

Governor Mifflin School District

10 South Waverly Street, Shillington, PA 19607

October 25, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, please contact:

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GOVERNOR MIFFLIN STUDENTS CONTRACT TO PRACTICE SAFE DRIVING

SHILLINGTON, PA, OCTOBER 2010 - On Tuesday, October 26 and Wednesday, October 27, Shillington State Farm Agent June Houck will visit Governor Mifflin juniors and seniors during their health classes to discuss the consequences of impaired and distracted driving. During her visit, Houck will encourage students to sign a contract with their parents pledging not to drive while impaired or distracted. Ms. Houck will also introduce a \$500 grant opportunity that she will sponsor for a Governor Mifflin student organization interested in promoting safe driving.

Ms. Houck's visit will supplement the students' experience using the DUI Safety SIM vehicle on October 21. Coordinated by State Farm Insurance and the Pennsylvania DUI Association, the program gave over 200 students the opportunity to ride in the Safety SIM while dozens of their classmates attempted to "drive" using simulated impairments. As the Safety SIM operator added "drinks" to the simulation, students quickly understood the negative impact on their driving skills. Many admitted that the simulation was eye-opening and unsettling.

Physical education teacher, Amy Hatlee, said she hoped that the program would give students an understanding of all different types of distractions, not just impairment due to controlled substances.

About her Safety SIM driving experience, senior Morgan McCoy said, "It definitely made me think about distractions. The people in the back screaming were like friends in the back seat... Maybe I will not drive with five other people in the car," she added.

The media is invited to visit Governor Mifflin High School on October 26 and 27 to report on the distracted driving presentation. To schedule a visit or interview, please contact Keri Morton at 610-775-1312 or kmorton@gmsd.k12.pa.us.

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