



CONTACT:
Mark Murphy
Emergency Communications Manager
563-589-4415
mmurphy@cityofdubuque.org
www.cityofdubuque.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Dispatchers offer ‘911 in the Schools’ Program

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Dubuque Emergency Communications Center has initiated a “911 in the Schools” Program to educate first grade students on the proper use of emergency 911 services. The goal of the educational program is to reduce the number of accidental 911 calls and to teach students that 911 is for emergencies only.

Dispatchers serve as instructors and use videos, puppets, phones and games during the 45-minute program which covers: when to call 911, the types of questions dispatchers ask when they receive emergency calls, using 911 on home phones and cell phones, and removing batteries from old cell phones to prevent accidental 911 calls. The program also encourages the students to learn their home phone numbers and home addresses. Upon completion of the class, students receive a “Certificate of Achievement.”

To date, Emergency Communications Center staff have presented the program to first graders at Table Mound, Sageville, Bryant, Carver, and Audubon Elementary School Schools. This week they we will instruct students at Eisenhower and Kennedy Elementary Schools.

The program was offered to Dubuque Community School District schools this year with the hopes of expanding the program to the Holy Family Schools and the Western Dubuque Schools next school year.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: This week’s sessions will be at Eisenhower School from 1 - 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, and Wednesday, May 19; and Kennedy School from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, and Wednesday, May 19, and 1:45 - 3:45 p.m. on Thursday, May 20.