Back to School Safety

keeping your family safe.

Sheriff John Zaruba

Parents, be smart about school safety. Here are a few tips to get you started...

- If your child is ready to walk to school or a bus stop without adult supervision, make sure to plan the safest, most direct route, and walk it with your child beforehand.
- Teach your child never to talk to strangers, approach a car, or accept rides from anyone they don't know well or don't trust.
- If you've decided your child is old enough to arrive home alone, make sure to review emergency plans and set up safety rules such as calling a parent upon arrival to check in.
- Have a plan should your child miss the bus, or their ride does not arrive to pick them up.
- Be sure your child knows their home phone number and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult, and how to call 911 for emergencies.

Rules for a child that walks or bikes to school

- Go with a buddy and always stay on the agreed upon route.
- Follow an emergency backup plan; such as carrying a cell phone or identifying a house along the route that is a safe place to go where someone would be home.
- Obey all traffic signals, signs and crossing guards.
- Wear bright colors to be seen easily.
- Wear your safety helmet when biking.

Rules for a child that rides the bus:

- Arrive at the bus stop a few minutes early.
- Establish a safe place to wait for the bus away from the street.
- Allow the bus to come to a complete stop and double check for other traffic before stepping out into the street.
- Cross 10 feet out in front of the bus and ensure the driver can see you.

Rules for a child that is driven to school:

- Stay on the school grounds once you are dropped off and while waiting to be picked up.
- Never go with anyone other than your parent or previously agreed upon person.
- Parents, watch your children until they safely enter the schoolyard or building.
- Always use age appropriate restraints such as a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt. The back seat is the safest place for children.

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