## The D.A.R.E. Mission Statement

D.A.R.E.'s primary mission is to provide children with the information and skills they need to live drug-and-violence-free lives.

The mission is to equip kids with the tools that will enable them to avoid negative influences and instead, allow them to focus on their strengths and potential. And, that's exactly what D.A.R.E. is designed to do.

Additionally, it establishes positive relationships between students and law enforcement, teachers, parents, and other community leaders. Every youngster should have the opportunity to grow-up healthy, safe, secure, and equipped with the skills needed to succeed in life. Contemporary America, however, is rampant with challenges that could keep children from a positive life path.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a program which brings law enforcement and schools together to teach kids about the harmful effects of drug abuse and violence and how to avoid situations involving Drugs and violence.

D.A.R.E. was started in 1983 by former Los Angeles Police Chief Bill Gates to combat drugs and violence in their schools and communities. It has spread across the world and is currently taught in over 300,000 classrooms nationwide, over 40 countries worldwide as well as U.S. military installations and U.S. territories benefiting millions of children every year. The D.A.R.E. curriculum has been reworked and changed throughout the year to conform to current trends and to scientific studies as well as advancements in educational practices.

D.A.R.E. officers go through 80 hours of classroom instruction in how to present the D.A.R.E. curriculum. They work with educational professionals in ways to teach and how to open up to kids to get them involved and retain what they have learned.

Currently in Pullman the D.A.R.E. elementary curriculum is taught to the 5th grade classes each year. It consists of 9 in class lessons culminating in the 10th which is a graduation ceremony. It focuses on teaching kids facts about drugs and alcohol and giving them tools to avoid or get out of risky situations and ways to make good choices.

Here is the link to the D.A.R.E. website full of resources for students and parents: www.dare.com