



Sheriff Blackmon's Report Card



A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF CHRISTOPHER BLACKMON

Keeping our children safe does not stop at the school doors or the end of the school day. Today, much of a child's world exists online, and that makes internet safety a shared responsibility between families, schools, and our community.

At the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, we are committed to supporting parents and educators with education, resources, and prevention focused efforts that help protect children both on and offline. When families, schools, and law enforcement work together, we create safer spaces where children can learn, grow, and thrive.



**OSCEOLA COUNTY SHERIFF
CHRISTOPHER A. BLACKMON**

Supporting Safe Internet Use at Home and at School

For parents and educators, staying involved online does not require knowing every app or platform. What matters most is engagement, open communication, and setting clear expectations. Children are more likely to speak up when something feels wrong if they know a trusted adult is paying attention and willing to listen.

Technology can be a powerful tool for learning and connection, but without guidance, it can also expose children to risks they are not prepared to handle alone. Regular conversations about online behavior, healthy boundaries, privacy, and respect can make a meaningful difference.

By staying present, asking questions, and reinforcing that it is always okay to ask for help, adults play a key role in protecting children online. Internet safety is not a one time conversation. It is an ongoing partnership that helps children navigate the digital world with confidence and care.

To learn more and access helpful resources for families and schools, visit www.osceolasheriff.org/parents-hub and explore our Parent's Hub.





THREATS ARE NEVER A JOKE



Words shared online carry real weight. Statements that suggest violence or physical harm, whether posted on social media, gaming platforms, sent in messages, or written in letters, can have serious consequences, even when they are not meant to be taken seriously.

What may feel like a joke, a moment of anger, or an attempt to get attention can quickly escalate. These statements can disrupt schools, create fear, and lead to criminal investigations. In many cases, threats made online or in writing can result in felony charges, regardless of intent.

Under the leadership of the Sheriff, the Osceola County Sheriff's Office remains focused on prevention, early intervention, and protecting students, staff, and families. This work depends on strong partnerships with schools and caregivers to address concerns before they grow into emergencies.

Parents and educators play a critical role in prevention. Regular conversations about responsible online communication, emotional awareness, and speaking up when something feels wrong help keep schools safe. When adults and students work together, risks are identified earlier and harm can be prevented.

School safety is a shared responsibility. By staying informed and engaged, families and educators help reinforce the message that threats are never harmless and that choices made online can carry lasting consequences.



Det. S. West

*Two School Safety Division Detectives, formerly serving as School Resource Officers, are now focusing exclusively on investigating crimes and incidents on or related to school campuses. Their role blends traditional detective work with responsibilities unique to the school setting, including responding to safety threats, addressing school-related criminal behavior, and supporting proactive law enforcement strategies. They will also act as liaisons with community partners within the school system. This shift allows them to dedicate their efforts fully to keeping students and staff safe. Please welcome **Detectives West and Wolnik** to this important role.*



Det. A. Wolnik

Explore news, programs and safety information on our website:
www.osceolasheriff.org



Appreciating Our School Resource Deputies

On February 15, National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day, Sheriff Christopher A. Blackmon and the Osceola County Sheriff's Office recognized the dedication and impact of our School Resource Officers who serve in schools across the county.

In advance of the recognition day, our SROs were treated to special lunch boxes prior as a small gesture of appreciation. While simple, the gesture reflected our gratitude for the steady presence, care, and professionalism these deputies bring to school campuses every day.

SROs do far more than provide security. They support students, assist educators, and build trusted relationships that help create safe and welcoming learning environments. Their consistent presence encourages students to speak up when they need help and allows concerns to be addressed early.

The appreciation extended beyond our agency as well. During the SRO Appreciation Day weekend, athletes from the Game Point Volleyball team surprised our SROs with Valentine's treats, offering a thoughtful reminder that community support and kindness go hand in hand with school safety.

While these moments of recognition may be brief, the impact of our School Resource Officers is lasting. We are grateful for their commitment, compassion, and the important role they play in supporting students, families, and schools throughout Osceola County.

ON DUTY WITH...



Lawrence Epps: Impact Beyond the Badge

As a School Resource Officer, Deputy Lawrence Epps makes a difference through approachability and consistency.

His positive presence helps students feel comfortable, confident, and connected within their school.



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www.osceolasheriff.org/newsletter

PROGRAMS THAT INSPIRE

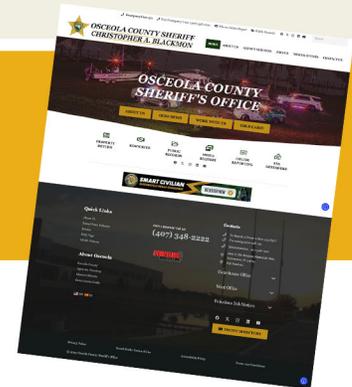


Open to youth ages 14 to 21 interested in leadership and community service.

Explorers train with deputies, assist at community events, and build confidence, responsibility, and real-world skills while learning more about law enforcement and serving their community.

Visit:
www.osceolasheriff.org/crime-prevention/resources/youth-programs/

**Visit our website to see what's coming up:
www.osceolasheriff.org/ocso-events**



**Have a question? Call us!
(407) 348-2222**

**Or send a message:
www.osceolasheriff.org/newsletter**

Osceola County Sheriff's Office

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