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Nearly 35-years ago a federal grant created the Sheriff Assisting Youth Program (SAY). As part of the program a sheriff's deputy was assigned to Granite High School on a full-time basis. The program quickly expanded and eventually a deputy was assigned to every high school in the county. Today the program is also found in the junior high schools. This year Holladay City will provide both of its junior high schools with full-time deputies under the SAY program. The City will also staff Olympus High School with a full-time officer. You may be wondering what our SAY deputies will do for our students and staff.

First, think of Olympus High School, Olympus Junior High and Bonneville Junior High as small communities. The students and staff are the "residents" and the deputy is responsible for keeping them safe and secure. For example, the deputies will work with students to prevent bullying. They'll investigate criminal activity at the schools and in nearby neighborhoods. They will train teachers in how to identify gang and drug activity. In addition, the deputies will act as a liaison between the schools, the city and law enforcement. You will also find them *in* the classroom teaching a vocational law enforcement class in the high school. Here, students will learn the fundamentals of law enforcement and the criminal justice system. And finally, don't be surprised if you see them at several after school events. SAY officers will be on hand to make sure these activities stay safe for our students.

Being in our schools gives SAY deputies a great opportunity to meet and work with all of the students. Their doors are always open and they are available to counsel students, parents and school administrators. The SAY program has come a long way since it first began in the 1970's. More than three decades later our deputies are proud to carry on the tradition of safety and work to improve the lives of school children in Holladay City.

Thanks to SAY Deputies' Jerry Byam and Todd Nielsen for contributing to this article.