



OUR Promise FEATURES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



Eddie Thompson: Keeping Our Schools and Community Safe

For this week's "Our Promise Features" we visited District Security Officer, Eddie Thompson, and got a glimpse of how he combines years of emergency response experience with daily campus security to create a safer environment for our students.



Security Officer, EMT, Fire Captain

Entering his 19th year with the District, Eddie Thompson is not your average Security Officer. He's seen 20 years of graduates walk the stage at Patterson High School while providing almost 30 years of experience as a volunteer Fire Captain for The West Stanislaus Fire Protection District, and as an EMT for the Patterson District Ambulance. "I use these skills practically every day," said Thompson. "We've had kids who have [had medical crises], and I'm trained to spot those signs quickly. I can get the process started and evaluate them before the ambulance arrives so they can get to the hospital quicker."

On campus Eddie can be found anywhere from patrolling the parking lots, to assessing injuries in the gymnasium, or even in the cafeteria where he spends some time monitoring the lunch rush. "There's probably around 600 kids [coming inside the cafeteria to get food during lunch], and I go around making sure they are behaving and picking up after themselves."



“Eddie Thompson has been the guardian angel of Patterson High School”

In addition to his duties as a District Security Officer, Eddie Thompson likes to stay involved with his community. He organizes quarterly safety meetings at PHS for Staff and Community Members, and has coordinated the “Every 15 minutes” program since 2002. In 2023, Eddie was the recipient of the “California Star of Life” award by the California Ambulance Association at the State Capitol in Sacramento. “Don’t let his stern demeanor fool you. Eddie has a heart of gold and a genuine love for his community. He is an exceptional Star of Life honoree,” said the California Ambulance Association via press release for award recipients.

Eddie’s work with our students and community has resonated with Staff members throughout the District, including Executive Assistant to the Human Resources Department at PJUSD, Anabel Reichmuth, who has had three children attend PHS under Eddie’s guidance and supervision.

“For almost 20 years Eddie Thompson has been the guardian angel of Patterson High School,” said Anabel. “He has ensured every student feels secure and protected.”

Thompson is often asked by staff members why he doesn’t go full-time for the Fire Department or District Ambulance, his answer is quite simple. “I enjoy watching the Freshman come in and being part of their [time here]...Getting to see them walk up the stage at graduation, that gives me a good feeling and I think to myself, ‘I remember seeing that kid and he wasn’t doing too good and now he’s getting a diploma, and I had a little part in that.’”