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FEATURED

## D.A.R.E. program returns to Hanover Area

Apr 19, 2024

Hanover Memorial Elementary School held an event Thursday to mark the return of the D.A.R.E. program for fifth grade students.

Officer Stephanie Velazquez of Philadelphia, one the program's lead mentors, attended and joined some of the students in singing the national anthem.

D.A.R.E., or Drug Abuse Resistance Education, gives students the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence.



From left, students Eva Cunningham, Adrian Jacquet and Tara Barancho sing the national anthem with Philadelphia police Officer Stephanie Velazquez during the fifth grade graduation program at Memorial Elementary in Hanover Twp. on Thursday.



Students applaud during the 5th grade graduation program at Memorial Elementary in Hanover Twp. Sean McKeag / Staff Photographer



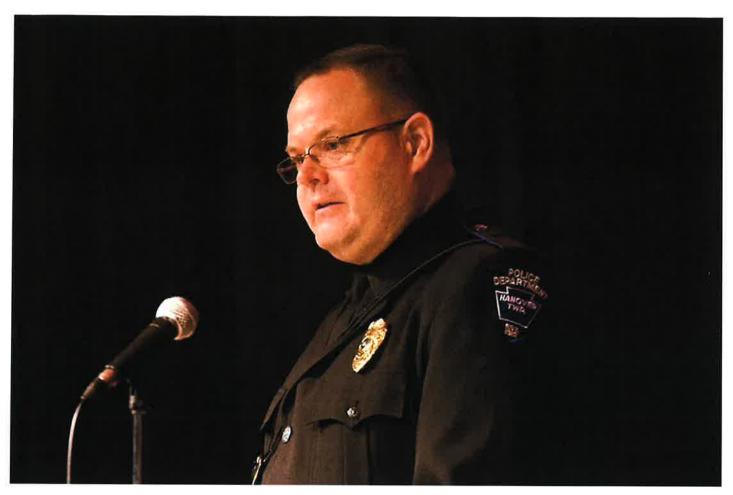
Philadelphia police officer Stephanie Velazquez speaks to students during the 5th grade D.A.R.E. graduation program at Memorial Elementary.



Student essay winners are awarded stuffed D.A.R.E. mascots and medals during the ceremony. Sean McKeag / Staff Photographer



Fifth-grader Cayla Keita reads off her winning student essay about the D.A.R.E. program during the 5th grade graduation program held at Memorial Elementary School in Hanover Twp. Also winners of the student essays were Kara Norvell, Gianna Pericci, Gabriella Wooditch, Lillian Schneider, and Ava Gurns.



Hanover Area School District D.A.R.E. instructor and Hanover Township Sgt. John VanWhy speaks during the 5th grade graduation program at Memorial Elementary.