



SAFE

Seatbelts Are For Everyone

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A N N U A L
R E P O R T



SAFE

Seatbelts Are For Everyone

Re-Imagining, Reshaping SAFE



Chris Bortz
Assistant Bureau Chief,
KDOT Bureau of
Transportation Safety

Looking back at the 2020-2021 school year, I appreciate the commitment to the SAFE program shown by the students and sponsors involved. In Kansas, a total of 136 schools in 60 counties made SAFE available to their students, some joining the program for the first time. Making the safety of new and inexperienced drivers a priority while juggling the numerous changes the pandemic brought on our world took creativity, perseverance, and dedication.

Traffic safety education for young drivers remains important and lifesaving work. Crashes are the number one cause of severe injury and death for the teenage population. Increasing incidents of risky driving behaviors such as speeding, drunk driving, driving while high, and distracted driving — along with the tragedy of lives lost due to not wearing a seatbelt — make

the formation of defensive driving habits a true matter of life and death.

This past school year, the Kansas Teen Transportation Safety Conference was re-imagined and reshaped into a virtual format to reach students across the state with information about the dangers of drowsy driving, how to drive in bad weather, details about traffic laws, and more. SAFE teams gathered in their individual schools, watching and interacting with the live speaker presentations, games, and activities with enthusiasm.

We appreciate the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office and partners including the Kansas Highway Patrol and many other law enforcement agencies across the state that work together to provide quality resources and education in safe driving for students.

Thank You to Our Partners



Kansas Troopers Foundation



KANSAS Traffic Safety
Resource OFFICE





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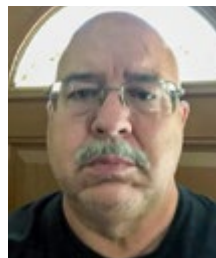
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Rising to the Challenge



Tenille Kimberlin
KTSRO Director

It is becoming clearer each day that traffic safety is a vital part of a community's physical and mental health. The SAFE program rose to the challenge of reaching teens with relevant messages about seatbelt use, focused driving, staying awake behind the wheel, and many other defensive driving topics in new and adaptive

ways this school year.

Several modifications were made to components of the SAFE program to allow students to participate no matter how they attended school — whether in person, virtual, or a hybrid mix of the two options.

Not only did SAFE add virtual options and resources for students, but it also organized the first virtual Kansas Teen Transportation Safety Conference. More than 172 students from 26 schools, along with dozens of sponsors and traffic safety champions, spent two days listening to speakers and soaking up the expertise they provided. Teens from across the state responded enthusiastically to the conference and expressed thanks for the variety of speakers and driving safety topics covered.

Each session was recorded and made available for viewing after the live conference event.

The addition of traffic safety specialists to work in different regions in Kansas — and together for statewide initiatives — brought us an expanded network of coalitions and contacts to advocate for SAFE's mission of saving teens from injury or death on the road.

SAFE created a student board this spring. After the

Several modifications were made to components of the SAFE program to allow students to participate no matter how they attended school.

application process, 16 high school students were chosen, representing both urban and rural communities across Kansas.

Designed to provide opportunities for young people to gain skills related to leadership development, traffic safety initiatives and campaign communication, the SAFE student board will educate their peers on topics such as seatbelt use, distracted driving, underage drinking and driving, and other traffic safety issues.

SAFE student board members are already at work, assisting with the planning of the next Kansas Teen Transportation Safety Conference. They will also partner with their peers to develop and implement special projects and campaigns promoting traffic safety in their schools, communities, and beyond.

Undaunted by the pandemic's restrictions, SAFE students participated in national traffic safety contests, were interviewed by local news outlets, recorded traffic safety public service announcements for their local radio stations, and reminded people to buckle up as they attended community and school events.

As the 2021-2022 school year starts, a new training video featuring SAFE students will be released. Their volunteer efforts will reach thousands of peers across the Midwest region as SAFE continues to grow and extend its record of successfully increasing teen seatbelt use.

3

**Booster to Belts
Programs Presented
to Elementary Schools**

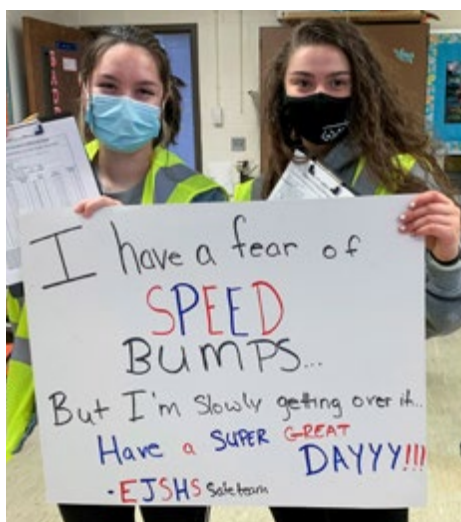
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**High Schools
Hosted Miss Kansas**

89

**High Schools Were
Sent the Just Drive
Campaign Kits**

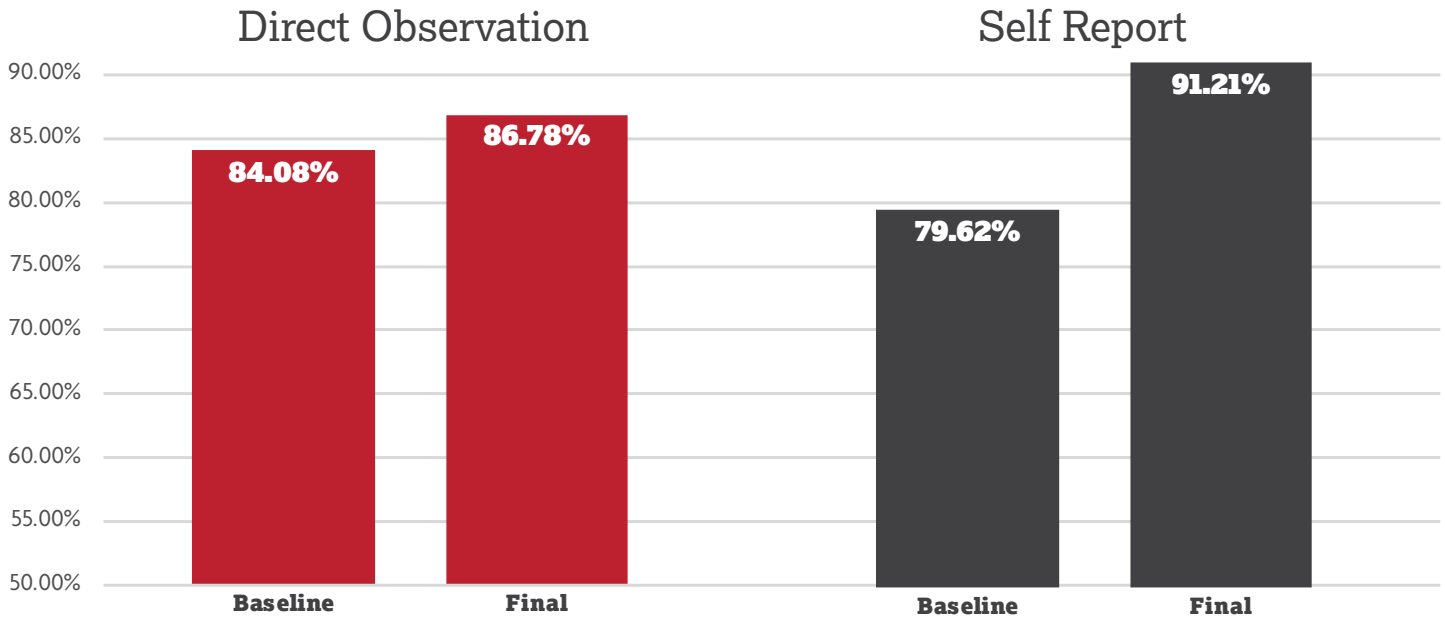
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Statewide Data

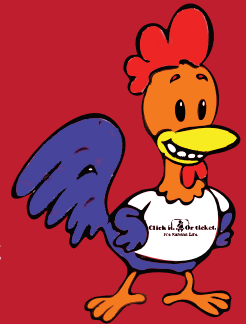
There were two forms of baseline and final data collected during the 2020-2021 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was the normal direct observation data collected, and, for those schools unable to do the observations due to a number of COVID-19 issues, there was a self-report component. With both options, there is an increase in seatbelt use between the pre and post surveys.

Statewide SAFE Percent Belted 2020-2021



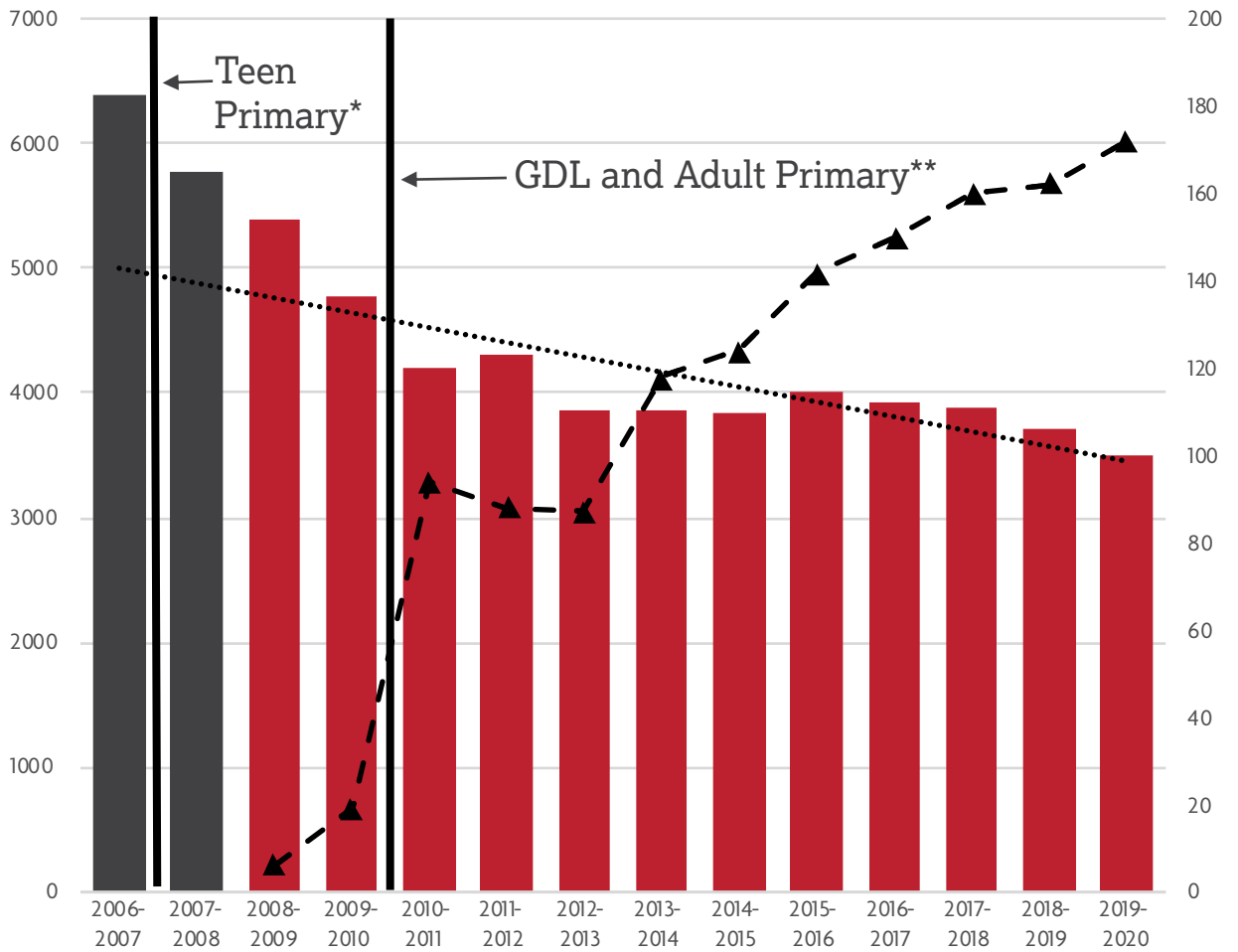
Booster to Belts

Booster to Belts is a program designed to teach young children the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using a booster seat in a fun and interactive environment. Its goal is to increase booster and seatbelt use among children ages 4-8. This year, 3 SAFE clubs presented in their elementary school or community.



**Supported by
Kansas Sheriffs' Association**

Kansas Teen Driver Involved Injuries Before & After SAFE Began



State-wide Teen Driver Involved Injuries Before SAFE	6395	5780												
State-wide Teen Driver Involved Injuries After SAFE			5384	4775	4201	4317	3868	3858	3847	4014	3929	3877	3709	3505
Number of Schools in SAFE, State-wide			6	19	94	88	87	118	124	142	150	160	162	172

State-wide Teen Driver Involved Injuries Before SAFE

State-wide Teen Driver Involved Injuries After SAFE

Number of Schools in SAFE, State-wide

Linear (State-wide Teen Driver Involved Injuries After SAFE)

* Primary Teen Seatbelt Law Passed

** Graduated Drivers License Law and Adult Primary Seatbelt Law Passed

STUDENT OF

Throughout the year, adult sponsors are encouraged to nominate leaders of their SAFE team that they think exemplifies what it means to be a positive safe driving role model. Monthly winners are chosen by KTSRO. The SAFE Student of the Month is awarded a \$25 gift card and the overall winner for the school year receives a \$250 scholarship.



RIANNA LAWLER

Remington
Nominated by
Jodi Janzen

This is Rianna's second year in our SAFE group and she is always willing to help whenever needed. She has designed our t-shirts the past 2 years and this year she is even designing masks for us! She is also always a positive role model for her peers!



JUSTICE HOUSTON

Wabaunsee
Nominated by
Marilyn Workman

Justice has been active in SAFE for 4 years, co president for 2 years. She looks ahead to what we can do, sets our meetings, designs our tee shirts, and encourages others to drive safe with their seat belts on! Happy to have her directing our team of students!



MEKENZY LUCAS

Northern Heights
Nominated by
Misty DeDonder

Mekenzy has happily taken over all SAFE responsibilities this year at Northern Heights High School. So far, she has planned monthly events to get awareness out to the student body, gotten the students prepared to complete the SAFE morning seatbelt checks, helped plan and complete the KTSRO grant for activities through SAFE and is getting other kids excited about it. She has started the Seatbelt Saves competition, and I cannot wait to see what she does with it. Mekenzy is a hard worker, and I love to see the dedication she has to SAFE this year.



CHELISIE ROSE

Scott Community
Nominated by
Allison Railsback

Chelsie has been instrumental in getting our SAFE project started here at Scott Community High School. When we presented to the SAFE project to our FBLA officers in November, she jumped at the opportunity to be chairman. She immediately went to work and contacted Trooper Tod Hileman with the Kansas Highway Patrol about presenting a vehicle rollover demonstration for the entire high school and worked out the logistics with our administration in doing an outside presentation in three separate groups (the presentation was on November 30). Chelsie did not hesitate in seeing that we completed our first seatbelt data survey in December and is already brainstorming several educational activities for the upcoming spring semester!

THE MONTH



AMBER BEAUMONT

Southeast of Saline
Nominated by
Braden Long

Amber is the president of the Southeast of Saline SAFE Club. Amber does a wonderful job with SAFE. She is always willing to help out with any SAFE events. Amber has also done a great job as the only upperclassman in SAFE with helping out the underclass students and teaching them about SAFE and guiding them through the different aspects of SAFE. Amber is also a great student in school and is always willing to help anyone out. Amber is very deserving of this award and I believe she exemplifies what SAFE is all about. Amber takes pride in wearing her seatbelt and talking with students about the importance of safety belt usage.



HANNAH LAMPE

Syracuse Jr/Sr
Nominated by
Amy Brucker

Hannah has been a 3 year member of SAFE. As a senior, she is only one of 2 students who has been on the SAFE team all 3 years the school has participated. Hannah shares her talents and skills with SAFE; She designed and painted a cutout picture prop, manages our SAFE Twitter account, and periodically writes articles for the local newspaper. She is always the first to volunteer for the seat belt surveys. This year she has researched and provided driving statistics for our December video and January's morning announcements at the school. Hannah is a traffic safety leader and role model for our group, school and community through her words and examples.



JAYNA KELLER

Wabaunsee
Nominated by
Marilyn Workman

Jayna is very responsible. She has been in SAFE since her freshman year. She is always asking what she can do, coming up with new plans for our club. She is our co president this year. Jayna took charge of the fundraiser for LLS, encouraging students to participate in the fundraising. Jayna gave a lot of time to our club, enthusiastically. Our SRO needed a SAFE enforcement poster and she jumped right up to make it for him. Jayna is a great SAFE student



HOPE KISNER

Hays
Nominated by
Alicia Brungardt

Hope has spearheaded our SAFE campaign this year. She has organized monthly pledge card distributions and incorporated SAFE concepts into other activities, including an all-school SAFE breakout game and our Christmas decorating. Hallways were decorated to include reminders to slow down on snow and ice, wear seatbelts, and remain attentive while driving. She worked with a team to organize socially distanced seating that was documented for contact tracing of 600+ students as well as a remote video option for 200 more students to allow for the ThinkFast program to happen in our high school.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR



REGAN NAVE

Elkhart
Nominated by
David Long

Regan was on the SAFE team last year and when asked if she would help lead the team this year was very excited to do so. Not only has Regan been a great leader she has lead recruiting for the team causing us to almost double in size, going from last years team of 8 to a team of 15. She very actively recruited her fellow students to be on the team. Each month Regan announces the winner of our gift cards, and the kick off of next months drawing. Additionally she does whatever else is needed and requested for our program. Recently in our mid year survey our seat belt usage went up 27%. I attribute this to our great leadership from Reagan as well as other team members encouraging their fellow students to wear their seatbelts.



Seatbelts Are For Everyone

2020-2021 SAFE High Schools

ALLEN

Iola
Anderson County Jr/Sr

ATCHISON

Atchison County Community

BARBER

South Barber

BARTON

Great Bend

BOURBON

Uniontown

BUTLER

Andover Central
Andover
Douglass
Flinthills
Remington

CHEROKEE

Baxter Springs
Columbus
Galena
Riverton

CLOUD

Concordia Jr/Sr

COFFEY

Burlington
Southern Coffey County
Waverly

COWLEY

Arkansas City
Dexter Jr-Sr
Udall Jr-Sr

CRAWFORD

Frontenac
Girard
Northeast
Pittsburg
Southeast
St. Mary's Colgan

DICKINSON

Herington

DONIPHAN

Doniphan West Jr/Sr
Riverside

DOUGLAS

Lawrence

EDWARDS

Kinsley Jr-Sr

ELK

West Elk

ELLIS

Hays

ELLSWORTH

Ellsworth Jr/Sr

FORD

Dodge City

FRANKLIN

Ottawa

GOVE

Wheatland

GREENWOOD

Eureka Jr/Sr
Hamilton
Madison

HAMILTON

Syracuse

HARVEY

Burrton
Sedgwick

HASKELL

Satanta
Sublette

JACKSON

Holton
Jackson Heights
Royal Valley

JEFFERSON

Jefferson West
McLouth
Oskaloosa Jr/Sr
Perry-Lecompton School

JEWELL

Rock Hills

JOHNSON

Blue Valley
Blue Valley North
Blue Valley Northwest
Blue Valley Southwest
Blue Valley West
DeSoto
Olathe South
Spring Hill

KIOWA

Kiowa County

LEAVENWORTH

Pleasant Ridge

LINN

Pleasanton Jr/Sr

LYON

Hartford Jr-Sr
Northern Heights
Olpe

MARION

Centre
Goessel Jr/Sr
Marion

MCPHERSON

Smoky Valley

MITCHELL

Beloit Jr/Sr

MONTGOMERY

Caney Valley
Independence

MORTON

Elkhart

Middle Schools

BARTON

Great Bend

COWLEY

Arkansas City

JACKSON

Holton

MCPHERSON

Smoky Valley

RICE

Lyons

SALINE

Lakewood Salina South

SEDGWICK

Cheney Maize

WYANDOTTE

Robert E. Clark

NEMAHA

Centralia
Nemaha Central
Wetmore Academic Center

NEOSHO

Erie

NORTON

Norton Community

OTTAWA

Bennington
Tescott

POTTAWATOMIE

Flint Hills Christian School
Rock Creek Junior/Senior
Wamego

PRATT

Pratt

RENO

Hutchinson

RICE

Lyons High

RILEY

Manhattan
Riley County

SALINE

Sacred Heart Jr/Sr
Salina Central
Salina South
Southeast of Saline

SCOTT

Scott Community

SEDGWICK

Cheney
Clearwater
Eisenhower

Goddard

Maize
Valley Center
Wichita East

SHAWNEE

Rossville
Seaman
Shawnee Heights
Silver Lake
Washburn Rural

SMITH

Smith Center Jr/Sr
Thunder Ridge

STAFFORD

Macksville
St. John
Stafford

SUMNER

Caldwell
Wellington

THOMAS

Brewster

WABAUNSEE

Mission Valley
Wabaunsee

WICHITA

Wichita County Jr/Sr

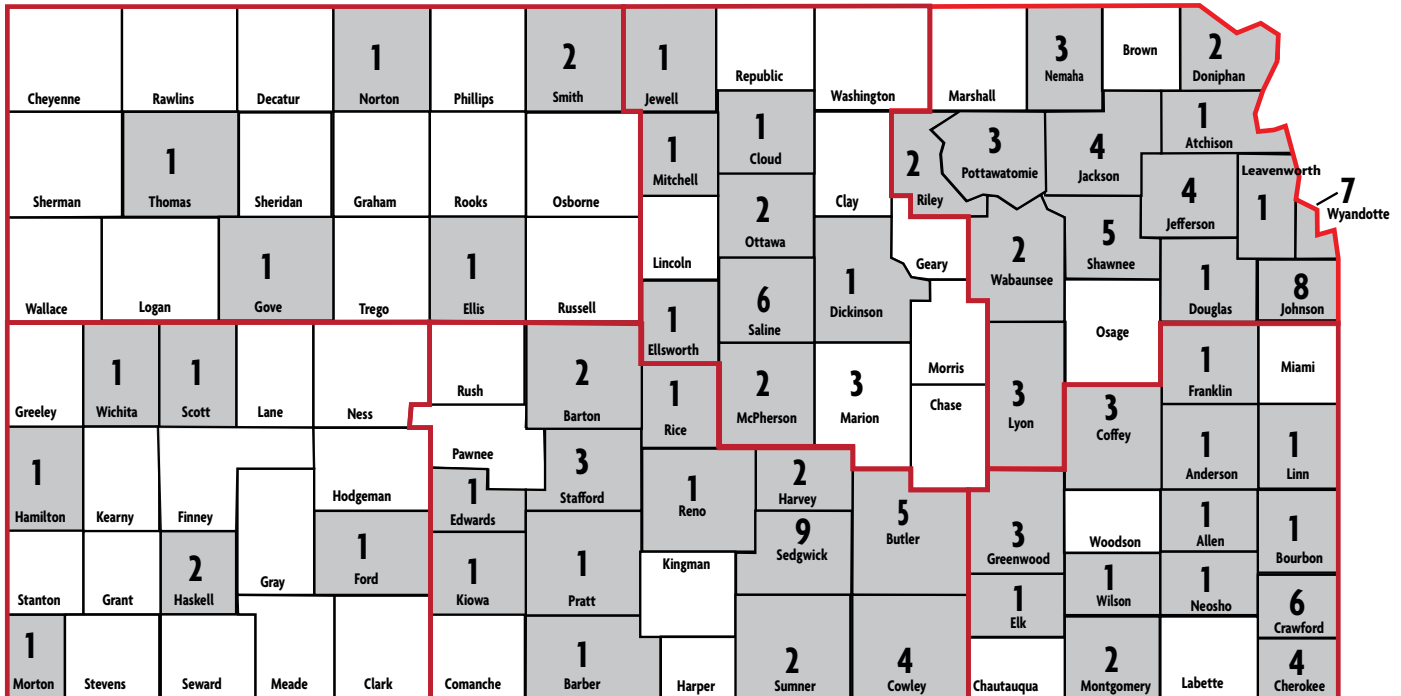
WILSON

Neodesha

WYANDOTTE

Bonner Springs
F.L. Schlagle
JC Harmon
Sumner Academy
Washington
Wyandotte

Participating SAFE Schools



136 Total Schools | **60** Counties | **6** Regions

SAFE

Seatbelts Are For Everyone

Miss Kansas | The Journey Continues



Annika Wooton
Miss Kansas 2019-2020

It's the way we respond to these things, and the small decisions we make along the way that ultimately pave the road ahead of us for the incredible future that is to come.

How many times have we heard, “New Normal,” or “We just had to adjust,” this year? On one hand, it's so true, but on the other hand, at this point I know we all just want to roll our eyes because the reality is that we are all in this together and we know!

Some people say, “We're all in the same boat.” I prefer to say, “We're all in the same storm. Very different boats.” We are all coming from different homes, different situations, different experiences, and different support systems. We are all maneuvering this storm in our own unique ways and you all are doing it in a very vulnerable and formative period of your life. Kudos.

This year's SAFE school tour looked very different. I am probably the only Miss Kansas that got to see some of you twice, and probably the only Miss Kansas to see some of you virtually. It was the SAFE program that helped me get back to a feeling of normalcy even if it was through a screen.

If I didn't see you during this last year — let me fill you in briefly...

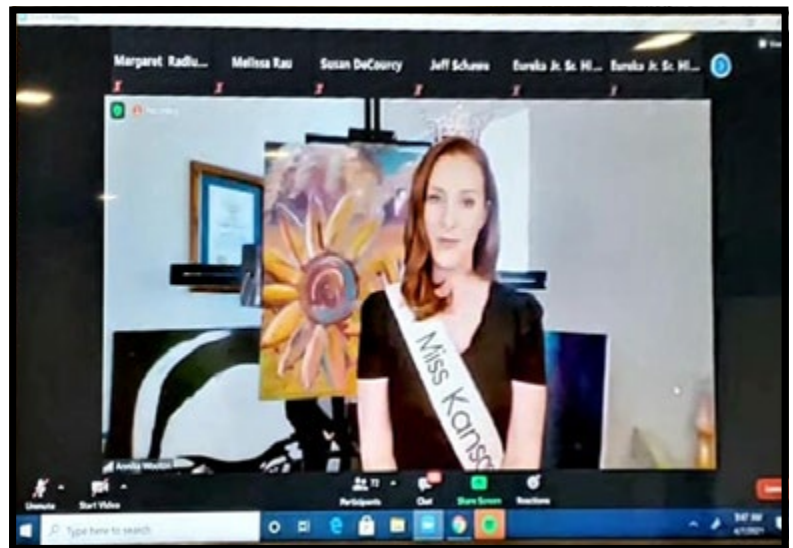
I am the longest-reigning Miss Kansas — due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our 2020 competition and the organization asked me to stay on and serve for a second year. That meant a massive transition in my schedule when the world shut down, lots of at-home creativity, and making that shift to virtual presentations. Even so — I still connected with tons of incredible students across Kansas through the SAFE program and got back on the road to visit some in person, too.

When I come and speak to schools that have SAFE programs, I know the students are familiar with the safe-driving message I'm presenting. I know that my presentations are reminders of concepts the SAFE teams have already educated their peers on. But it's the message that I bring intertwined with seatbelt safety and safe driving practices that I hope hits a little bit differently.

Every decision you make — whether big or small — contributes to the rest of your life. There are a lot of things (a global pandemic, for instance) that are out of our control. It's the way we respond to these things, and the small decisions we make along the way that ultimately pave the road ahead of us for the incredible future that is to come.

As I close out my term as Miss Kansas, I am so grateful to have connected with Kansas students affiliated with SAFE programs. The conversations I've had with each of you will always hold a place in my heart and a chapter of my story.

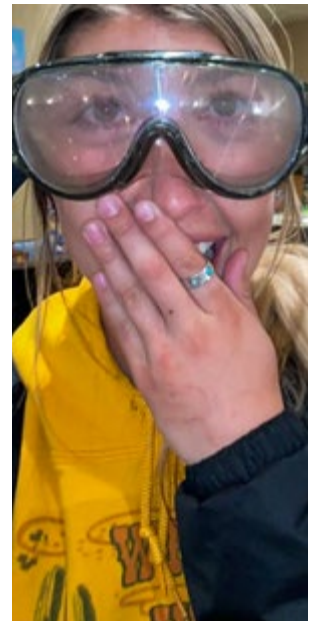
Thanks for a great two years, and stay safe out there!





Virtual
**Kansas Teen Transportation
Safety Conference**

Students and sponsors gathered at school or other venues for this year's teen conference. Even though it was virtual, the conference had over 200 students attend and 30 sponsors!



SAFE

Seatbelts Are For Everyone

2020-2021 SAFE Enforcement

**TEEN
SEATBELT
CITATIONS**

25



**ADULT
SEATBELT
CITATIONS**

285

**OTHER
CITATIONS
238**

**CHILD
SEATBELT
CITATIONS**

22

Middle School Enforcement

**TEEN
SEATBELT
CITATIONS**

135

**ADULT
SEATBELT
CITATIONS**

578

**CHILD
RESTRAINT
CITATIONS**

39

Seatbelt Enforcement Period



Seatbelts
Are
For
Everyone

**306 OFFICERS
69 AGENCIES
759 HOURS**

**SPEEDING
CITATIONS**

713

**OTHER
CITATIONS**

969

**358 OFFICERS
92 AGENCIES**



Seatbelts
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2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT





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