

***Teaching Students Decision Making for Safe & Healthy Living***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** CONTACT: (name/phone/email of contact)

**(Name of School) Announces D.A.R.E. Essay Winner!**

***() taught students good decision making while***

***Building trust between community & law enforcement***

(Name of student) was recognized at a school assembly for having the best essay in a competition among more than (number) fifth graders in the (name of school district).

As a graduation requirement from the 10-week long course, the fifth graders are asked to write an essay describing what they have learned from the D.A.R.E. program. The essays are often narratives of personal experiences of bullying or peer pressure and explain how the students will use or have used the D.A.R.E. Decision Making Model to overcome those challenges.

The D.A.R.E. curriculum is taught by (name of law enforcement agency) to students in (number of schools) throughout the community. Students learn good decision making skills that help them cope with high risk circumstances that include drugs and alcohol, bullying, and internet safety. The hope is to help children develop good lifelong habits that they can carry with them into middle school and beyond.

(Quote from D.A.R.E. officer and/or school representative)

(Quote from Essay winner)

**About D.A.R.E.**

Launched in 1983, D.A.R.E. is a comprehensive K-12 education program taught in thousands of schools throughout America, as well as in 52 other countries. D.A.R.E.’s official mission today is teaching students good decision-making skills to help them to lead safe and healthy lives.

D.A.R.E. education programs are a collaborative effort of the essential components of a community – students, parents, schools, law enforcement, and community leaders.  D.A.R.E. places specially trained law enforcement officers in classrooms who deliver science and evidence-based curricula that teach students good decision-making skills that will help them lead safe and healthy lives.  While D.A.R.E. curricula address drugs, it also focuses on violence, bullying, internet safety, and other high risk circumstances that could be a part of the daily life of students.

For information on D.A.R.E. education programs, visit [www.dare.org/education](http://www.dare.org/education)