

Maxwell Public Schools spearheads national campaign to get kids to buckle up



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Data from 2016 shows that every 15 minutes, there was a crash somewhere in Nebraska and a person died from it every 40 hours. Some of these deaths could have been prevented by using a seat belt, that's why it's especially important to start educating at a young age.




It's a national campaign called, 'I Buckle Up, We Buckle Up.' Maxwell is one of ten schools nationwide, chosen to spearhead the campaign. Students had to apply by explaining why they think rural areas like theirs, could use grant money to educate the community on seat belts.

The campaign hits especially close to home since the school district has had students who died in car accidents because they were not wearing a seat belt. Law enforcement from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and Nebraska State Patrol took part in the workshop.

The focus was more on the life costs, not wearing your seat belt can have, but the legal costs were also explained.

They showed students statistics from Lincoln County on the number of teens who died because they weren't wearing a seat belt. Four students from Maxwell are spearheading the campaign to raise awareness.

"Almost every time we find a young person who is a fatality victim, they weren't wearing their seat belt," said Chief Deputy Roland Kramer with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

State Patrol also gave kids a hands on demonstration on how seat belts can save their lives in a crash. The school has from November to January to gather data on seat belt use in their area. They then have until March to work on intervention, which Monday's event was part of. 

Three out of the ten schools will eventually be chosen to develop a national seat belt program.

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