



WILMETTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

School Traffic Safety Reminders

August 26, 2014

School has started. It is important to remember with good weather more children will walk or bike to school. Through personal observations and observations from other parents and school staff; dropping off or picking up children can pose a safety risk for our Wilmette children. By not obeying the traffic laws and/or not obeying schools' drop off and pick up procedures you could be putting your child or someone else's in danger. Here are some general school traffic safety reminders for drivers that will increase the safety of children going to and from school.

School Traffic Safety Reminders

1. When driving your child to school, Follow All Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures of the School and Follow the Directions of the School Staff who are coordinating the loading and unloading of children in the Designated Drop Off and Pick Up Zones. You can find the procedures on your school's website.
2. Obey the Speed Limit (20 MPH) when driving in School Zones during school days.
3. Obey and Pay Attention to Crossing Guards who staff busy intersections along the designated school walking routes. Do Not proceed through the intersection until the Crossing Guard has cleared the intersection and All Persons are out of the street.
4. Come to a Complete Stop and Yield the Right of Way to pedestrians crossing the roadway in a school zone when school children are present and so close to be a potential hazard.
5. Come to a Complete Stop and Yield the Right of Way to pedestrians that are crossing within a crosswalk at an intersection that has no traffic control signal.
6. Do not use a Cell Phone, except for emergencies, when operating a motor vehicle in a School Speed Zone (this includes waiting in the drop off and pick up lines).
7. Come to a Complete Stop for a School Bus that is loading or unloading (red flashing lights turned on and stop signal arm extended) and remain stopped until the stop signal arm is no longer extended and the red flashing lights are turned off or the bus driver signals you to pass.
8. If walking, biking or busing does not work for your family, consider setting up a "neighbor" car pool which would reduce traffic congestion around the school.
9. Do not stop, park, and get out of your vehicle to open the door for your children unless help is really needed. This action during drop off reduces the effectiveness and may create unsafe driving when other drivers are trying to get around you. Have your children ready to exit so that the drop off and pick up lines continue to move.
10. Remember you are not the only person dropping off or picking up your children. Strive to set a good example for those young eyes that watch and learn from the behavior and actions of parents, guardians and other adults in their lives.

Everybody has somewhere to go or something to do; HOWEVER, it is not worth jeopardizing any child's safety. A traffic crash involving a pedestrian, especially a child on their way to school, often has a devastating impact on all people in our community. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Officer Parisi at 847-853-7555. THANK YOU!