



Monocacy Elementary

7421 Hayward Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702
Phone: 240-236-1400 Fax: 240-236-1401

Troy Barnes
Principal

Andrea Roche
Assistant Principal

March 1, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the privilege of working with tremendous School Resource Officers over my 8 years as a principal in both Charles County and Frederick County. The SRO program has been outstanding in building community relationships, connecting resources, providing DARE instruction, providing visibility and support to students throughout the school day, and developing a deep understanding of our facility and emergency procedures. I strongly encourage SRO's to remain in schools. These police officers have become vital members of our school community.

I have worked with two high crime neighborhoods in both counties, and their level of trust in police officers is very minimal at best. However, whenever the community has reached out for support from the school and it involves law enforcement they have been very willing to work with the SRO. The SRO has become a positive bridge between the community and law enforcement. Our communities do not see them as the bad guys or someone they can't trust, but instead they see the SRO as a support system.

SROs have provided a bridge between the school and community resources. Our school resource officers have helped to deliver food to families in need, assisted with distributing school supplies, and reaching out to families in need, especially during the pandemic. Our SRO has worked with agencies in our area to bring helmets to our bike riders, provided free car seat inspections, provided car seats to those in need, and assists our students and families on being pedestrian safe.

Many of the SROs in Maryland provide instruction in classrooms to our students on drug prevention and safety. These officers share their wisdom and expertise with our students. The students love having them in their classrooms and enjoy the instruction from someone other than their teacher. This program has really helped to improve the understanding of our students to help keep them safe.

My SROs have been in the buildings daily. They greet students, eat lunch with students, play with students at recess, visit classrooms, read aloud to students, and support the school in various community events. They are an extremely important part of our school community. School Resource Officers provide a positive public image of their profession, build trust with students and the community, and are tearing down barriers that prevent them from serving and protecting our community.

Finally, SROs are very knowledgeable of our school emergency plans, they understand the facilities, and are available on short notice. This is critical in the times we live in. We cannot have violence in school and harm done to our most precious gifts, our students. The SRO will be the first responder and we need their expertise in these situations to minimize the damage caused.



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I strongly support the SRO program and have seen nothing but positive outcomes from the program. Please do not remove this valuable resource from our schools.

Please reach out with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Troy Barnes
2020 National Distinguished Principal