FORTIS GROUP

INVESTIGATIONS | SECURITY | TRAINING | CONSULTING

LAKE SHORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL SAFETY TEAM
2026 - 2027

James D. Vernier
Program Director, School Safety & Security

James D. Vernier serves as the Program Director of School Safety and Security, leveraging his extensive law enforcement background to enhance educational environment security. With nearly three decades of experience, he has excelled in roles requiring dedication, expertise in public safety, policy development, and effective team leadership. His skills in communication, leadership, and problem-solving have been pivotal in his contributions to law enforcement and security operations. As Director of Security for Oxford Community Schools (2022-2024), James managed a team of 15-armed security officers, developed emergency operations plans, and served as a liaison to local law enforcement agencies. He was key in creating safe, coordinated efforts for school events and establishing community-based training programs, significantly contributing to the district's safety culture. Prior to his focus on educational security, James's career spanned from Public Safety Officer, Detective to Sergeant at the Oak Park Department of Public Safety (1998-2022), where he gained extensive experience in supervising staff, emergency response, criminal investigations, community policing as well as participating in the department's school resource officer program. His educational background includes a BS in Criminal Justice from Western Michigan University and several certifications in crisis management and law enforcement leadership. James's comprehensive experience and dedication are invaluable in his role as Program Director, ensuring the safety and security of the educational environment.

Matthew Steppey
School Safety Supervisor- Rodgers Elementary

Matthew Steppey is a seasoned law enforcement professional with 25 years of dedicated service with the St. Clair Shores Police Department. Throughout his career, he advanced through the ranks from Patrolman to Patrol Sergeant, serving as a Field Training Officer and K-9 Handler along the way. Known for his leadership, tactical expertise, and commitment to officer development, Matthew has supervised patrol operations, led critical incident responses, and mentored officers to uphold the highest standards of public safety and professionalism. A graduate of the Macomb Police Academy with an Associate Degree in Law Enforcement from Macomb Community College, he is also certified in accident investigation and K-9 operations. Matthew's career reflects a steadfast dedication to law enforcement excellence, community trust, and the safety of those he served.

Jason Nagy
School Safety Officer- Violet Elementary

Jason Nagy is a retired police officer who served 23 years with the Pleasant Ridge Police Department. He began his career as a dispatcher and worked his way up to the rank of Detective. During his career, he was a field training officer, defensive tactics instructor, evidence technician, and an evidence control officer. He attended Ferris State University and graduated from the Oakland Police Academy.

Anthony Rich
School Safety Officer- Masonic Heights Elementary

Anthony Nicolas Rich is a dedicated and accomplished law enforcement professional with 25 years of distinguished service. A graduate of Ferris State University, Anthony earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 2000 and completed the Ferris State University Police Academy, where he was also a proud member of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon fraternity for criminal justice professionals. He began his career with the Detroit Police Department in 2000, serving with commitment and professionalism before joining the St. Clair Shores Police Department in 2002. Over the next two decades, Anthony built a respected career grounded in integrity, public service, and community engagement, ultimately retiring in June 2025. His extensive training, awards, and experience reflect his strong dedication to public safety and his passion for protecting and serving the citizens of his community.

Tomislav Marinkovich
School Safety Officer- Kennedy Middle School

Tomislav Marinkovich is a 30-year veteran of Law Enforcement. He retired from the Dearborn Heights Police Department. In his career he has spent 5 years with the special operations/investigation unit; 5 years with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as well as 5 years with the Emergency Response Team (entry/sniper). Tomislav is a former Grosse Ile Fire Department Volunteer.

Daniel Messing

School Safety Officer – Lake Shore High School

Daniel Messing is a dedicated law enforcement professional with over 25 years of service to his community. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated strong leadership, sound judgment, and a steadfast commitment to public safety while fostering positive relationships with residents, colleagues, and partner agencies. Since 2001, Daniel has served as a Police Officer with the Shelby Township Police Department, contributing to patrol operations, emergency response, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, and officer development. He is highly regarded for his calm, decisive approach in high-pressure situations, his collaborative mindset, and his ability to mentor and support fellow officers. Prior to joining Shelby Township, Daniel served with the Village of Oxford Police Department from 1998 to 2001, gaining foundational experience in patrol duties, investigative work, and community-oriented policing. Across every assignment, Daniel has remained committed to upholding public trust through professionalism, communication, and service. His dedication to mentoring officers and strengthening community partnerships reflects his belief that effective policing is built on integrity, teamwork, and meaningful engagement.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY STAFF

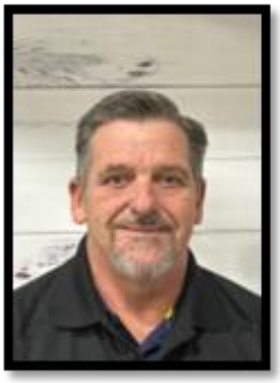
Tom Hintz

School Safety Officer

Tom Hintz is a dedicated law enforcement professional with a distinguished career spanning over 25 years. Tom began his career as an investigator with National Bank of Detroit (NBD), where he served until 2004. Tom then transitioned to federal service when he was hired by the U.S. Department of Justice as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer. Throughout his tenure, Tom became a field training officer and earned certifications as a Special Response Team (SRT) Operator and Instructor. His expertise extended to firearms and tactical training, where he served as an instructor, as well as active shooter response training. Additionally, he worked in the Executive Protection Unit (EPU) as a certified EPU operator, providing security for high-profile individuals and federal personnel.

Mark Van Lacken

School Safety Officer



Mark Van Lacken is a dedicated and accomplished professional with over three decades of experience in law enforcement, corrections, and private security. He began his career as a certified corrections officer through the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Correction Academy and joined the Oakland County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff, where he served honorably for 25 years. Following his distinguished career as a deputy sheriff, Mark transitioned to higher education security, serving as a Campus Police Officer for Macomb Community College from 2014 to 2023. Mark's career reflects a steadfast commitment to public safety and security, with a reputation for professionalism, dedication, and the ability to effectively adapt to diverse roles and challenges in the field.

Frank Sloan

School Safety Officer

Frank Sloan is a 29-year veteran with experience in counterintelligence (US Army), law enforcement, and firefighting. Frank spent seven years in the US Army as a Counterintelligence Agent conducting national level security investigations and serving as a liaison officer for host nation intelligence agencies. After being honorably discharged from the military, Frank joined the Detroit Police Department. In 1999, Frank left Detroit to become a Public Safety Officer for the Oak Park Department of Public Safety. In 2003, he was promoted to Sergeant supervising road patrol, daily police and fire operations, and the Investigative Bureau. In 2012, Frank was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in July 2019.

Charles Medley
School Saftey Officer

Charles Medley is a highly decorated 28-year law enforcement veteran with the Macomb County Sheriff's Office. As a deputy, he served in numerous specialized capacities throughout the sheriff's office including corrections, traffic enforcement, marine division, investigations, internal affairs, and SWAT team member. He was later promoted to the position of Sergeant where commanded various units until his retirement in 2023. Prior to becoming a law enforcement officer, Charles proudly served in the United States Marine Corps receiving an honorable discharge. He is highly trained in advanced firearms, active shooter response, critical incident management and First Aid/CPR. Charles possesses an Associate Degree in General Studies from Macomb Community College and a bachelor's degree in finance from Walsh College.

Jason Brockdorff
School Safety Officer

Jason Brockdorff is a highly motivated and experienced public safety professional with a strong background in law enforcement, firefighting, and emergency response. Jason began his career with the Chesterfield Township Police Department in 2008, where he gained valuable experience before transitioning to Huntington Woods Public Safety in 2013. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and operational expertise, he was promoted to Sergeant within just two years—a testament to his skills and dedication. In addition to serving as a Field Training Officer Supervisor for five years, where he was responsible for training new police officers, Jason has received commendations for his service, including a 2009 Merit Award and a 2014 Life Saver Award. His extensive training includes graduating at the top of his class from both the Macomb Police and Fire Academies, as well as obtaining multiple certifications in emergency response, active shooter situations, and criminal patrol techniques. Through his career and education, Jason is experienced in police response to active shooters, drug and alcohol recognition, and medical first response, Jason is dedicated to ensuring public safety through proactive policing, emergency preparedness, and community engagement.