



## DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Thomas E. Mills  
*Sheriff*

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*Undersheriff*

### **PRESS RELEASE** **November 5, 2013**

FROM THE SHERIFF'S DESK . . .



#### **Sheriff's Office Partners with Area Schools in an effort to thwart potential Incidents of school violence**

As you are well aware, country wide acts of school violence have created heightened concern for families, our County's school districts and the law enforcement community. As these incidents become more pervasive, we realize that it is our obligation to devise a program to address this potential threat in an aggressive and proactive manner.

Since taxpayers can ill afford to bear the burden of employing school resource officers at each school, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office suggested we partner with school districts and install Sheriff Sub-Stations inside local school buildings. This initiative is designed to create an obvious police presence at each participating school as well as to strengthen our relationship with its students and staff. In an effort to thwart possible school violence, our deputies will be afforded an opportunity to glean a heightened degree of familiarity with a school, its students, staff, grounds, outbuildings and potential vulnerabilities.

Several Delaware County schools have recognized this program has the potential to act as a strong deterrent against school violence and have already joined the program. They have allocated us office space and provided the necessary office equipment to support our activities.

Deputies assigned to schools will routinely check in with the administrative staff to announce their presence, address their concerns and conduct building tours. Each Deputy Sheriff will be provided a building access pass and keys to enable immediate access to the facility 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It should be noted that the substation space assigned to officers may be used for performing routine administrative tasks, but it will not be used to process arrests and/or other non-school related criminal investigations.

The Sheriff's Office considers keeping our school children safe a high priority. We are excited about the prospect of reinforcing our relationships with our schools and look forward to interfacing with more of the general public as we proceed with this endeavor. Please feel free to contact Undersheriff Craig DuMond if you wish to discuss this matter further. He may be reached at 607-746-2336.