

Chatham Central School District
Mary E. Dardess Elementary School

Dear Family,

The Chatham Central School District, in conjunction with the Columbia County Sheriff's Department will be providing the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program to all students who are currently enrolled in the 5th Grade. The program will include a series of 45 minute visits to each 5th grade classroom for 12 weeks. The lessons will be provided by Deputy Wendy Gunter, of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office in her role as a D.A.R.E. Office and Instructor. Lessons will also be in conjunction with School Counselor Trisha Bradley who will be incorporating key concepts from Too Good for Violence into the D.A.R.E. curriculum. Students will be involved in role-playing, discussions, written activities and lectures. D.A.R.E. involves a variety of student supplies, handouts and rewards that are related to the lessons taught.

D.A.R.E is intended to offer students the knowledge and skills to assist them with healthy decision-making in addition to being proactive in the face of difficult decisions. Topics that will be covered in D.A.R.E. include the following:

- Self-awareness and management
- Responsible decision making
- Understanding others
- Communication skills
- Handling responsibility and challenges
- Citizenship

If there are any questions about the program please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Reno at 518-392-2400 EXT. 3015 or RenoK@chatham.k12.ny.us .

We look forward to working with your student!

Sincerely,

Kristen Reno
Principal

Trisha Bradley
School Counselor

Renee Morgan
School Counselor