



# Winston County Journal

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## DARE aims for students to succeed

**DARE program celebrates another year of success**  
From staff reports

Louisville DARE officer, city officials, fifth-grade students, parents, school staff members and two special guest gathered to celebrate another year of success of the DARE program in Winston County.

Over 250 students formally completed the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program April 7, after beginning the program under DARE Officer Tonya McWhirter's leadership earlier this year. Students are from Louisville Elementary, Nanih Waiya, Noxapater, and Winston Academy received the DARE training.

"I am so very proud of each of our students," said Officer McWhirter. "I'm blessed to teach them valuable tools for life."

The students that attended D.A.R.E. acquired skills that will fulfill a safe and healthy life and also the "tools" that are needed if they are faced with difficult, harmful and conflict situations

The ceremony opened with a presentation of colors by JROTC from Louisville High and the Pledge of Allegiance led officer McWhirter. The Cassi Pearson performed the National Anthem and Marika Henton, a DARE student gave the welcome.

Mayor Pro Tem Eugene Crosby welcomed everyone on

behalf of the City of Louisville and congratulated the students on working hard to learn the DARE curriculum.

"Take the knowledge from this class and use all of your life," said Crosby to the students.

Louisville Police Chief L.M. Claiborne introduced the main speaker Mississippi State Head Women's Basketball Coach Vic Schaefer who was fresh off the Bulldogs Final Four games.

MSU Coach Vic Schaefer talked to the students about the challenges of life and approaching life with a "fired up" attitude each day.

Schaefer talked about the Lady Bulldogs "special season" with him noting that it all starts with being committed and being accountable.

"It is not what you do but how you do it each," said Schaefer.

He challenged each student to be a leader,

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(top, right) Coach Schaefer and Morgan William talk to the students about hard work.

(Right, center) Officials with city of Louisville with the new DARE Car of officer McWhirter.

The car was purchased with confiscated drug monies.

(Right) Officials with the Town of Noxapater and officer McWhirter with the DARE car. The town of Noxapater help purchasd the graphics for the vehicle.