

# D.A.R.E.

**TO RESIST DRUGS  
AND VIOLENCE**

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E. was created in Los Angeles, California in 1983. It was created by The Los Angeles Police Department and The Los Angeles Unified School District. D.A.R.E. is now in 43 countries worldwide and educates approximately 36 million kids. The Fort Atkinson Police Department has been presenting D.A.R.E. to students since 2003. Prior to that, The Jefferson County Sheriff's Department taught our students.

Each week for 10 weeks, a trained Officer goes into each 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom and discusses many different topics. Each student receives a free D.A.R.E. T-Shirt and workbook. They are instructed to wear their T-Shirts on their assigned D.A.R.E. day.

D.A.R.E. not only promotes drug free lifestyles. It also addresses a wide range of topics including violence, tobacco, alcohol, accountability, friendships, peer pressure, confidence, bullying and decision making. One of the main goals is to give them the information they need to make informed decisions in their lives. The students are challenged weekly on how they can better themselves and others around them through their words and actions.

Towards the end of the year, each student completes an essay on anything they learned in D.A.R.E. Each essay is read by an Officer and a winner from each school is picked as well as a single, overall winner from the entire school district. These students are recognized at a graduation ceremony at the end of the year.

Each year there are between 230-250 students in the program. Our D.A.R.E. program is completely funded by donations and fundraisers. None of the money is supplied through the City of Fort Atkinson. If you would like to donate to The Fort Atkinson D.A.R.E. program call the Fort Atkinson Police Department at 920-397-9905.

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