



Sheriff
Dan Altena
Sioux County Sheriff's Office
4363 Ironwood Ave., Ste. 1
Orange City, IA 51041

Office (712) 737-2280 Fax (712) 737-8185

PRESS RELEASE

The School Resource Officer program moves into its second year.

The Sioux County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer (SRO) program will be entering its second year this coming school year. The program began last year as a "pilot program" with the Boyden-Hull JR/SR High School and Western Christian High School, both located in Hull, IA. The first year of the SRO program was a big success and exceeded expectations of the sheriff's office and both schools.

The SRO program will continue this year again with both high schools. School Resource Officer, Deputy Waylon Pollema will again spend a half day at each school once a week. In addition to attending the NASRO (National Association of School Resource Officers) Basic SRO training last summer, this summer Deputy Pollema attended the NASRO Advanced SRO training and the NASRO National SRO conference in Orlando, Florida. Deputy Pollema said attending the training and going to the conference has provided him with additional resources and education as it pertains to school related issues.

The goals for the SRO program remain the same. Continuing to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the students, maintaining a safe learning environment, and through law related education helping our young people to be better informed and effective citizens. The Sheriff's Office is currently working to expand the SRO program. The expansion will involve middle schools in Hull, Boyden, and Hospers. The Sheriff's Office strongly believes bringing this resource to younger children can be very effective. Deputy Pollema said he will work hard to bring the success of the current program to these middle schools.

Here are some comments from the schools we served last year:

"The SRO program has allowed our students to develop a positive working relationship with law enforcement in general and specifically with Deputy Pollema of the Sioux County Sheriff's Office. The program has also been a valuable resource for issues related to law enforcement in the classroom as well as issues related to the law in the administrative realm. We truly appreciate the program and are thankful that it continues."

-Dan Barkel, Principal, Western Christian High School

"The initial goal of the SRO program was to forge a relationship between the schools in Hull and the Sioux County Sheriff's Office. Another goal was to allow the SRO to build relationships with high school students and to allow the students to see them as service in our communities rather than the enemy. Lastly, the SRO program also allowed the SRO to visit classrooms and help provide any additional curriculum or outside resources to the curriculum. The biggest success of the program is the building of relationships between students, schools, and the law enforcement agency. There have been times where students come to me and ask when Officer Pollema will be in the building so that they know when they can visit with him about a

question or concern. Officer Pollema has also been a great resource to me as an administrator as I handle situations. Overall, the SRO program has gotten off to a good initial start. I look forward to seeing how the SRO program continues to grow and be used more by the teachers and the students in the 11-12 school year."

-Dan Pottebaum, Principal, Boyden-Hull High School