

## August – Building Positive Partnerships: School Edition

This school year is going to look unlike any other! It's times like this when the positive partnerships we've cultivated over years really come into play.

School start dates may have been delayed and some students may not be physically present in the buildings once the school year does begin. However, our commitment to supporting the safety and education of students in Naperville remains unchanged. Here are a few of the ways we partner with our schools throughout the year.



### School Resource Officers

Our School Resource Officers (SROs) are responsible for working with school administrators and faculty on developing comprehensive safety plans to ensure schools are safe places for students to learn. Additionally, SROs work to establish positive working relationships with other police personnel, school administrators, service agencies, parents and students to prevent and intervene with youth concerns.

[Find a list of SROs here](#)

### Safety Programming

The Naperville Police Department is committed to educating residents of all ages in ways they can protect themselves, their families and their neighborhoods. This education starts at a very young age and is reinforced throughout their lives. Safety programming conducted by Community Education Specialists within all schools in Naperville includes instruction on how to be safe on the internet, when home alone and when out in the community. In addition to school-based programming, members of the Department also promote safety through lessons taught at Safety Town, community presentations, safety fairs and at day cares. In 2019, over 10,000 children under the age of 10 years old were taught important safety rules and guidelines by NPD staff.



[See a breakdown of safety programs by grade](#)

### Reading Buddy Program

The Reading Buddy program is a mentoring program that builds a positive relationship between the students at Mill Street School and the police department. Each week throughout the school year, police department employees meet individually with students selected by the classroom teacher. Twice each year, our sergeant's union (MAP #363) sponsors a party for the students in the program. Additionally, each student receives books throughout the year in an effort to promote the joy of reading and to assist the students in building their own personal libraries at home.



### Supporting School Events

Members of the Naperville Police Department serve as presenters and resources for a multitude of extracurricular programming and events in the schools, including STEM and STEAM nights, health fairs, career days and Officer Friendly visits.



### **Back to School Safety**

The global COVID-19 pandemic has definitely changed the meaning of “back to school safety” this year! In addition to our regular tips, we’d also like to remind families to continue practicing recommended safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease. These include wearing your face covering, watching your distance from others and washing your hands often! Follow these and other guidelines from your school and click here for more [traditional back to school safety tips](#).

### **Crime Prevention**

- Get to know your School Resource Officer

- Always lock your locker. Never preset the combination to the last number for easy entry, or “jimmie” it so it stays unlocked
- Keep track of your valuables and secure them in your locker! Do not leave them on top of your locker, on benches or in a classroom, bathroom or LRC.
- Never share your locker combination with anyone
- Lock your bike to the bike rack or other stationary object
- Lock your car, keep the windows closed and keep valuables out of sight
- Keep valuables at home. Never bring large amounts of cash to school or wear expensive jewelry
- Don’t bring weapons to school. If you see one, report it to the SRO and school officials immediately
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Report suspicious activities to police, school officials and your parents
- Tell a teacher, parent or other trusted adult if you feel unsafe or if someone is bullying or threatening you
- Remember it’s OK to say NO to adults or another student if they ask you to do something you know is wrong or it makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable



**Lock It**  
 → or ←  
**Lose It**

#### **Related Links**

[School Resource Officers](#)

[School Based Incident Management Plan](#)

[School Safety Programs](#)

[School Walk Routes](#)

[Back to School Safety](#)