

PVPUSD School Resource Officer (SRO) Update

The addition of two School Resource Officers (SROs) for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District has been noted and appreciated by many stakeholders. With visibility and student safety as one of our goals, Officers Steve Moses and Dave Rozas continually conduct safety checks on the two comprehensive high school campuses and have attended school events with large crowds such as nighttime football games (both PV and Peninsula), basketball games, and school dances to ensure the safety of the students and faculty.

Both officers regularly visit other District schools, including weekly visits from Officer Rozas to Miraleste Intermediate, Ridgecrest Intermediate and Rancho Del Mar. In addition, the SROs have made regular visits to elementary schools to introduce themselves to the administration, students, and parents in those communities. Both officers have also responded to incidents at different school sites at the request of district personnel. This included a suspicious adult who was refusing to leave school grounds and possible student threats at other campuses. During these times, they have remained on campus until the Sheriff's Department or other local law enforcement agency was able to determine that the threat was not credible.

The teamwork and visual presence of school administration, security staff, and the School Resource Officers have contributed to a lower overall number of disciplinary incidents this year compared to previous years. The SROs have worked with the administration teams to educate students about the dangers of vaping and other risky behaviors through conversations with students and parents while on campus.

Officer Moses has taken on the role of traffic control in the mornings and afternoons at PV High to ensure a safe ingress and egress from school each day. The safety of students crossing the street in front of the school remains to be the number one priority and his guidance has helped to improve the heavy congestion of traffic during these times.

Officer Moses has participated in the "Every 15 Minutes" DUI program on campus with the students and faculty. At the end of each class, he shared a detailed real-life experience to which he responded to while working a patrol car involving a death of a driver/passenger involved in a DUI collision, which made an impact on our students.

Officer Rozas has made himself available every Wednesday after school as a mentor to work with students on peer mediation and alternatives to suspension assignments.

Both officers have worked with administration on various discipline situations and investigations to assess the level and/or need for police involvement as well as talking with students about their behavior while on campus. The SROs are a resource for teachers, parents, and students by providing assistance and support for victims of crimes identified within the school setting. They have also worked with the Palos Verdes Estate Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department anytime they are called to campus and have conducted regular meetings with patrol personnel to keep each other informed of what is happening in the community.

Both officers attend parent, faculty, and staff meetings as an integral part of the school team and are working to cultivate a clear understanding of the SRO position by staff and students alike. Overall, their input, knowledge, and experience have positively informed school culture. Our School Resource Officers have been an indispensable asset for our District.