



NEWS RELEASE

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August 21, 2013

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Back to School Safety Reminder from the Woodridge Police Department

[Woodridge, IL] Woodridge School District 68 students return to school on **Wednesday, August 28th**. The Woodridge Police Department wants to remind motorists to please slow down and be extra cautious during the hours when children are walking to and from school to obey school speed zone signs, refrain from using their cell phones while driving in school zones and to be extra cautious when school buses are picking up or dropping off students at schools or in residential neighborhoods. School speed zones are easily identifiable by special signage posted in the immediate vicinity of area schools. Using a wireless phone in a school speed zone is dangerous and carries a minimum fine of \$120. Check out these safety tips for motorists from the National Safety Council.

- All 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- School buses use yellow flashing lights to alert motorists that they are preparing to stop to load or unload children. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signals to motorists that the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.
- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a school bus.
- Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.

The Woodridge Police Department also reminds parents to teach their children to be safe pedestrians by always looking both ways before crossing streets, obeying the school crossing guards, watching out turning vehicles and always walking with a sibling, friend or a neighbor. In addition, the National Safety Council offers the following tips on traveling to school to share with your children:

- Always walk on the sidewalk if one is available. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing traffic.
- Before you step off the curb to cross the street, stop and look all ways to see if cars are coming.
- Walk, don't run. This gives time for drivers to see you before you enter the roadway. Running also makes you more likely to fall in the street.
- Always wear your helmet when riding a bike to school.
- Ride on the right side of the road or trail in a single line in the same direction.
- Always wait for a driver's signal before crossing the street.

For more back-to-school safety tips, check out the National Safety Council's website at http://www.nsc.org/safety_home/SafetyObservances/Pages/BackToSchoolSafety.aspx.

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