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C T S

COURTS TO SCHOOL

A public outreach program
designed to bring courtroom
experience to schools

What is the Courts to School Program?

Courts to School (CTS) is a Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court program designed and implemented in early 2010 to bring a live courtroom into schools, exposing students to the realities and consequences of drinking while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.



School gymnasiums and performing arts centers are transformed into courtrooms complete with lawyers and defendants flanking the judge's bench, bailiffs and probation officers. The CTS experience will inform students of the risks involved with drinking and driving, encouraging them to make better decisions when confronted with such choices



Each session includes a sentencing hearing for two or more convicted defendants and, as part of their agreements with the court; the defendants address the students to explain how the DWI experience has changed their lives.



If sentenced to jail, the defendants are placed into handcuffs during the event and transferred to the Metropolitan Detention Center. Immediately following court is a question and answer session. Students are encouraged to ask questions of the judge and criminal justice personnel who participated in this hearing.



Courts to School Curriculum

Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court put together background materials for teachers to prepare students for the upcoming court visit. The curriculum packet includes actual drunk driving laws, the benchbook that judges use to discriminate technicalities in court, a DWI glossary along with discussion questions on each. It is the hope that with the extra preparation, the student body will understand more of the proceedings and have more questions in mind for the Q and A session which follows each CTS proceeding.



It is our hope that this Courts to School Program will encourage students to stay safe and make good decisions when out with friends. The personal statements from defendants have been successful in demonstrating to students the importance of not drinking and driving. The Court has been flooded with positive responses from students and staff and the program will continue into next school year

The Courts to School program will make presentations at any Albuquerque-area high school.