



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

DOZENS ATTEND D.A. MORRISSEY'S WINTER BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP

It wasn't just about the jump shots.



About forty Stoughton students, from grade 2 through 8, crowded the High School gym for the opening of District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey's winter basketball camp yesterday – learning basic basketball skills interspersed with life skills and messages for success.

"Teamwork. Watching out for your friends. Work ethic. Being true to yourself. Making good decisions. Asking for help when you need it. The messages we reinforce on the basketball court are also important off the court, and are key parts of growing up safe and strong in a complex world," District Attorney Morrissey said.

"Girl's High School basketball coach Charmaine Steele was with us, as was much of her team. Boy's coach John Gallivan joined us. Assistant Coach Evan Taylor helped run the day. John Fanning, a SHS grad who served in the Marines and the Stoughton Police before becoming a State Police detective spoke to the kids," Morrissey said.

"There is a safe path from today into adulthood for every one of the kids we had with us in the gym," Morrissey said. "Each adult talking to them – whether in the context of a drill or in a sit-down discussion – was shining a light on some part of that path with their own example and story." Morrissey has run a basketball camp in Stoughton every February vacation since taking office, starting in 2010.

"The Stoughton schools, police and recreation department are great partners in this," he said. The modest overhead of running the camp is covered using money forfeited by judges in narcotics trafficking cases, which law enforcement can use only for narrow purposes.

"This is our chance to meet and work with the good kids, to provide a constructive place with positive physical and mental activity for them during winter break," District Attorney Morrissey said. "It would be a mistake not to invest in the positive kids, and support those on the right path staying there."

Athletic Director Ryan Donohue and Recreation Director John Denison were also at the camp for parts of the morning. The camp continues until noon on Thursday.