

Back to School Traffic Safety

As our students enjoy the last days of summer and prepare for the new school year it's a good time to review traffic safety! The first day of school for the Ventura Unified School District is August 22, 2018. The Ventura Police Department would like to remind motorists, students and parents to practice traffic safety skills when traveling to school. The start of the new school year brings traffic congestion around schools as well as a rise in pedestrian and bicyclist traffic. We suggest car-pooling, using the school bus or using an alternate drop off and pick up site away from schools. This will help relieve traffic delays.

The following tips are provided to ensure the safety of students and to serve as a reminder to be vigilant while traveling in a school zone. Parents, please discuss traffic safety with your children whether they are walking, riding a bicycle or being driven to school.

Pedestrians:

- When crossing the street, continue to scan both directions for approaching cars.
- Pay attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Use marked crosswalks and cross at controlled intersections when possible.
- Wear reflective clothing or bright colors so drivers can see you.
- Plan a safe walking route to and from the school or bus stop.
- When waiting for the school bus, stay out of the street and avoid horseplay.

Bicyclists:

- If riding a bike, ALWAYS wear a helmet. They are required for all bicycle riders under the age of 18.
- Ride on the right side, in the same direction as traffic.
- Walk your bike when crossing the street.
- Review bicycle laws.

Drivers:

- Be watchful around schools and bus stops for children in the street. Do not double park.
- Pay attention to crossing guards and remain stopped until they are off the roadway.
- Watch your speed in school and residential zones (25MPH).
- Leave early and give yourselves ample time to arrive at your destination.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road.
- Do not use your cell phone while driving.
- Enter and exit driveways slowly and carefully, be observant in all directions.
- Do not allow your child to exit the vehicle into traffic lanes; safely drop them off at the curbside or where your school has directed you to drop off.

By adhering to these traffic related tips, the number of collisions in an around school zones can be reduced. Please drive safely.

The Ventura Police Department is committed to traffic safety through education and enforcement. From the first day of school and throughout the school year. Let's work together to make it a safe school year for all!