



ST. JOHNS COUNTY **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF

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Dear St. Johns County Parents,

Welcome back to school! I am thrilled to share that there will continue to be a Deputy Sheriff in each St. Johns County public school within our jurisdiction. The St. Augustine Police Department will also have officers placed at RB Hunt Elementary, Ketterlinus Elementary, Gaines Alternative School, and St. Joseph Academy. The partnership between our agency, the school district, and most importantly the families and students is vital to our success as a county.

As your Sheriff, I challenge all parents to continue being an active participant in your child's life. Their future depends on it. As a youth coach in St. Johns County for nearly 30 years, I've seen first-hand the importance of strong mentorship and involvement with our youth.

For me and this agency, there is nothing more important to us than the safety of our students. Our Youth Resources Deputies under the leadership of Captain Peggy Tennyson have spent the summer training so they are prepared for any situation that may occur during the school year. I cannot stress enough that if you see something, please say something. If it is an emergency, please dial 911 or for a non-emergency, call 904-824-8304. We will always put the safety and well-being of your children first.

I also challenge both parents and students to get to know your respective school's Youth Resource Deputy. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Youth Resource Deputies are there for each of you. If you hear or see something you think isn't right or you have a question about, reach out to them. It is paramount that our students know that the deputy in a uniform is a friend and there to be a resource to them.

I would also encourage you and your child to utilize the FortifyFL app to report suspicious information that is learned by our schools and students. These tips are relayed to law enforcement and school officials for immediate investigation. It is incredibly important for parents to remain vigilant and aware of their children's activities at school and elsewhere.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of law enforcement in St. Johns County. It is truly our honor to be of service to you. For updates and current events on the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Hardwick
Sheriff

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"First on the First Coast"

