



August 31, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

It's that time of year again—back to school time! This school year will undoubtedly produce challenges as we move forward into the rest of 2020. As your Sheriff, I want to share some of the initiatives our office has in place to ensure your children a safe school year.

COVID-19 has caused a ripple effect through our community from the end of last school year and through the summer. We intend to persevere in our mission to create a safe environment for our students to return to school. The SJSO worked tirelessly to obtain funding for an additional eleven (11) Youth Resource Deputies and one (1) Supervisor to ensure better safety of our students for the 2020-2021 school year.

In addition, 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 the internet and computers. Technology is a great asset to learning, 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 unlawful substances to our children. If we can prevent the tragedy of a single student death or disability attributed to underage drinking or drug use, our goal will be accomplished.

The Florida Department of Education has instituted a new student mantra: "ALERT" (Access, Lockdown, Evade, Resist, Tell), which correlates to the content within our active assailant videos that will be presented to our students and teachers. These videos will be posted on our website so you, our families, can be acquainted with the content.

Please remain vigilant and "tuned in" to your child's friends and activities. For updates on current events at the Sheriff's Office and within the county, please follow us on Facebook. We continue to encourage you and your child to utilize the FortifyFL app any time suspicious information is obtained about our schools and students. These tips are immediately relayed to law enforcement and school officials for investigation.

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,

*David B. Shoar*

Sheriff David B. Shoar