



GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Department of Law and Order for Greene County, Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND AREA SCHOOLS JOIN TOGETHER TO FIGHT DRUG PROBLEM

In an effort to help combat our very serious and growing substance abuse problem in Greene County, the Greene County Sheriff's Office has entered in to an agreement with all 5 public school districts in the county, West Greene, Central Greene, Jefferson Morgan, Carmichaels and Southeastern Greene. The agreement is to begin offering a D.A.R.E. program at each school.

D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance and Education. Taken from the DARE website: *"D.A.R.E. envisions a world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors."* D.A.R.E. not only teaches students about the dangers of substance abuse but teaches them how to make better decisions. "Our drug problem is out of control and there is no singular way to solve it. The approach to helping our problem needs to be multifaceted, and one of the major components needs to be prevention, my hope and belief is that this D.A.R.E. program will help to address that aspect of it." Sheriff Brian Tennant said of the D.A.R.E. program. Tennant went on to say "The school Superintendents and School Boards were more than receptive to the idea and were very helpful with getting it implemented. We are all excited to get this program up and running and think it will be of great benefit in helping Greene County address our growing opiod addiction problem." The program will be taught to students in late elementary school, fourth or fifth grade, by a certified D.A.R.E. officer from the Sheriffs Office. The minimum cost of the program is \$1.29/student with the costs being waived by D.A.R.E. for the first year.

Based on average class populations, this will be a cost of less than \$500 annually, this total includes students in all schools. "The cost of this program is very low, but we still hope to reach out to some of our local businesses to help support the program." Sheriff Brian Tennant said.

"With getting a Deputy trained and getting things set up and scheduled, all involved hope to have the program up and running next school year." Tennant added. If you would wish to help support the efforts of the D.A.R.E. program, please contact the Sheriffs Office at 724-627-7207.

All monetary donations made to the county are tax deductible.