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## **HAS welcomes new School Resource Officer as latest investment in school safety**

*Hiring of Village of Holly Police Officer Matthew Patercsak to help district build on existing safety, security efforts*

**HOLLY, Mich.** — **Holly Area Schools** has welcomed **Village of Holly Police Officer Matthew Patercsak** as a full-time School Resource Officer, the district's latest investment in the safety and security of all Broncho students, staff and families.

"We are proud to welcome Officer Patercsak to our Broncho family as we continue to build on our existing safety and security efforts that help ensure all Bronchos can learn in a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment," said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. "We are also excited to continue our partnership with the Village of Holly Police Department, which helps us keep our entire Broncho community safe so our students can thrive and succeed."

Patercsak joins the district's two existing full-time School Resource Officers and armed security guards. He will work with students and staff to address building safety and security concerns, help students resolve conflicts, and provide an open ear to students who want to share concerns. His hiring was made possible by a state grant for School Resource Officers.

Patercsak, a Western Michigan University graduate, launched a career in policing in 2018 after working in a corporate position for eight years. He grew up in the Holly area and made the career transition to serve his community.

"I feel closer to my community with this role and know that I can impact it directly in a positive way," he said. "I love staying active and working with people directly, and I take pride in maintaining a sense of calm when people need it most. Kids are our future, and I'm looking

forward to projecting a positive image of public service that sticks with them as they grow through the school system and beyond.”

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**Holly Area Schools School Resource Officer Matthew Patercsak**