

Richmond Police Department

Crime Prevention Resource



TECHS History:

Since 1986, the Richmond Crime Prevention Program has sponsored a Junior Neighborhood Watch Club in an effort to impact Richmond youth. The club, called Training and Education in Community, Home and School (**TECHS**), is implemented in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. The goal is to create better understanding and cooperation between young people and adults, as well as pride in self, home, community and school. TECHS employs concentrated education, enrichment projects and early intervention toward preventing or limiting future antisocial behavior. The program is FREE to all enrolled students. TECHS works with students at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School continuously from the third through fifth grades. The program encourages responsible behavior, good citizenship, personal safety and respect for other people's property. TECHS also seeks to introduce students to a world outside of their neighborhood, filled with opportunities for success and growth.

Objectives to achieve program goals are implemented through educational and recreational classroom activities, guest speakers, field study trips, role playing, positive reinforcement and rewards, enlightening videos, writing exercises and a year-end school wide lunch time picnic. **Each June students in each grade who have read the most books in the TECHS All-Stars Reading is Fun Book Club receive an award presentation from the Richmond Mayor at a televised City Council meeting.**

The program includes a literacy component. The TECHS All-Stars Reading is Fun Book Club encourages children to read books on their own time. The book club is held several times throughout the school year. Students bring their books and present a brief, one minute oral report on each book. They then receive on-the-spot prizes for their achievement. The more books they read, the more prizes they can receive. TECHS provides free books to students who have difficulty finding books to participate. If students like the books, they are allowed to keep them.

The purpose of TECHS is to change antisocial, destructive behavior of children and to increase self esteem. TECHS has succeeded in helping to reduce potentially violent and disruptive behavior in students. The club also increases student literacy and self-esteem, and motivates students to behave more responsibly when interacting with others. Success of the program is largely determined by input from parents, teachers, school administration and observations made by TECHS staff.

The Coordinator works closely with parents to enlist their support to help improve student behavior. Students are rewarded for good behavior, reading books and for improving their grades. Program staff also interact with schoolteachers and school administration when needed. **TECHS participates in the King School awards assembly each June, presenting each TECHS student with a certificate of completion and educational prizes for completing the program.** In its twenty-seven year existence, TECHS has served over 4,000 students.

Program topics include, but are not limited to:

- * Child Abduction
- * Safety While Home Alone
- * Fire Safety

- * Know Your Emergency Phone Numbers
- * Spelling Bee for Prizes
- * Career Goals – Your Future Begins Now
- * Say “No” to Drugs, Alcohol and Cigarettes
- * Diversity
- * Nutrition
- * Conflict Resolution – Disagreeing without Being Disagreeable
- * Math Contest for Prizes
- * Skits - Respecting Other People’s Property
- * Arts & Crafts
- * Say “No” to Street Gangs & Peer Pressure
- * Street Safety – Riding Bikes, Scooters, etc.
- * Dog Safety
- * Recycling
- * Handling Arguments without Fighting
- * Bullying
- * Anger Management – Dealing with Daily Frustrations with a Positive Attitude
- * TECHS All-Stars Reading is Fun Club
- * Field Study Trips for Enrolled Students (FREE)
- * Annual School-wide Picnic for the Entire King School Student Body each June
- * Mayor Presentation at City Council Meeting each June