

School Resource Officer Officer Steve Chick



As School Resource Officer my duties encompass far more than just enforcing the laws and teaching in the schools. Much of the job involves interacting with teachers, parents, and, especially, students. I believe that being a mentor to students is one of my most important roles. I try to build a good rapport with them, so that as they get to know me better over the school year, our relationships can develop to the point where they become comfortable coming to me with their problems and issues.



There was a student who recently graduated whom I came to know during his last two years at Mason High School. When I first met him, I felt that he might have been “anti police.” He seemed to want to distance himself from me. As time went on, however, I



had opportunities to speak with him. He had taken up boxing, as it was a sport that he was connected with through his family. I also have an interest in the sport, so that gave me a great opportunity to communicate with him about something we both had in common. As I got to know this student, he began to speak with me more and more about his future. Mid way through the school year he told me that he was going to join the Marine Corps. Since he had not expressed interest in

any specific career path, I supported his decision and encouraged him to do so, as I believed it would be a great opportunity for him. During the course of the year he kept me updated as to where he was in the process with the Marine Corps. Within the last week of school he told me that he would be leaving for boot camp the day after he graduated. As I watched him graduate, I hoped that everything would go well for him.



At the beginning of the current school year I was surprised when this student showed up at the school in his Marine Corps uniform. He was a changed person. He told me several stories of things that had happened to him during boot camp, including how well he did



during the boxing portion, knocking everyone out that he fought against. Then he told me something that really made me feel proud—he told me that he wanted to become a police officer. I advised him that I was proud of him and told him that he would make a great

one. Here was a student who I felt could have gone down the wrong path, but who chose the correct one instead. I would like to believe that partly this was a result of my mentoring him as School Resource Officer.

The 2007-2008 Mason Public School year has been very busy. We started the year with several fights, some of which were resolved with the school's conflict resolution. Some of the students were issued citations for City Ordinance violation "Disturb Interfere with School Functions." I took a total of 50 reports, which included Assault complaints, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Harassment complaints, and MIP Tobacco/Alcohol complaints.



I gave 23 special presentations to classes on topics such as sexual harassment, fingerprinting, personal safety, search and seizure, credit card fraud/identity theft, and bullying. I was also able to spend time at the elementary schools where I participated in a Christmas art project and interacted with the kids during their lunch hours

and recesses.

Mason High School staff members and I implemented a new evacuation plan for the high school. This plan will allow us to maintain order, account for all members in the school, and keep everyone out of harm's way. The plan covers any emergency where students and staff have to leave the building and go to safety. This has been a big change for the students and staff, but they have adapted very well. The first evacuation drill went smoothly, revealing only a few minor issues. Fire Chief Kerry Minshall was present during this drill and agreed that it went well.



The Mason High School staff members and I are currently in the process of fine tuning the existing lock-down procedure. We hope to have this new plan complete by the 2007-2008 school year.

