

Troop 9 – Thomas Poehlmann

Tom is a highly respected educational leader with 25 years' experience working with young people: in the classroom, and later as a middle and high school administrator. Today, he's a member of the senior leadership team in Delaware's fastest-growing school system.

In 2018, Tom was asked to take on the challenge of establishing the first Office of Safety, Security and Operations for the Appoquinimink School District. He initiated a task force that included parents, educators, law enforcement, medical & mental health professionals, and policymakers – work that resulted in the District's first comprehensive school security framework. Since then, he's moved forward to: establish critical incident training; shape a school climate that reduces violence; improve support for mental health; strengthen the physical security & communications capability of buildings; launch threat

assessment protocols; create routine safety controls; and establish a strong relationship with first responders.

Last year, he successfully secured a grant to introduce an anonymous reporting app, **Stop It!** to his home district.

Priorities for 2020 and beyond include expansion of the District's security force with the installation of School Constables and/or School Resource Officers on every campus (a multi-year process), and continued growth in prevention and response capabilities across the District.

A graduate of LaSalle and St. Joseph's Universities, Tom grew up in Northeast Philadelphia, where he maintains strong ties. Since 1998 he and his family have called Delaware home. His son and daughter have both attended Appoquinimink Schools. His wife Christine is also an employee of the District.