



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

ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF

4015 LEWIS SPEEDWAY, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084 | 904.824.8304 | www.SJSO.org

Dear St. Johns County Parents and Teachers,

Welcome back to school! I am thrilled to share that for the first time ever, we will have a Deputy Sheriff in each St. Johns County public school within our jurisdiction. The St. Augustine Police Department has also partnered with the School District and has placed police officers at RB Hunt Elementary, Ketterlinus Elementary, 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 futures depend 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.

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.

In addition, our Youth Resource Deputies facilitate several in school programs, to include Safety Programs, Mentoring, Anti-Bullying Initiatives, Drug Prevention, and Intervention Programs. Our deputies provide guidance for the safe use of the internet and computers. Technology is a great tool to assist in education but it can also bring its own challenges for parents and children. It is incredibly important for parents to remain vigilant and aware of what their children's activities online and otherwise are. Together, we can restrict those who attempt to exploit our children.

We will continue to encourage you and your child to utilize the FortifyFL app when suspicious information is learned by our schools and students. These tips are relayed to law enforcement and school officials for immediate investigation.

Lastly, 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 at 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

Internationally and State Accredited
"First on the First Coast"

