



# ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF**

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Dear St. Johns County Families,

As you and your family embark on another school year, we want to encourage you that we will remain vigilant in the protection of your children. We spent the summer preparing for this school year through multiple different avenues of training and we are ready to support, protect and defend your children this school year.

Active Shooter Trainings were hosted throughout the summer to help our deputies prepare for the worst possible scenarios. We pride ourselves on our exemplary training and went to great lengths to ensure our Youth Resource Deputies feel prepared for the call to protect and serve the citizens of St. Johns County, no matter how young or old. In addition, our Sheriff's Office staff, in conjunction with Fire Rescue Personnel and School Safety Specialists, visited multiple schools throughout the county developing plans and seeking blind spots in security in order to make each school a safer place to attend.

Our Threat Assessment Team spent the summer analyzing and conducting follow-up investigations on each threat assessment completed during the previous school year to ensure we have the safest possible school year in 2024/2025. Should you feel the need to report a concern and would like to have direct contact with your respective Youth Resource Deputy, do not hesitate to reach out to our staff.

**Captain Peggy Tennyson** • [ptennyson@sjsso.org](mailto:ptennyson@sjsso.org) • 904.209.2132 office • 904.669.5743 cell

**Lieutenant David Tarbert** • [djtarbert@sjsso.org](mailto:djtarbert@sjsso.org) • 904.209.1505 office • 904.814.9244 cell

**Lieutenant James "West" Kennedy** • [jkennedy@sjsso.org](mailto:jkennedy@sjsso.org) • 904.209.2442 office • 904.687.9745 cell

Forty-two (42) of our public schools will proudly have one of our Deputy Sheriffs on staff, and I hear daily stories about the life-changing opportunities they have to support and encourage your children through positive interactions. Some of the happiest staff members at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office are the Youth Resource Deputies who call our public school system home.

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new K9s assigned to our schools. One dog will be assigned to the schools in the North portion of the county and the other will be assigned to the South. These dogs will specialize in the detection of firearms and narcotics odors. These specialties will ensure our schools continue to be some of the safest schools in the state. We pride ourselves on the selection and training of these dogs and we are excited to welcome them into our schools.

As we look forward to another great school year, our commitment to providing first class customer service and keeping the students and faculty of St. Johns County safe remains our top priority. Should you have any questions, always feel free to reach out. You can contact the Office of the Sheriff by calling 904-810-6605 or by emailing me at [sheriff@sjsso.org](mailto:sheriff@sjsso.org).

Sincerely,

Robert A. Hardwick  
Sheriff

Internationally and State Accredited  
"First on the First Coast"

