



Climax-Scotts Community Schools
Putting Kids First!

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For Immediate Release

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CLIMAX-SCOTTS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Climax-Scotts Community Schools are proud to announce the appointment of Deputy Erik Benton as the new School Resource Officer (SRO) in both the Climax-Scotts and Galesburg Augusta districts. Deputy Benton joined us this week to begin serving in this significant role, reinforcing the safety and well-being of students, staff, and the entire school community.



As an experienced law enforcement professional with 22 years of law enforcement service, Deputy Benton brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the position. He has been a member of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department for 20 years, specializing in emergency response and drug enforcement.

In the role as SRO, Deputy Benton will replace Deputy Murphy to serve as a visible law enforcement presence on campus, working closely with students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Their focus will be on fostering positive relationships, promoting safety, and providing support for students as they navigate their educational journey. The SRO will also provide resources on conflict resolution, safety protocols, and other topics to help ensure a secure and supportive learning environment.

"We are excited to welcome Officer Benton to our school community," said Doug Newington, C-S Superintendent. "Deputy Benton's experience and commitment to the safety of our students and staff will make a positive impact in our school. We look forward to working together to maintain a secure, welcoming environment where every student feels safe and supported."

Deputy Benton shared that enthusiasm about the SRO role: "I am excited to join Climax-Scotts Community Schools and look forward to engaging with students, staff, and the community. My goal is to build trust, enhance safety, and make sure every student has the opportunity to thrive both in and outside the classroom." Climax-Scotts Community Schools values the importance of a safe and nurturing school environment.

With the arrival of Deputy Benton, we say so long to Deputy Murphy. We are excited and happy for Deputy Murphy as he embarks on his new role. He has touched the hearts of our Panther family and will be greatly missed. His quiet and calm demeanor lent well to easy relationship and trust building with students and staff. Deputy Murphy always goes above and beyond to support and engage with students and families in a meaningful way. As a school resource officer his visible presence on school grounds, availability in emergency situations, mentorship with students, assistance with safety education and training, and connection to the community have been invaluable for our district. We wish him the absolute best and know he will continue to serve the community with significant impact. We look forward to his future visits to catch up with his Panther family.

On this Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Deputy Murphy, Deputy Benton, and all members of law enforcement. Wishing you all a safe and fulfilling day, and thanking you for your dedication and service to our community!

For more information, please contact us at cspr@csschools.net.

About Climax-Scotts Community Schools

Climax-Scotts Community Schools will strive, in partnership with the home, community and business, to educate and motivate students to be productive and contributing members in a global society.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Board of Education shall comply with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Board that no professional staff member, classified employee, or candidate for such a position in this District shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed or ancestry, age, sex or marital status, or disability, be discriminated against, excluded from any participation in, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to, discrimination in any program or activity for which the Board is responsible for or receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education. For any related questions, please contact Doug Newington at 269-746-2401.