

Sheriff

DAVID B. SHOAR

OFFICE
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ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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August 10, 2018

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Welcome back to school! The men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office hope you and your children have 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 your children have a safe school year.

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the school district have a solid partnership and continue to place a high priority on providing a secure environment for our children to learn. This year a number of law enforcement deputies have been assigned to our schools. We are committed to ensuring that the school experience is safe and our deputies serve as positive role models for your children.

During summer break, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office conducted safety surveys on all forty public school sites in our county. This information has been shared with the School District to help them assess and prioritize the safety needs at each school. Our agency also worked with the school district to ensure compliance with the regulations placed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. This year your children will view a video presentation on best practices of how to react to an Active Shooter Incident on school property. We have developed several videos for staff, students, and administrators which are age appropriate for each grade level. The presentation will be facilitated by our deputies within the first two months of school.

We have made some changes in our Public Service Assistant (PSA) assignments this year. An evaluation was conducted on all PSA posts assigned to the schools to determine how to use our limited resources with maximum efficiency. Based on the results of the evaluation, the following schools will see an adjustment in PSA resources: Palencia Elementary, Ocean Palms Elementary, Hartley Elementary, South Woods Elementary, Landrum Middle, Murray Middle, Valley Ridge Academy, Nease High School, Liberty Pines Academy, and Ponte Vedra High School. School Crossing Guards are assigned to crosswalks and intersections per Florida Statute.

In addition to supporting the well-being of your children, our deputies facilitate several in-school programs on topics such as safety, mentoring, anti-bullying, drug prevention, intervention, and safe prom initiatives. We also provide guidance and education for the safe use of computers and the internet. The Sheriff's Office continues its focus on underage drinking, illegal substance abuse, and those who provide illegal substances to our children.

As a father, I understand the challenges parents face, and I ask that you continue to be observant and "tuned in" to your children's friends and activities. Follow us on our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/stjohnssheriffsoffice](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssheriffsoffice), to stay updated on current events. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to a successful and safe school year. 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".

David B. Shoar
Sheriff

