



A Safer Way Forward

How Benet Academy Strengthened Preparedness, Communication, and Confidence with CrisisGo

Safety iResponse, Drill

The Challenge

For more than two decades, Joe Cabay has walked the halls of Benet Academy in Lisle, Illinois, with a steady sense of responsibility. As Dean of Students at the private Catholic high school serving approximately 1,250 students in grades nine through twelve, his role extends far beyond discipline and daily operations. At its core, his job is about safety—ensuring students and staff are protected, prepared, and supported when it matters most.

That responsibility has only grown more complex over time. Like many schools, Benet Academy had long relied on traditional safety tools: PA announcements, paper binders filled with procedures, and manual attendance processes during drills. While those methods had worked in the past, Joe and his leadership team began to feel the gaps—especially when it came to speed, clarity, and coordination during emergencies.

Customer Profile

Benet Academy is a Catholic, college-preparatory high school rooted in the Benedictine tradition, dedicated to forming compassionate leaders, critical thinkers, and faithful servants of God and neighbor. Guided by the values of prayer, work, and community, Benet provides a holistic education through four cornerstone programs—Academics, Faith & Service, Fine Arts, and Athletics—empowering students to grow into well-rounded individuals prepared to lead with purpose and live the Gospel in today's world.

Industry: High school

Region: Lisle, IL

Total Buildings: 1

Total Students: 1,250

Customer Since: 2023

“We knew we needed a better way to alert people,” Joe explained. “And we wanted a reliable way to take attendance when students were outside the building during drills.”

A Recommendation That Sparked Change

The turning point came through a trusted peer. Just across the way, the neighboring public high school in Lisle was already using CrisisGo. When Joe connected with their Dean of Students and School Resource Officer, they encouraged him to see the platform in action. Joe took them up on it.

After visiting the school one afternoon and watching how CrisisGo was being used for safety drills and real-time communication, something clicked. The platform didn’t feel theoretical or overcomplicated—it felt practical.

“They were explaining how they were using it for school safety drills,” Joe recalled. “That really made us interested, and that’s what brought me to CrisisGo.”

Matching Real Needs with the Right Tool

From the outset, Benet Academy approached CrisisGo with clear goals in mind. The leadership team wasn’t looking for technology for technology’s sake—they were looking for solutions to specific challenges.

They needed:

- A faster, more effective way to alert staff without relying solely on the PA system
- A reliable method for taking attendance during fire, tornado, and other drills
- A way to communicate with staff anywhere—inside or outside the building
- A centralized place to store safety plans, maps, and medical procedures

With about 120 staff members across a variety of roles—teachers, administrators, maintenance staff, and support personnel—ease of access and usability mattered.

“Getting things loaded on computer and cell phone devices was really important to us,” Joe said. “We wanted to be able to communicate with anybody, no matter where they are.”

As they evaluated their needs, CrisisGo emerged as a strong fit—not because it promised everything, but because it delivered what they actually required.

Overcoming Adoption Challenges with Practice and Patience

Like any new system, implementation came with challenges. The biggest wasn't technology—it was people. "One of the biggest challenges is the difference between roles in a school," Joe explained. "A teacher's day looks very different from a maintenance person's or a staff member who isn't working directly with students."

Rather than forcing adoption and hoping for the best, Benet Academy leaned into practice. During the first year, the school ran frequent check-ins through CrisisGo, sometimes walking through them together in an auditorium setting as part of professional development. That repetition made a difference. Over time, staff became more comfortable not just receiving alerts, but actively participating in them. The app became familiar, approachable, and eventually routine.

Building Confidence Through Repetition

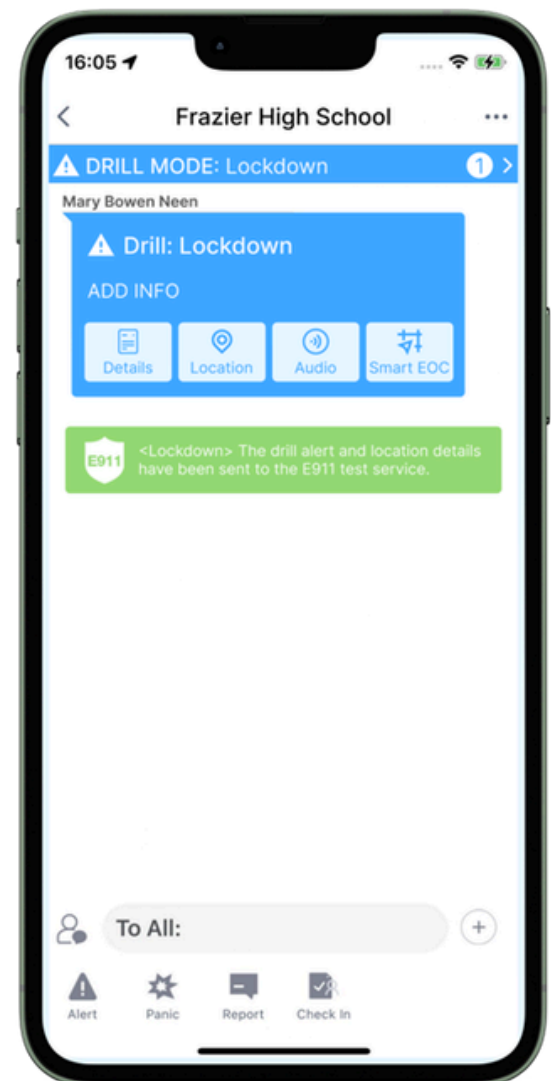
Today, all drills at Benet Academy are run through CrisisGo—fire, tornado, and active threat scenarios alike. Each drill includes roster events and attendance tracking, giving administrators real-time visibility into where students and staff are.

"Our principal and president decided that we were going to do all of our drills through CrisisGo from the start," Joe said. "Because of that, we're running several things a year, and it's given our faculty and staff a lot of practice."

That practice has paid off. Over three years, Joe has seen a clear improvement in preparedness—not just in process, but in confidence. "We feel comfortable because we've done it so many times," he said. "I think I counted over 100 unique events already."

"It feels like a one-stop shop..."

Joseph Cabay,
Dean of Students
Benet Academy



When Preparation Meets Reality

While drills are essential, the true test of any safety platform comes during real incidents. For Benet Academy, that moment came during a medical emergency in the cafeteria. A student needed immediate assistance. Joe pressed the medical emergency button in CrisisGo.

“Within what felt like seconds, we had about six staff members there to assist,” he recalled.

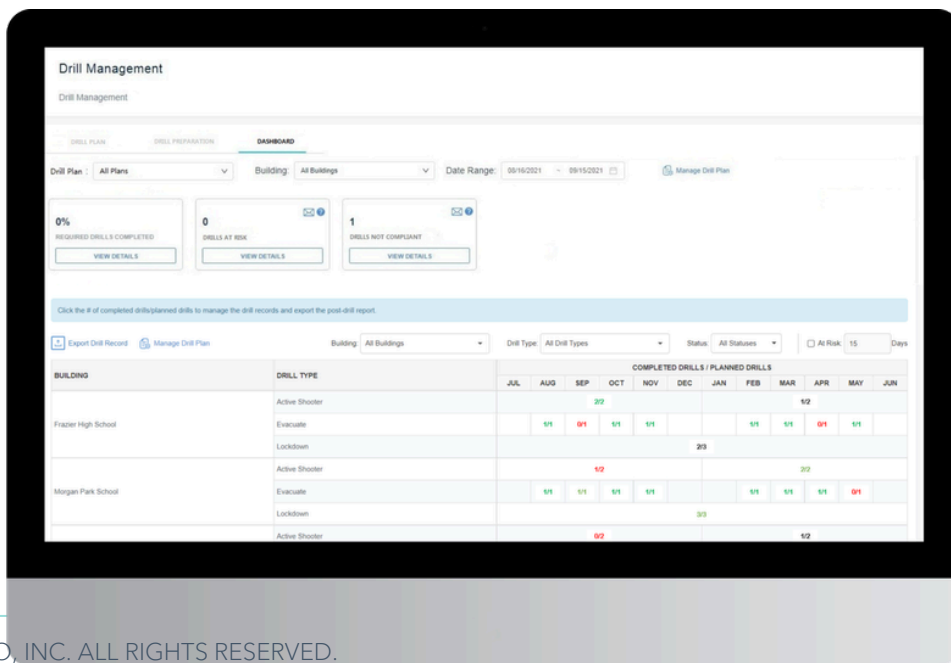
The response was coordinated and calm. One staff member met the arriving ambulance. The school nurse attended to the student while administrators managed the situation and supported everyone involved. “It happened really quickly,” Joe said. “That was a game changer.” Medical incidents, he noted, happen every year—to students and staff alike. Having a system that works in real time, not just during drills, has made a meaningful difference.

Empowering Staff, Reassuring the Community

Beyond internal operations, CrisisGo has shifted how the broader school community feels about safety. “The community really has appreciated it,” Joe shared. “They feel like they’ll get the alert quicker, and they’ll know.”

For staff, the impact has been even more personal. CrisisGo removed the dependency on a single voice over a PA system and replaced it with something more dynamic.

“You never know where something is going to occur,” Joe said. “And who’s going to be the closest to the scene. That’s what CrisisGo gives you—the ability to respond in that moment and bring people to you to help.”



One Central Source of Truth

Over time, CrisisGo has also replaced something else entirely: binders. What was once a collection of paper documents—escape routes, medical procedures, maps—is now stored digitally in one place.

"We don't have a binder anymore," Joe said. "A teacher or staff member can go into CrisisGo and see all our procedures and steps."

This shift hasn't just reduced paperwork—it's improved accessibility. Information is always current, always available, and always in the same place.

"It feels like a one-stop shop," Joe explained. "It's really nice."

Support That Makes a Difference

For Joe, one of the most reassuring aspects of CrisisGo hasn't been the app itself—but the people behind it. "Anytime I email them, and I'm not exaggerating, they're back to me within minutes," he said. "If something's over my head, they do a great job helping us." With automated roster updates happening nightly and minimal manual upkeep required, the platform has stayed current without adding work to an already full plate.

Looking Ahead with Confidence

As Benet Academy looks to the future, CrisisGo continues to play a central role. The school is actively working on reunification planning with a nearby university and exploring additional uses for the platform, including weather-related communications.

Joe sees the value in thinking beyond emergencies alone.

"It's about preparation," he said. "When something happens, the question is always, 'How did you prepare?' We feel confident because we have prepared."

After years of use, that confidence is perhaps the most meaningful outcome of all.

"Since we've added CrisisGo," Joe reflected, "it feels like our response is really, really good." And for a school community that takes safety seriously in every facet, that confidence matters.

About CrisisGo

CrisisGo is a leading provider of safety solutions designed to empower schools, organizations, and communities. Our comprehensive platform combines emergency preparedness, communication, visitor management, and incident management to support fast, effective responses during critical situations. CrisisGo is dedicated to creating safer environments and enabling individuals to respond with confidence in emergencies.