

Street Wise Driving Academy visits Weare PD.

On April 10, 2014 Street Wise Driving Academy students visited the Weare, NH Police department where officer Censabella covered important, relevant safety facts. Officer Censabella spoke from the heart as she shared real life situations and stories which educated and challenged a new class of teen drivers.

Can you be seen?

Make sure your headlights and taillights are in working order. State law requires that each vehicle have two functioning headlights and two functioning rear lights on each vehicle. State law mandates that the vehicle lights be on 30 minutes before sunset and 30 minutes after sunrise or when low light conditions warrant their use. Lights must be on during inclement weather (rain, fog, snow, etc).

Just follow directions.

Drivers must obey police officers that are regulating the flow of traffic. Be patient with traffic officers. Its dangerous for officers to be in traffic and it can be frustrating for both the driver and the officer in communicating by hand signals.

Share the road.

Be aware that motorists are not the only people using highways. They share the highway with pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, large trucks and buses and animals

BEWARE

Drivers should always be vigilant. Check your mirrors often and be aware of your surroundings at all times. Pay special attention to your "blind spots". Likewise, do not travel in another motorists' "blind spot".

Be Nice!

Be courteous to other motorists. Use caution and be willing to yield to other vehicles. It is better to have patience and use restraint than to cause conflict, or worse, a collision. Always allow extra driving time so you don't feel rushed. Drivers sometimes make mistakes, even you!

Yield to Emergency Vehicles.

Drivers should always yield immediately to the right side of the roadway, when it is safe to do so, when Emergency Vehicles are approaching from behind. Do not panic or block the roadway. They may be going to your house.

Speed Kills!

Observe all posted speed limit signs, Weare has a bunch. Traffic engineers who have studied road conditions, traffic volume, and road design establish speed limits. Discipline yourself to drive smart.

It may be you if you see blue.

When a police officer attempts to stop your vehicle:

- Immediately slow your vehicle and pull to the ride side of the roadway and come to a complete stop.
- Stay in your vehicle unless the officer asks you to get out.
- Roll down the driver side window and place both hands back on the steering wheel.
- Do not make any sudden or unexpected movements.
- Listen for instructions from the officer(s).

· Do not become argumentative with the officer. If you feel you have been unjustly stopped or accused, argue your case before the court and not on the side of the road.

STOP SIGNS do not mean **S** light **T** ap **O** n **P** edal

When you come to a STOP sign, come to a complete stop and look both ways before proceeding. Don't assume nothing is coming.

Take the time to arrive safely!!

During the winter months, ice, frost and snow may form on your windshield overnight. Take the time to remove ALL of the ice, frost and snow from all of your windows. Do not scrape just a small area; clean the entire windshield and windows so you can see all areas of the roadway.

Don't Drink and Drive!

Never drive a vehicle while under the influence of intoxicants such as alcohol or prescription medication that warns against driving, operating machinery, etc.

Buckle-up for Safety! (55% of NH high school teens reported not wearing safety belts)

What Bus?!!

Drivers must stop their vehicle for school and/or church buses that are stopped for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers. Vehicles traveling in both directions must come to a complete stop unless the bus is stopped on a roadway divided by a barrier, in which case, only vehicles traveling in the same direction as the bus are required to stop. Vehicles traveling on the other side of the barrier may proceed when it is safe.

Officer Censabella finished with a tour of the police station where students briefly met Chief Velleca. The chief challenged the new drivers to apply what they have learned from driver education and allow this knowledge to shape their driving style. The tour continued with the breathalyzer machine, booking room, and jail cell, with time at the end for questions and answer.

Street Wise Driving Academy currently offers Drivers Education Classes six times yearly at John Stark Regional High School. More information is available in the JSRHS main office, or by contacting Mr. Russell at 540-4056, email streetwiseda@gmail.com or the website streetwisedrivingacademy.org.