



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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School is Back in Session

Niles, IL - Now that school is back in session Chief of Police Dennis J. McEnerney would like to remind the public of these safety tips to help ensure a safe school year.

“With school opening this month, we know this is an exciting time for families,” Chief McEnerney said. “To make the transition from summer vacation into the classroom as smooth as possible, we hope that community members will be aware while on the road and in school zones.”

Parents should have a discussion with their child, including pre-teens and teenagers about the risks of traveling to and from school.

- While walking please be aware of their surroundings.
- Do not to be distracted by their mobile phones or games such as Pokemon Go.
- Please be sure that vehicles stop prior to entering a cross walk or crossing the street.
- If they are approached by a stranger move in the opposite direction and never enter a vehicle of someone you do not know.
- When exiting the school bus be sure the bus driver can see you.
- Prior to crossing in front of the bus when it’s lights and stop arm are engaged be sure that vehicles have stopped, in both directions.

As a reminder to the public, in Illinois, state law prohibits the use of your mobile phone while driving unless it is used in a hands free mode. This includes stopped at a stop light with your foot on the brake.

Illinois law provides that the driving privileges of a person convicted of passing a stopped school bus will be suspended for three months for the first offense and one year for the second, if the second conviction occurs within five years. Additionally, the fine for a first conviction is \$150 and \$500 for a second or subsequent conviction.

Lastly, drivers must stop and yield the right of way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk, when the pedestrian is on the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling or the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.

For more information on safety procedures contact Public Information Officer, Sergeant Robert Tornabene at 847-588-6500.