

Sheriff

DAVID B. SHOAR

OFFICE
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ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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August 12, 2019

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

It's back to school time again! The men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office hope you and your children had an enjoyable and safe summer. As your Sheriff, I want to share with you some of the initiatives our office has in place to help ensure that your children have a safe school year.

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the School District continue to place a high priority on providing a secure environment for our children to learn. We are committed to ensuring that the school experience is safe and our deputy sheriffs strive to serve as positive role models.

We have made some changes to our PSA (Public Service Assistant) assignments this year. My staff evaluated all the PSA posts assigned to the schools to determine how to use our limited resources with maximum efficiency. Based on the results of the evaluation, St. Augustine High School, Nease High School, and Freedom Crossing Academy will see an adjustment in PSA resources.

During the summer break the Sheriff's Office conducted site safety surveys on all 40 schools in the district. This information has been shared with the School District to help them assess and prioritize the safety needs at each school. The Sheriff's Office has worked side-by-side with the School District to ensure compliance with the regulations placed in the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act and Senate Bill 7030. We will work directly with the Principals to conduct active assailant drills and have appropriate discussions with your child focusing on active assailant response procedures, the "Always Rules," and safe zones within the classroom. If you or your child receive information of a suspicious nature involving any of our local schools, please feel free to report it using the FortifyFL app (available for Apple and Android devices). Tips reported using this app are instantly relayed to law enforcement and school officials. You can submit your tip anonymously or non-anonymously. If an immediate response is necessary, please feel free to call 911.

In addition to supporting the well-being of your children, our deputy sheriffs facilitate several in-school programs, including Safety Programs, Mentoring, Anti-Bullying Initiatives, Drug Prevention, Intervention Programs, and Safe Prom Initiatives. We also provide guidance and education for the safe use of computers and the internet.



Technology is a great asset to education and global connectivity, but it can bring challenges for parents and children. Together, we can restrict those who attempt to exploit our children online. The Sheriff's Office will also focus on underage drinking, illegal pill abuse, and those who provide illegal substances to our children. Preventing the tragedy of student death or disability attributed to underage drinking or drug use is our goal.

As a father, I understand the challenges parents face, and I ask that you continue to be observant and "tuned in" to your child's friends and activities. To stay up-to-date with the current events happening at the Sheriff's Office and within the county, please follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/stjohnssheriffoffice](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssheriffoffice)), Twitter (@sjsopio), and Instagram (sjsopio). Thank you for taking the time to read this message. I look forward to a successful and safe school year for all our students. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Shoar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'S'.

David B. Shoar
Sheriff