

# CITY OF SUNRISE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CHIEF OF POLICE - ANTHONY W. ROSA



August 14, 2018

Valued Parents, Guardians and Teachers of Sawgrass Elementary School:

As we are about to commence the 2018-2019 school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome all the students, families, and faculty back to our great Sunrise Schools. Each new school year can be a time of excitement, anxiety and uncertainty for our students and families. I acknowledge the responsibility of the School Board of Broward County to provide a safe school environment, and it is my mission to give each of you my personal assurance that the Sunrise Police Department is working collaboratively with the School Board and is doing everything possible to protect your children while they attend their respective schools.

Last year, after the Parkland tragedy, I sent a letter to each parent highlighting the steps that the City of Sunrise and the Sunrise Police Department had already taken regarding the safety of your children. Our preparation did not begin in February of 2018. In addition to the collaboration between our schools and the entire Sunrise Police Department, our Mayor and City Commission have committed to having full-time School Resource Officers at every school for years prior to that tragic day.

Our School Resource Officer Program has a thorough and rigorous selection process. Only the finest officers become Sunrise Police School Resource Officers. Our officers are SWAT team members, former military members, and officers with experience and training in highly-specialized units. They receive specialized training in the latest tactics and are provided the finest equipment to handle any situation. At the same time, we have emphasized the role of the School Resource Officer as a mentor and positive role model for the students; in fact, we pride ourselves and the strong relationship our School Resource Officers have with the students and families. We believe they are much more than a police officer at a school.

The School Resource Officer assigned to Sawgrass Elementary School is Officer Ben Hodgers. Officer Hodgers is a 24-year veteran of the police department. He has served as a School Resource Officer for the past 8 years. Officer Hodgers is currently a coordinator for the Sunrise Police Explorers Program and a member of the Bicycle Patrol Unit. He has previously worked as Narcotics Detective, Traffic Investigator, and Hostage Negotiator. Sawgrass Elementary is very fortunate to have Officer Hodgers as their School Resource Officer.

I am honored to serve as your Chief of Police. Protecting the students and staff at the school and providing you with peace of mind is paramount to me. Our dedication to your children will be more evident as we get to know each other. I would like to encourage everyone to check our department's Facebook and Twitter page for the most up-to-date information available about the Sunrise Police Department; furthermore, you will also be able to meet your School Resource Officers on Facebook or at [www.sunrisepolice.org](http://www.sunrisepolice.org). Each officer has prepared an introduction for you and I encourage you to take a moment to meet and get to know Officer Hodgers. I look forward to having a great school year with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Rosa'.

Anthony W. Rosa  
Chief of Police

