

## **Pattonville wins recognition for “most improved seat belt usage” in St. Louis region after safety campaign**

Pattonville High School recently participated in the “Battle of the Belt” seatbelt awareness program sponsored by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and the St. Louis County Police Department. Battle of the Belt was a safety belt competition between Missouri high schools aimed at reducing the number of driving-related injuries and fatalities among Missouri high school students by increasing seat belt usage. Teens at Pattonville, under the supervision of their driver’s education teachers, conducted unannounced safety belt checks, as well as an educational campaign to build awareness of the issue.

Pattonville High School won the competition’s prize for most improved seat belt usage in the St. Louis region. The prize was a school-wide ice cream party, which MoDOT arranged with the help of the Sing for Safety Foundation, Sam’s Club and Edy’s Ice Cream of St. Louis. Every student in the school was treated to ice cream during his or her lunch hour. Members of the Pattonville High School Student Council served up the treats. Officials from MoDOT, St. Louis County Police and the Sing for Safety Foundation joined school administrators and staff for the event. Pattonville driver’s education Teacher Pete Barrett and four of his students were also invited later that day to participate in a news conference with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and MoDOT to announce that the number of driving fatalities in Missouri in 2007 was under 1,000, breaking a 14-year trend.