

**THE BADGE**  
**BEHIND**



**"The relationships you build with kids make an impact, and if I can help one kid change the path they are on, then it's totally worth it."**

**BISD Officer  
Lisa Cleere**

**Learn more about your Bastrop ISD Police Department as we take time to highlight our officers.**



# Lisa Cleere

*Officer Lisa Cleere joined the Bastrop ISD Police Department in August 2017.*



Officer Lisa Cleere spends most of her days at Bastrop High School, a place she's happy to call home. When she first joined the Bastrop ISD Police Department in 2017, she had just left a position with the Smithville Police Department where she had worked for seven

years as a K-9 police officer and night time Patrol Corporal. Officer Cleere and her partner, Officer Waffles patrolled the streets, a role she relished but that came with a cost.

"I enjoyed my career on the streets. I enjoyed the patrol. I

enjoyed my job, but throughout this time my whole career was on nights. That schedule was tough. My body was getting tired. I was also getting tired of arresting the same people time and time again. It was frustrating to see that they weren't learning from their mistakes and continuing down a bad path," Officer Cleere said.

A call from former Bastrop ISD Chief of Police Jeff Yarbrough would change her career path and her life.

"The chief told me about a position as a K-9 officer at Bastrop ISD. I was hesitant at first because my dad was a K-9 officer in Amarillo. My mom was the first female police officer in Irvine, Texas. I wanted to be certain that I was ready to not be a patrol officer anymore. After praying and doing some soul searching, I knew this job would be a good fit. I'm so glad it is. I love it here," Officer Cleere said with a beaming smile.

Her smile breaks for a moment as she recalls how much grit it takes to be a patrol officer. "I have so much respect for patrol officers and I learned so much doing that job. But if I could've started my career here at the Bastrop ISD Police Department, I would have. This job is so rewarding! The relationships you build with kids make an impact, and if I

## BEHIND THE BADGE



*Officer Waffles is pictured with handler, Officer Lisa Cleere as they do a sweep through student lockers.*

can help one kid change the path they are on, then it's totally worth it," she said.

With her current position, Officer Cleere has the ability to break the cycle. As a patrol officer, she saw a revolving door of people she arrested. "They would tell me they were going to clean up their act, but they didn't. When you're older, you're set in your ways, and it's harder to change. But working with students on a daily basis allows me to teach them they don't have to follow the same patterns. I can

help them realize their potential and change the path they're on so they don't repeat the same mistakes," she said.

Though Bastrop High School is her primary campus, Officer Cleere and her partner travel around to different campuses. She and Waffles give lectures about the dangers of drugs to younger students. Campuses also use the duo to help find illegal substances.

"When a school district has a K-9 unit, it really makes a difference. When students

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

**Twelve percent of the law enforcement officers in the United States are women.**

**The first known female police officer in the United States was Marie Owens, who was appointed to serve in Chicago in 1890.**

see [Officer] Waffles on campus, they are on high alert. There's no doubt that he is a deterrent. Each day we both come to work happy to be here and ready to make a difference. This job is so rewarding. I'm happy to help these kids in any way. I made the right decision working here," she said.