



City of Hart Police Department

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Hart, MI 49420-1259

Juan Salazar, Chief

TEAM OVERVIEW

The Hart Police Department T.E.A.M program is the centerpiece of the Michigan Department of State Police School Liaison Program. Currently, it is the only school resource program taught in Oceana County. In March of 1998, the Michigan State Police was awarded an ODCP (Office of Drug Control Policy) federal block grant to develop and implement a School Liaison Officer Program that would address crime prevention and safety issues for students (K-12).

T.E.A.M (Teaching, Educating, And Mentoring) is a school-based law related education program taught by specially trained officers. Unlawful and youthful risk taking behavior is addressed in this program, with lessons on the laws and consequences that commonly effect students.

Currently, the State of Michigan has over 450 state, county and local officers that are using the T.E.A.M program in their local school districts. By the end of the 2004 school year, approximately 300,000 students (K-12) will have received training in some or all of the T.E.A.M modules for their respective grade levels.

A new lesson plan has been developed for grades (K-12) regarding an "all-hazards" approach to our homeland security issues in Michigan. It teaches students about "Family Preparedness" and introduces them to the importance of preparing for emergencies ahead of time and teaching them how to put "go-kits" together. It is one of the first curriculums involving these issues to be developed in the nation.

The Hart Police Department has been teaching the T.E.A.M. curriculum to the 5th grade students at Hart Middle School for the past 10 years. Both students and teachers have found the program to be rewarding in every aspect and continue to show their support for the program.





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Throughout the past 11 years, the Hart TEAM program has graduated over 1300 5th grade students from the educational curriculum. Guest speakers for graduation have included Sgt. Tony Slocum of the Indiana State Police, Constable Darcy McKeown of the RCMP and representatives from the Michigan State Police. Since the implementation of the TEAM program, two 5th grade classes have already graduated from High Public Schools and many are starting their 3rd year in college.

The TEAM program is funded through several local grants, an annual TEAM golfing outing and contributions through the Hart Public Schools.

In addition to TEAM, students are also being taught the STEP program, which encourages them to prepare for natural disasters in their areas by compiling emergency items and placing them in a provided back pack. The program is written as a grant through the Michigan State Police.

The TEAM program has also extended to our upper grade levels by providing bullying classes and drug recognition classes. The TEAM program has established a close knit bond with our students and staff and provides for a safer school environment.