

**To:** PTSA at Redmond Junior High and Rose Hill Junior High  
**From:** Bill Corson School Resource Officer  
**Regarding:** The Redmond Police School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

As we start another year together I would like to take the opportunity to briefly introduce myself and explain some of my duties as your School Resource Officer. I hope to personally introduce myself to all of the new staff members.

I am Officer Bill Corson of the Redmond Police Department and my current assignment is working as your School Resource Officer at Redmond Junior High School and Rose Hill Junior High School. I had the opportunity to work as an SRO for both schools from 2000-2005 and again last year. I found it very rewarding to be part of the Junior High School community, which is made up of students, teachers, staff and parents.

This is my 29<sup>th</sup> year as a police officer. I began my career at the Long Beach Police Department in California in 1980 and prior to that I worked as the Recreation Coordinator for the City of Bellflower. In 1990 I was recruited to Redmond and in June of that year my wife, Karen, and I moved our family here. We have four children and I consider my family my closest friends and my biggest blessing. We spend most of our spare time leading teen and adult groups on wilderness adventures such as sea kayaking, whitewater rafting and kayaking, rock climbing and mountain-biking.

We have worked with teens for over 30 years. During this time I have enjoyed an active and rewarding law enforcement career. I have been assigned to many different divisions of city policing I have worked as a patrol officer, a detective, an undercover narcotics officer, a recidivist apprehension officer, a SWAT officer (full time team in Long Beach), a bicycle officer, a field training officer, a gang and special investigations detective, and a Pro-Act/auto theft investigator. All of these experiences have been valuable in preparing me to be a school resource officer.

One of the consistent questions I am asked is “*What is a School Resource Officer (SRO)? What do they do? Is there a crime problem in our school?*” First of all, we have very safe schools and a great community. The school resource officer program is a nationally accepted program involving the placement of a law enforcement officer within the educational environment on several different levels. The SRO is involved in a variety of functions.

- As a visible, active law enforcement figure, on campus dealing with any law-related issues.
- As a classroom resource for instruction in the following areas: law related education, violence diffusion, safety issues, alcohol and drug prevention and other community issues.

- As a member of the faculty and administration team working hand in hand to solve problems in the school community.
- As a resource for students to enable them to associate with a law enforcement figure in the student's environment.
- As a resource to teachers, parents, and students for conferences on an individual basis to deal with individual problems or questions.
- As a counseling resource in areas that may affect the educational environment but may be of a law-related nature

Other prevalent questions center on the role and responsibilities of an SRO. Although the primary goals and objectives of the SRO program remain the same, the specific duties and responsibilities may change with the different needs of each school. Below are some of the common roles I perform as a SRO.

- Work closely with the school principal(s) and counselors, meeting at least on a weekly basis.
- Provide a program of educational leadership to the students, parents and faculty addressing tobacco, drugs and alcohol related issues, gang activity, violence diffusion and prevention, community involvement, crime prevention and safety issues.
- Act as a communication liaison with law enforcement agencies; provide basic information concerning students on campuses.
- Gather information regarding potential problems such as criminal activity, gang activity, student unrest, and identify particular individuals who may be a disruptive influence to school and/or students.
- Take steps appropriate and consistent with a law enforcement officer's duties when a crime occurs.
- Refer students and their families to the appropriate agencies for assistance when a need is determined.
- Be available for conferences with students, parents and faculty members to assist with problems related to law enforcement and crime prevention.
- Confer with the school administration to develop strategies to prevent or minimize dangerous situations on or near the campus.
- Whenever possible attend school functions or extracurricular school events.
- File police reports and investigation.
- Refrain from functioning as a school disciplinarian.
- Attend meetings of parent groups and faculty-wide in-service sessions.

Along with my SRO duties at school I also currently function as a departmental instructor for tactical training issues, emergency vehicle operations, gang issues, civil disturbances and the field officer's training program. My primary focus will be working at the Junior High Schools while maintaining my responsibilities at the police department. The SRO position at both schools is primarily funded through the police department's budget by the City of Redmond.

If you have any questions please contact me at my RHJ and RHJH extensions or you can always page me at (206) 917-1010. My office hours are 0730-1530 Monday-Friday. Thursdays are my departmental training days. I have attached a list of classes I have available to present to your children. To assist teachers in making the most of their class time we have incorporated several of the teaching subjects into three grade-appropriate blocks.

**The 7<sup>th</sup> grade block** will contain five elements of their roles as Junior High students and adolescents, moving into an age of legal responsibilities, and how society has new expectations of their behavior inside and outside of school. It is a positive presentation which involves and invites the students into an expanding role in decision-making and community participation. Issues such as bullying, threats, intimidation, inappropriate touching, theft, conflict resolution and a look at their rights and responsibilities (which will later be explained and expanded in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade teaching block). It also incorporates a “show and tell” of the SRO.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> grade block** will incorporate all the elements of the drug and alcohol overview presented in an exciting format titled **Vehicles, Guides & Aliens**. This curriculum was developed to recognize the need for excitement and adventure in teens and direct that exploration to areas and avenues that are legal and beneficial. It involves the *scientific method* as a tool to assist students in determining if the “youth culture myths” associated with drugs/alcohol are valid and true. It explores what chemicals/contaminates are in street drugs, their effects, and the physical/psychological/legal consequences of drug use. The last element explores *who* students consider their guides in the “adventure” called the teenage years.

**The 9<sup>th</sup> grade block** incorporates four teaching elements. It focuses on their growing responsibilities as students and citizens. It is titled **So, Where are you now?** This is an open-ended discussion with ninth graders about their growing responsibilities as they mature and continue on into High School. We will explore laws and responsibilities of future freedoms associated with High School and the dangers associated with poor choices. Topics covered: driving issues, MIC/MIP, drugs/alcohol, shoplifting, cheating in school, dating issues and safety, part time employment.

Please see the attached Instruction Information.

Thanks for your partnership,



Officer William Corson  
Redmond Police Department  
8701 160th Ave NE  
Redmond WA, 98272  
(425)556-2534

## School Resource Officer's Class Instruction List

- 1) **Alcohol and Juvenile Driving Privileges (9<sup>th</sup> Graders)**  
Explains criminal and civil consequences of underage drinking and driving. Also reviews the effects of alcohol on the brain, and levels of impairment.
- 2) **Overview of Drugs (8th graders) Vehicles, Guides and Aliens**  
This unit explores choices that are available for students who are looking for excitement and fun. It uses the scientific method of exploring and examining the need and effects of drugs.
- 3) **Conflict Resolution**  
Students will review issues that have a tremendous impact on decision making and learn strategies to resolve conflicts involving peers.
- 4) **Bill of Rights**  
Discusses the first ten amendments to the Constitution with a special emphasis on the fourth amendment.
- 5) **Domestic Violence**  
Sometimes called a "family fight" or family disturbance", this presentation discussed this growing problem. Students learn from the Redmond Police Department Domestic Violence Unit what police can do in these situations Student are taught not to accept abuse or violence as a way of life.
- 6) **So, Where are you now? (9<sup>th</sup> graders)**  
This is an open-ended discussion with ninth graders about their growing responsibilities as they mature and continue on to the high school. We will explore laws and responsibilities of future freedoms associated with High School and the dangers associated with poor choices. Topics covered: driving issues, MIC/MIP, drugs, shoplifting, cheating in school, dating issues and safety, part time employment.
- 7) **Threats, Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment**  
Defines threatening and intimidating behavior, and reviews school/criminal consequences.
- 8) **General Safety (School and Home)**  
Teaches students how not to be a victim of crime at school. Tips on being safe while home alone.
- 9) **Inhalants Rave Drugs and Marijuana**  
Shows students the dangers of using these drugs and the detrimental long-term effects.

- 10) **Juvenile Justice Process**  
To inform students about laws and school behavior codes.
- 11) **K-9 Unit** Meet "Vader" Redmond Police Department's K-9 and his handler Officer Hovenden. Officer Hovenden will bring "Vader" to your class and explain how police dogs are used in police operations.
- 12) **Math in Police Work** This unit will show the importance of know mathematics and how it related to police work. This presentation is usually given by an officer from the Redmond Police Department Traffic Unit.
- 13) **Police Careers**  
This unit will discuss what it takes to become a police officer. It will cover the requirements and qualifications for becoming a police officer, and will inform the students of the opportunities that this career choice has to offer. This unit will also discuss the Redmond Police Explorers Unit and how to become involved.
- 14) **Questions and Answers with the Officer**  
This is an open-end discussion on police related topics. I'll be happy to answer any questions the students or teachers ask.
- 15) **Report Writing**  
The students will learn how to write a "good police report". The elements of a good police report are explained and the students have an opportunity to review a crime scenario, and then prepare a report from what they have reviewed. The presentation shows how a single incident can be observed and reported differently.
- 16) **Shoplifting**  
Students learn the definition of shoplifting under Washington Law. This class will work well as the holidays approach.
- 17) **Babysitting Safety**  
Discusses safety rules and tips for young adults beginning babysitting jobs.
- 18) **Malicious Mischief (Vandalism)**