



SAFE SCHOOLS, SAFE KIDS

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Criminal Justice Club

Introducing a new school club! South High School Criminal Justice Club meets twice a month in order to educate and positively engage with young people. The purpose of the club is to build trusting relationships, answer questions, and address any community concerns. The topics of discussion at club meetings are chosen by the students and are based on questions or concerns that they would like to understand or learn more about. The club began meeting in September of the current school year.

Topics of discussion have included:

- Becoming a police officer and the varying roles and responsibilities of an officer
- What constitutes a crime, who to call, how to respond, and what to expect
- Use of force continuum
- Social and racial disparities

Outside speakers that have presented at a club meeting include:

- K-9 Bali and Officer Jeremiah Ferris – for a demonstration and explanation of the Fargo Police department K-9 program.
- Traffic Safety Officers Ronning and Nielson – club members learned how to operate a radar gun to check traffic speeds.
- Juvenile Court Officer Nicole Leitner and State Attorneys Hegvik, Selzer and Schmitz-Olson

Club Promotional Activity

- Cocoa with a Cop – an informal time to socialize with Fargo Police officers and SROs.

This isn't a club for just students interested in future law enforcement careers. This is a club where kids can have positive engagement and interactions with not only officers, but also adults within the school, and other organizations as well. Our goal is to foster open communication on tough subjects and clarify for our young people where they could potentially be misguided by social media, personal experience, or

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perceptions experienced by those close to them. This is also an opportunity to educate students about their rights, and to discuss perspectives that different from their own experiences.

Scheduled club speakers/topics include Rape and Abuse Counseling Center staff, a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) demonstration, and members of the Regional SWAT Team.

South High students are invited to our next **Criminal Justice Club meeting on February 21 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. in Room D33**. Fargo Police narcotics officers will be in to discuss current issues and trends.
