

D.A.R.E. Program

Written by Linda Rosser

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The Warren County Sheriff's Office first presented D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instruction to Warren County public school students in 1987.

D.A.R.E. provides training for local police officers instructing students in school classrooms with a series of drug and violence prevention lessons. These lessons are designed for grades K –12. Currently in the United States and around the world, there are over 50,000 trained deputy sheriffs, town and city police officers, state police officers, military police officers, and defense department police serving as D.A.R.E. Officers.

The D.A.R.E. curriculum at the fifth grade level includes nine lessons based on substance abuse prevention education, learning the skills needed to recognize and resist the subtle and overt pressures that may cause young people to experiment with drugs, gang, and violent activities. Students are taught positive decision making techniques which result in good and healthy outcomes.

D.A.R.E. instruction is presented to approximately 460 fifth grade students within the Warren County public schools system. Also included in the fifth grade D.A.R.E. program are an anti-drug and violence poster contest, a D.A.R.E. essay contest, D.A.R.E graduation, and a D.A.R.E. Day fun day field trip at the end of each school year.

Visitation lessons are also provided to 1st thru 4th grade students. These lessons are based on three visitations to each grade group, with curriculum based on bicycle and traffic safety, tobacco abuse and prevention, and safety rules for dealing with strangers. Visitation lessons are provided to all five elementary schools. Over 2,000 public elementary school students receive these lessons each year.

The Middle School D.A.R.E. curriculum along with Class Action and Gang Awareness and Prevention classes is presented to approximately 400 7th grade students annually. These classes are based on a combination of lessons and subjects with topics ranging from marijuana education and prevention, gang awareness and resistance, inhalant abuse and dangers, and juvenile law information. Further information on the Warren County Sheriff's D.A.R.E. Program may be obtained by emailing wcdare@warrencountysheriff.org or by calling 1-540-635-0399. Further information on the D.A.R.E. program can also be found on D.A.R.E. America's website at www.dare.org.

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