

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

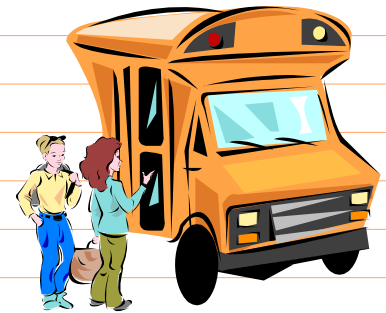


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September is Bus Safety Month

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As schools begin classes, motorists are urged to be on the lookout for students to be appearing on street corners again. The beginning of the school year is a time when children are at increased risk of transportation-related accidents from pedestrian, bicycle, school bus and vehicle crashes. Included in this newsletter are safety tips to make back-to-school commutes safer for motorists and students. Many injuries happen when children are boarding or exiting the bus. The two most frequent incidents where children are injured are either by they're being in the "Danger Zone," or by a vehicle that fails to stop when a bus is loading or unloading. The Danger Zone is a 10-foot area surrounding the bus that is a blind spot to the bus driver. (NHTSA)



What to do with illegal passing of a School Bus?

1. Report it to the police.
2. Provide the model, color & license number of the vehicle.
3. Share the date, time and location of the incident.
4. Describe the driver, if possible.
5. Is the school bus chrome yellow with the word "school bus" on the front and rear?
6. Is it a big or small bus?
7. Is the school bus fully stopped?
8. Are the upper red lights of the school bus flashing?
9. Were the passengers getting on or getting off the bus?
10. Does the car pass the school bus from the front or from behind the bus?





Tips for Motorists:

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits.
- Watch for school buses. Red flashing lights and an extended stop arm indicate the school bus is stopping to load or unload children. State law requires you to stop.
- Keep an eye out for children walking in the street, especially where there are no sidewalks.
- Be alert for children playing and gathering near bus stops and for those who may dart into the street without looking for traffic.
- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch for children walking or biking to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods or school zones, watch for children who may be in a hurry to get to school or are distracted and/or playing with other children.
- Obey speed limits in school zones and neighborhoods.

Tips for Students:

- Always buckle up when riding in a car. Be sure to remove your backpack before getting in the vehicle. Never buckle your safety belt with your backpack on.
- Always ride in the back seat.
- Always wear a helmet and follow traffic safety rules when riding your bike.
- If you ride a school bus, learn and practice the safety rules for waiting at the bus stop, getting on and off, and riding the bus. Never wait for the bus in the roadway.
- If you walk to school, learn and practice the safety rules for pedestrians. It is extremely important for you to use a sidewalk when available, look left-right-left when crossing the road, and always walk facing traffic.
- Always cross at crosswalks; obey all traffic signs, traffic lights and crossing guard instructions.
- Be a good role model. Always buckle up in the car, always wear a helmet when biking and always follow pedestrian safety rules.



Tips for Parents:

- Supervise young children as they are walking or biking to school or as they wait for the school bus stop.
- Provide your children with bright clothing so motorists can see them easily.
- If your child is under 4 years old and weighs less than 40 pounds, make sure the child is properly buckled up in a weight-appropriate child safety seat in the back seat.
- If your child is age 4 to 8, weighs over 40 pounds, and measures 4 feet 9 inches tall or less, the child should ride in a booster seat in the back seat.
- All children under age 12 should ride in the back seat.
- Make sure that your teen driver understands and obeys all state traffic laws.

