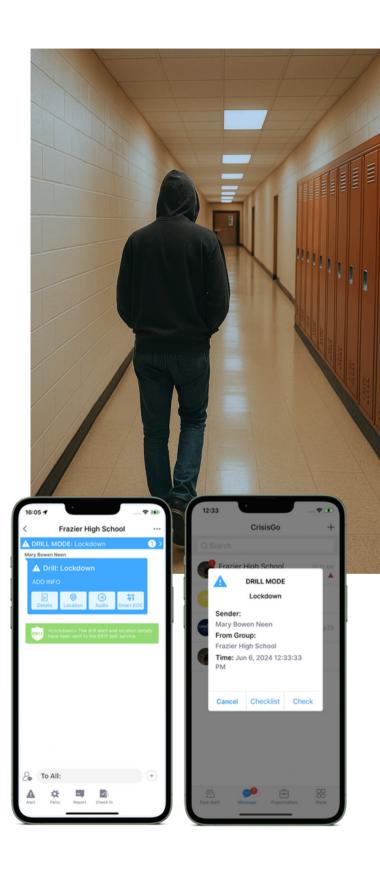
## **Unmatched Speed and Simplicity**

For Garrett, nothing compares to the speed of CrisisGo.

"I can get an alert out faster through CrisisGo than my secretary can on the PA system."

Whether it's a tornado warning or a medical emergency, staff get notified immediately-on or off campus. Even during drills, teachers not physically present respond in real-time, a testament to the app's connectivity and reliability. This kind of speed empowers teachers and gives them something equally vital: confidence.

"It's peace of mind. Our staff knows that if something happens, they can act-and be heard-immediately."



### **Designed for Everyday Heroes**

The mobile interface is designed for simplicity. Teachers are trained using mirrored screens so they can see exactly how the icons appear. Customization helps too. For example, a suspicious person icon was replaced with a ski mask symbol to instantly cue awareness.

"The icons make it easy. Our teachers recognize the terminology and visuals instantly–fire, lockdown, suspicious person–it's all configured to our standard response protocol."

And it's not just alerts-CrisisGo provides the tools for nuanced communication.

"We've configured it so managers and admins can send targeted messages. A middle school teacher doesn't need to panic over a high school-specific incident."

#### Partnership That Grows With You

Even after three years, Garrett says the partnership with CrisisGo continues to evolve.

"The support is incredible. If I reach out, I get help immediately-even video tutorials sent directly to me. It's a real relationship."

From onboarding to plan revisions, the CrisisGo team has been there at every step, responsive and resourceful.

> "CrisisGo bridged our communication gaps and accelerated our safety program." Garrett Humphrey Director of Campus Safety and Security UMS-Wright Preparatory School



# Award-Winning Safety, Powered by CrisisGo

That proactive mindset paid off–UMS-Wright was recently awarded the Alabama Attorney General's Safe School Award, one of only six selected out of 1,850 schools.

"CrisisGo was a major part of our presentation. Our IT director demoed it, and even the judges were impressed. One even asked, 'What's the name of that product again?'"

Six schools were chosen based on "their ability to enhance safe school protocols through preparation and training; collaboration with local emergency response agencies; involvement of school resource officer or alternate security personnel; structure and innovation of safety technology, community participation; and law-related and prevention education," the Attorney General's Office release said. (WKRG Staff, 2025)



#### Looking Ahead:

When asked if there's anything else he wishes CrisisGo did, Garrett had a simple answer:

"Honestly, no. Each year we discover new ways to use it. You've already built in most of the solutions we could need."

For Garrett and the UMS-Wright team, CrisisGo isn't just a tool-it's the foundation of a modern, connected safety culture.

#### Sources

WKRG Staff. (2025, Feb. 5). Orange Beach Middle and High School, UMS-Wright Preparatory School earn 2024 Safe School Initiative Award. WKRG News 5. <u>https://www.wkrg.com/local-news/orange-beach-middle-and-high-school-ums-wright-preparatory-school-earn-2024-safe-school-initiative-award/</u>

