

NEWS BRIEF

For Immediate Release

Safety a top priority for start of school

August 17, 2009 - Summer break is almost over and next Tuesday, Aug. 25, is the first day of school for the 2009-2010 school year. The school bell increases the number of students on the streets and sidewalks as well as the number of buses on the roads. Be sure to start the new year off right by reviewing important back to school information and refreshing safety tips with your students.

We regularly review safety information with our students, and we ask parents to also discuss the following safety tips with your children:

- Always walk or bike with other students or a parent.
- Be alert to what is happening and who is around you.
- Keep your distance from strangers.
- Never accept treats or rides from a stranger, even if the person says a parent sent them. Do not go with a stranger even if they say a parent is hurt or they need help finding a lost pet.
- If a stranger approaches you, scream and run, then find an adult you know and report what happened immediately.
- Don't play in deserted areas, such as empty playgrounds, parks, or construction sites.
- If you think someone is following you, go where there are other people. Don't hide or go home if no one else is there.

To help keep student drivers and passengers safe the district emphasizes the importance of traffic safety and asks parents to reinforce the safety messages at home. Some tips to share with students include:

- Allow plenty of time to get to school so you are not rushed, which can cause distractions and speeding.
- Keep your hands on the wheel - don't talk on the phone or change the CD or radio station while driving.
- Limit the number of passengers in the car as friends can create distractions and peer pressure to drive less safely.
- Everyone in a vehicle needs to wear a seatbelt at all times... it's the law.

The safety and security of our students is our top priority. Working together, we can provide safe environments for our students traveling to and from school.