

# ST. MARY'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADOPT-A-SCHOOL



## A Community Partnership for Safe and Secure Schools

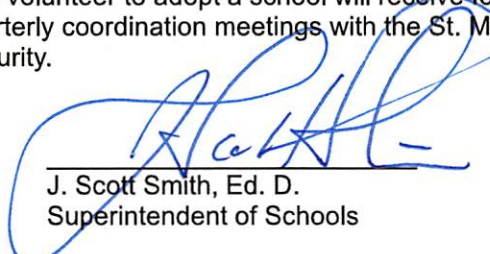
St. Mary's County Public Schools and the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office are fully committed to providing a safe, secure, and nurturing learning environment for our children. We share a common vested interest in student success and the expectation that all students graduate from high school college and career ready. To realize this goal, we share the responsibility of protecting our children and preparing them to become productive and contributing members of society.

It is for this purpose that Superintendent of Schools J. Scott Smith and Sheriff Steve Hall shall continue the **St. Mary's County Adopt-A-School Program**. This joint partnership is designed to provide mentorship to our community's children and further enhance our safe and secure school environments by coordinating additional law enforcement resources and support for St. Mary's County Public Schools.

The **Adopt-A-School Program** will match current St. Mary's County Sheriff's deputies with elementary schools who currently do not have the direct support of a school resource officer. The deputies, who volunteer to participate in the program, will "adopt" their matched elementary school for the purpose of fostering a positive relationship with the school's students. The deputies will enhance law enforcement service to their school and act as an advisor to staff. All will work together to keep our students in school and improve their opportunities for success. This initiative will supplement the established school resource officer program as we recognize the need to operate efficiently and effectively by maximizing all of our resources. The deputy and the school's site administrator will coordinate activities that will promote and support this initiative. Activities may include:

- Mentoring students through interaction with uniformed officers
- Participating in a variety of school activities to include lunch visits, playground observations, and providing safety and vocational talks
- Conducting regular visits, increasing visibility, and enhancing campus security
- Providing guidance based on their expertise as law enforcement professionals
- Acting as a resource with respect to delinquency prevention
- Acting as a liaison during emergency events at the school

Calls for service at the adopted schools will be managed using established protocol. Each of the deputies who volunteer to adopt a school will receive formal professional development training and participate in quarterly coordination meetings with the St. Mary's County Public Schools' Department of Safety and Security.

  
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J. Scott Smith, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

  
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Steve Hall  
Sheriff, St. Mary's County