

Governor Mifflin School District

10 South Waverly Street, Shillington, PA 19607

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR MIFFLIN STUDENTS TAKE A TURN ON DUI SAFETY VEHICLE

SHILLINGTON, PA, OCTOBER 2010 - In recognition of National Teen Driver Safety Week (October 17-23), the Governor Mifflin High School will host a demonstration of the impaired driving Safety SIMulator (Safety SIM) for junior and senior students during their health and physical education classes on Thursday, October 21. Governor Mifflin High School has partnered with the Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence (PA DUI) Association and State Farm Insurance to bring the Safety SIM vehicle to our school.

The Safety SIM has a real dashboard, steering wheel and driver's seat, and provides a realistic, hands-on experience with the use of a three-screen, 120° view of the landscape surrounding the driver. It creates virtual impaired driving scenarios in which the driver or other vehicles on the road are being operated by a person under the influence. The system operator can take the driver through a selection of hundreds of different driving scenarios. This risk-free setting allows drivers to gain a better understanding of how the reaction time of a driver can be affected by distractions, including impairment associated with driving under the influence.

Amy Hatlee, physical education teacher coordinated the event for Mifflin students. "High school students are no different than anyone else when it comes to learning; it is most effective when they can experience things firsthand," she said of the simulator opportunity.

As a follow-up to the event, Shillington State Farm Agent June Houck will visit all Governor Mifflin health classes during the following week to discuss the consequences of distracted driving. Students and parents will receive a packet of information including tips for parents and a contract for young drivers to sign pledging to practice safe driving.

Ms. Houck will also sponsor a \$500 grant for a Governor Mifflin student organization interested in promoting safe driving.

"October is the most dangerous month for teen crashes," said Houck. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to bring the simulator to Governor Mifflin High School and provide this virtual learning experience. We have the potential to help shape a safer future for our youth."

The media is invited to visit Governor Mifflin High School between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on October 21 and report on the Safety SIM demonstration. To schedule a visit or interview, please contact Keri Morton at 610-775-1312 or kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us.

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