

TO PROTECT & EDUCATE:

The School Resource Officer and the Prevention of Violence in Schools

In order to ensure the safety and security of our students, the School Town of Highland employs a School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO is housed in Highland High School. The SRO acts as a law enforcement officer, a safety professional and a role model, providing safety related classroom instruction to students and professional development to staff. The SRO leads investigations related to theft, substance abuse and residency issues and collaborates with guidance counselors on domestic disturbances that impact students. The SRO coordinates the campus-wide K-9 searches with local law enforcement for illegal drugs and other contraband. The SRO serves as a liaison between the school district and local, regional and federal law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, probation department and the Lake County Prosecutor's office.

Our SRO presents the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program to our middle school students and instructs 7th graders in refusal skills and handling peer pressure. He assists with the implementation of the Olweus Bullying Program K-8. As the district's representative to the Lake County Safe School Commission, he gathers and shares timely information with administrators, ensuring that we stay current on issues faced by our immediate and surrounding communities. Assisting with truancy and absenteeism issues, the SRO has a positive impact on attendance rates.

The School Town of Highland recognizes how fortunate we are to have an SRO who is active in our schools and works so effectively with kids. Should you have questions about the SRO program, please contact the Director of Student Services at the Central Office, or your child's school administrator.