

## School Safety

Over the past several weeks there has been much discussion about school safety and many suggestions as to what steps should be taken. The Tullahoma Police Department and the Tullahoma City Schools have been working together to discuss the topic and determine what the best course of action is for the community schools. The topic of school safety has always been a key factor in community safety. Well over a year ago the Police and the Schools began taking measures to increase the police presence in the schools and improve the communication between Principals and the Police.

In reviewing the school's safety concerns, the Police and the Schools have recognized some key elements for enhanced safety. Those critical areas include; access to buildings, faculty and staff awareness, improved communications, police presence, and student participation. The police department has participated in round table discussions with school administration, faculty, and staff to review each school's concerns. As a result of the discussions each of the key elements are being addressed. It should be noted that school safety will be an ever evolving issue and changes will continually occur.

Officers have increased their presence in and around the schools to ensure officers are familiar with the layout and geography of each school, and visit with faculty, staff, and students. The Police will continue to partner with the School system to develop communications that provide the quickest notification to emergency agencies. Each organization continues to review, enhance, and address safety concerns, in order to provide a safe environment for our schools. The Police and Schools recognize the responsibility of safety and continually review practices, policies, and procedures to provide for a safe place for our children.

Any questions about this or other Police activities may be directed to Chief Paul Blackwell at (931) 455-0530, or [pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov](mailto:pblackwell@tullahomatn.gov) .