

Today it is commonplace for your child to come home with a story about a police officer that visited the classroom or ate lunch with them. The Hobart Police Department has long been a supporter of the School City of Hobart working hand in hand to provide much needed services throughout the years.

One of those services to the schools arose after April 20, 1999. What happened on this date, you may ask? The Columbine High School shooting took place on this date. During the incident, 24 people were injured, and 15 people were fatally wounded.

After Columbine the realization of how vulnerable our schools were prompted the Hobart Police Department and the School City of Hobart to introduce the first School Resource Officer, Sgt. Michael Pearson to Hobart students in 2000. In 2001 the Hobart Police Department assigned Lt. Grennes to the School City of Hobart for the purpose of teaching the Indiana Dare program. Together, Sgt. Pearson and Lt. Grennes established the three major roles of what current SRO's do to this very day. Those roles are to provide security, mentorship and teach the students of Hobart.

As these officers have moved on from the program, other officers' have stepped in throughout the years to continue the tradition of what they began. The officers who have followed continue to provide excellence in the community and schools while providing the three major functions of an SRO. In fact, the first SRO of the Year award given by the Indiana Association of School Resource Officers (INASRO) was presented to Cpl. Joe Clemmons, a Hobart Police Officer. Another first experience for the Hobart SRO program was having a K9 handler, Cmdr. Simon Gresser and his K9 partner, Scout in the schools.

The Hobart Police Department and School City of Hobart are committed to the success and growth of the SRO program! This year the program is at its largest with six SRO's. This affords one SRO in every school, continuing to provide the three major roles to the School City of Hobart, the students and the community. The Hobart Police Department believes the most valuable asset in the City of Hobart is the youth. The Hobart Police are dedicated to providing supporting programs for positive interaction with the young people in the community.

When you enter your child's school you make sure to meet their teachers, the principal and the nurse. But often overlooked is your child's SRO or School Resource Officer. Perhaps you are just not sure what the role of the SRO is. Your child's SRO is more than just a police officer in the school. The SRO is there to be the link between the police, the school, the parents and child to services that they may need. Those services extend far beyond just arresting people for criminal activity. In fact your SRO is not there to arrest kids at all but to help the school staff provide a safe environment in which your child can perform to the best of their ability.

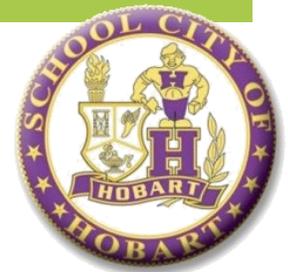
An effective SRO is there to build relationships with your child, you and school staff. It's these relationships that will be used to help shape your child's experiences during their school years. They will be taught how to make good decisions and how to deal with the consequences that come with bad ones. These relationships also help to build trust between your child and the SRO. How does your SRO go about building these relationships you may ask. The SRO serve 3 roles in the school community. The first role of the SRO is as a law enforcement officer. Your SRO will provide on site protection for the campus and any after school events. The SRO will provide knowledge in how to deal with criminal matters to school staff, parents and students.

Second, your SRO serves as a mentor to students. The SRO's door is always open for students to come and speak about what is on their mind. No matter whether it is about bad grades, what they saw on television or something more serious in nature. An SRO will provide positive advice and direction to your child and you about how to handle a wide range of issues. You can always rest assured that your school's SRO has your child's best interest in mind and will seek the best outcome for them.

The 3rd role of the SRO is to be a teacher in your child's school. From reading a story to a class of kindergarteners, discussing health issues with high schoolers or teaching Too Good For Drugs to a class of 5th graders. Not all the teaching that an SRO does takes place in the classroom. You can even find your SRO working the sidelines as a coach or maybe the organizer of an after school club. The SRO is there to show students that police officers do more than just fight crime in the community.

Far too often students are told that the police will take you away for doing bad things. That type of saying often shapes a student's opinion about police officers in a negative way. This negative opinion then keeps that student from seeking help or advice from the SRO in a timely manner that could have been the difference in whatever their situation was.

So next time you are at your child's school and after you have met the principal, the teacher and the nurse. Before you go stop by your school's SRO office and say hi. Introduce you and your child and let them know the SRO is here to help.



2020 - 2021 School Resource Officers

**Public Relations Division
Partners in Public Safety**

219.942.1125 Ext. 1070

A Student Resource Officer's Role

While keeping your students safe is the number one priority, the SROs take on several roles during their daily duties. The SROs are not only police officers in our schools, but they often become an informal counselor and educator for your students. The SROs, as well as Patrol Officers, instruct the "Too Good for Drugs" program, teaching students positive life skills and the negative impacts of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. The SROs duties are not limited to the following:

- To assist in the education of the school community
- State the consequences of a person's actions regarding unlawful behaviors
- Participate in the education of the students regarding their responsibilities towards the community
- Promote law abiding behavior through examples & presentations
- Assist the school in conducting those parts of the educational program in which they have appropriate expertise
- Contribute to an understanding of the law/legal process & procedures, particularly in relation to youth
- Participate in school activities that allow for the opportunity to further the aims of crime prevention initiatives
- Conduct within schools, all activities normally undertaken by police in areas of education
 - Presentations on: Road Safety
 - Issues; Keeping Ourselves Safe;
 - The role of Police in Society; Drugs; and Safety House
- Assist schools in the conduct of student activities at which the police presence would contribute to the students' education

THERE IS NO SAFETY IN SILENCE!

Call: 219-942-TIPS(8477)

Text: 219-942-TIPS(8477)

Email: 1190@alert1.us

Web: <http://1190.alert1.us>

Our District Code is: 1190

YOU CAN REMAIN ANNONYMOUS!

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Find SAFESCHOOLS Alert in the apps with:



Cpl. Monte White; Hobart High School: sro-hs@hobart.k12.in.us 942-8521 x 8009

"Relationships are at the core of everything that we do. They can bring us closer together or push us further apart. A positive relationship can shape and mentor a youth to success that goes well into adulthood. While a negative relationship can do irreparable damage that a student may never recover from. My goal is to be that positive relationship, provide that mentorship and assist students in whatever way possible as they transition into adulthood."

16 yrs. Hobart PD.



Cpl. Mike Jimenez; Hobart Middle School: sro-ms@hobart.k12.in.us 942-8521 x 8477

To be a positive role model building trust with the students, school staff and police officers, while keeping our schools safe.

14 yrs. Hobart PD.



Cpl. David Beaham; Joan Martin Elementary School: sro-jm@hobart.k12.in.us 947-7869 x. 8515

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them". ~Lady Bird Johnson.

6 yrs. U.S. Army; 16 yrs. Hobart PD.



Ofc. Arturo Azcona; Liberty Elementary: sro-le@hobart.k12.in.us 942-4251 x 8715

Bridging the gap between police and kids while creating a safe learning environment.

4 yrs. U.S. Army; 25 yrs. Law Enforcement 3 yrs. Hobart PD.



Ofc. Matthew Bisig; Ridge View Elementary School: sro-rv@hobart.k12.in.us 942-5614 x 8815

To provide a safe and secure learning environment while simultaneously building positive relationships amongst students which encourages them to learn more, do more, and become more, a leader.

25 yrs. U.S. Army/Army National Guard; 13 yrs. Hobart PD.



Cpl. Joseph Clemmons; Early Learning Center: sro-elc@hobart.k12.in.us 942-7263 x 8615

When children feel safe, they can take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow. My focus as a SRO is to create a safe, secure learning environment which will provide a growth mindset at every level of education in the SCOH.

4 yrs. U.S. Navy; 19 yrs. Law Enforcement

A TOTAL OF 130 YRS. POLICE & 37 YRS. MILITARY EXPERIENCE PROTECTING OUR SCHOOLS