

From the Fire Department

As summer draws to a close, back-to-school season is in full effect. Remember to safely share the roads with school buses, pedestrians and bicyclists, and provide children with the necessary knowledge to stay safe at school.

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they - and the motorists around them - take proper safety precautions.



Traveling to and from School:

Walking to School

- Parents should walk or bike the route prior to school starting and look for any possible hazards the child may encounter and identify a safe place to go if the child needs help.
- Stop, look and listen before crossing the street. Always cross at the crosswalk and obey traffic signals.
- Walk or bike with a friend. It is safer and more fun with a buddy.
- Go directly to school and directly home afterward.
- Do not play in vacant fields or lots.
- Stay on the sidewalk or bike path and do not take short cuts.
- If someone approaches you or makes you feel uncomfortable, don't talk to them and keep walking or riding.
- If a vehicle is following you, turn around and go the other direction.
- Don't put your name on clothing, backpacks, books or lunch boxes that are visible to others.
- If approached by a dog, do not run. Do not touch the dog. Stand still and tell the dog to go home. If the dog will not leave, slowly back away from the dog putting distance between him and you; then continue walking.

Biking to School

- Bright colored clothing will make you more visible to drivers.
- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Backpacks should be tight on the upper back and not dragging on the rear tire.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Ride on the right, going the same direction as traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.

From the Fire Department (cont'd)



Bus Stops

- Know your bus number.
- Stay in a group while waiting for the bus.
- Do not play in the street. Stay on the sidewalk or grass.
- Wait for the bus to completely stop before approaching it.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to get on the bus. Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.
- Stay seated while on the bus and keep hands and head inside the windows.
- If someone offers you a ride, say NO.
- A parent could be at the bus stop before and after school for extra safety.

For Parents Vehicle Traffic

Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
 - Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving
 - Give children right-of-way in crosswalks and school zones.
 - Avoid backing your vehicle at schools.
 - Children should exit to the right side of the vehicle.
 - Do not leave until your child is completely on school property.

Reminder for your kids:

- They should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them

