



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: School Resource Officer Saves Choking Child

Date: August 24, 2021

On 08-24-21 just after 11:30 a.m., Deputy Shaun Duval, the School Resource Officer at Challenger K-8 School of Science and Mathematics, located at 13400 Elgin Boulevard in Spring Hill, was monitoring the cafeteria during a lunch period.

Deputy Duval observed a staff member at one of the lunch tables attempting to render aid to a 5-year-old kindergarten student.

Deputy Duval rushed over to the table and observed that the student was exhibiting signs of choking. Deputy Duval immediately began performing the Heimlich maneuver on the student and was able to successfully dislodge a piece of food that was obstructing the student's airway. The student quickly recovered.

The student was taken to the school clinic, where Hernando County Fire and Emergency Services personnel evaluated him.

The student, who is expected to make a full recovery, was later picked up from school by a parent.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in

2016, and was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.