



Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

Do More. Be More. Achieve More.

Campus Police Department

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Chief, Campus Police

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Phone: 904-827-2315 (24 hours/seven days a week)

The FSDB Campus Police Department provides 24/7 security and access control for the campus. The sworn law enforcement officers are also all trained and certified as School Resource Officers. The Department's mission is to provide a safe, crime free and drug free environment for the education of sensory impaired students and to help equip students with the tools and responsibilities needed to live productive, law abiding, and rewarding lives.

The Department was created by the Florida state legislature and established operations in 1994 with three officers. Today, the department has 18 employees—9 are sworn police officers and 9 are non-sworn support staff members. The sworn police officers are each officers of the state, meeting all of the requirements for certification by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Criminal Justice & Standards Training Commission and have the full authority of police officers. In 2013, the School Safety Advocacy Council presented FSDB with the National Exemplary School Safety Award and the Florida State Attorney General and the Florida Association of School Resource Officers gave recognition to FSDB Police Officer Kelly Thomas as School Resource Officer of the Year.

Among the services provided by the Department are: campus security, law enforcement, security assessments, visitor ID management and access control procedures, security video surveillance monitoring, fire alarm and severe weather monitoring, campus emergency alert notifications, emergency preparedness response and management, fingerprinting and level 2 background screening for employment, parking and traffic enforcement, special event and crowd control management, and public relations. The department also has a School Resource Officer program, bicycle safety programs, bullying prevention efforts, DARE (drug abuse prevention education), RAD (rape aggression defense), and crime prevention programs.

All parents, visitors, contractors, and delivery drivers are required to display a valid photo identification (preferably a state issued ID card or driver license) when requesting access into the FSDB campus so that searches can be conducted on the national and state sexual offender/predator registries. Visitors should enter the campus through the Genoply Street entrance that intersects with San Marco Avenue, and then proceed to the guardhouse to check in with Campus Police. Visitors, contractors and delivery drivers should be prepared to inform Campus Police with the name of the school staff they are on campus to meet with, the purpose of their visit and the location on campus they are requesting to access. Visitors should also have their visits and appointments with school staff prescheduled before arriving to campus to prevent unnecessary delays.

The Campus Police Department offers the Call First-Text Next program which allows wireless mobile users the option to text any requests for police, fire or medical services assistance to Campus Police while on the FSDB campus in the event of an emergency or for routine assistance when a phone call is not an option. The phone line for reporting emergencies on campus is answered by Campus Police personnel only and does not serve as the local 911 service for St. Johns County.

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Call First-Text Next

- Emergency—Call/Text 904-827-2911 on FSDB campus or Call/Text-to-911 for St. Johns County Emergency Services
- Non-Emergency—Call/Text 904-827-2315 on FSDB campus

Emergency Text Guidelines

- Provide the location and the nature of the emergency in the first text message (e.g., Send Help...Fire... Pope High Room 100)
- Text abbreviations and slang are discouraged and should not be used.
- If a text was sent accidentally, follow up with another text message to notify the Campus Police Dispatcher there is not an emergency.
- Do NOT text while driving.
- Only text appropriate photos for communicating the situation or location.

Resource Links

- **School Safety 911**
<http://www.schoolsafety911.com/>
- **St. Augustine Police Department**
http://www.staugustinegovernment.com/government/public_safety/police_department/index.php
- **St. Johns County Sheriff's Office**
<http://www.sjso.org>
- **Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Report Suspicious Activity**
<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/FFC/S4/SAR-Home.aspx>
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security - "If You See something, Say Something"**
<https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>

Recognition Awards

- FSDB Receives School Safety Honor
<https://www.staugustine.com/living/community/2013-09-10/fsdb-receives-school-safety-honor>
- FSDB Thomas Named State's Top Resource Officer
<http://staugustine.com/news/local-news/2013-07-27/fsdbs-thomas-named-states-top-resource-officer>