

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

In December 2019, the City of Mequon, Village of Thiensville, and Mequon-Thiensville School District announced a collaborative agreement to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and school-aged children throughout the community. The agreement added a second school resource officer position to serve and support students in Mequon and Thiensville.

Officer Jason Moertl, a veteran of the Mequon Police Department, has been with MTSD since February 2020. Officer Lewis Johnson, who has been with the Mequon Police Department since 2016, began his role as school resource officer in January 2021.



Officer Jason Moertl & Officer Lewis Johnson

Professional Background

Officer Johnson: I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Winona State University. After graduation, I worked as an Exercise Specialist with individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities. Growing up, my coaches and mentors were in law enforcement and because of them I always had a service-driven mindset. I decided becoming a police officer was my calling and left the medical field.

I started my career as a police officer in Michigan with the Lansing Police Department. I began working at the Mequon Police Department in 2016. During my tenure with the department, I have become a certified instructor in Defense and Arrest Tactics, a member of the interCEPT team, and the department liaison for Special Olympics

Officer Moertl: I have 23 years of experience, with the last 19 working for the City of Mequon Police Department. I studied criminal justice and sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee before entering the police academy.

What is your role as a SRO?

Officer Johnson: I believe there is no single role of a school resource officer. The SRO needs to be ready to wear many hats. As an SRO, you will be called upon to be an educator in certain safety topics such as internet safety, social media awareness, and anti-bullying. The SRO's role as informal counselor means building and maintaining a positive learning atmosphere and developing relationships with students, parents and faculty. Another role of the SRO is being the law enforcer, which means being the guardian of the school and creating a safe environment.



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➤ How do you work to build relationships with students?

Officer Moertl: I see the interest displayed by young kids in the role of police officers. It's great to be a mentor and make a difference. Being in schools, the interaction is different than what might occur on the street. We're here for young people to talk to us.

Officer Johnson: By having an open-door policy, I encourage anyone to stop by and say hello. Whether it is a quick, "hi and bye," or a closed-door conversation, I promise to be honest, fair, and open-minded. I take pride in being a lifelong learner, so I look forward to learning from the students. I will be visible throughout the day, so everyone can put a face with my name. I have tons of interests, so let's chat!



➤ What do you love about working in this community?

Officer Johnson: One of the things I love most about working in this community is the support we as officers receive on a daily basis. Whether it is a conversation or just a simple wave, I love being able to create positive police interactions.

Officer Moertl: We also have a great school district, which is a big positive for a community as well.

