

May 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Officer Jessica Thomas (Jessica Heger) is currently a School Resource Officer at Alice Smith Elementary School in Hopkins School District 270. There are a variety of different responsibilities that Officer Thomas has as School Resource Officer. Most importantly it is her job to proactively collaborate with all seven schools in Hopkins in order to support our youth's positive growth. As the school principal I have had the opportunity to observe Officer Thomas' participation in the life of our school and the Hopkins community over the past five years in this role.

Officer Thomas uses strong interpersonal skills to build excellent relationships with staff, students, and families. Staff actively seeks Officer Thomas out in order to read and teach lessons in classrooms, as well as connect with individual students. Students are always excited to see her when she is in our building. Many relationships that she has built with students have lasted as the students have transitioned to the Junior High and even as they have transitioned into entirely different communities. I believe this is a true testament to her ability to mentor our youth.

In addition Officer Thomas uses strong organizational skills and creativity to provide resources for our youth and their families. While leading such programs as Cops-n-Kids Fishing and Beds for Kids Officer Thomas demonstrates understanding, empathy, and respect. She has also used these experiences as opportunities to build additional trusting relationships that extend beyond the school day.

These strong relationships have been integral in situations that have required Officer Thomas to respond to challenges. The Hopkins community has trust in her decision-making and Officer Thomas has demonstrated that she is efficient at gathering and assessing information while considering a range of possible responses to move forward.

Finally it is important to note that Officer Thomas is experienced in collaborating with others to ensure the safety and well being of our community. Over the years she has been a leader in our schools when we work with our local police and fire departments in order to evaluate campus safety, current crisis plans, and conduct fire, severe weather, evacuation and lock-down drills.

Officer Thomas is a true community leader dedicated to public service. Her decision-making and communication as she leads others in both proactive and reactive situations is clear, direct, and professional. She is a top-notch Sheriff candidate and Carver County would benefit greatly from her leadership and commitment. Vote Heger for Sheriff!

Sincerely,



Jody De St. Hubert