

# Neighborhood Safety Newsletter



PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY - PARTNERSHIPS - PROFESSIONALISM - PREVENTION & INTERVENTION  
OWNERSHIP

## School Safety

With summer coming to an end and the school year upon us, the Sacramento Police Department wants to remind drivers and pedestrians to be cautious. As students are returning to school, the Sacramento Police Department is cautioning drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians to obey traffic laws and follow common sense safety guidelines around campuses. Distracted driving such as texting or talking on the phone is not only illegal, but especially dangerous around schools, where hundreds of students may be on foot.

Here are some additional safety tips to keep in mind during the school year:

- Always cross the street at a crosswalk, preferably at an intersection controlled by a traffic signal or stop sign.
- Look both ways while crossing. Walk, don't run.
- When biking, design your route around streets with clearly marked bike lanes, when possible.
- Always wear a bike helmet.
- Bike with the flow of traffic; walk against traffic.
- Motorists should be prepared to slow down for children entering the roadway.
- Use caution when sun glare may degrade a driver's vision.
- Parents should plan their child's route if they walk or cycle to school (safety spots to seek help, best places to cross roadways, ensure child does not get lost).
- Never walk alone at night.
- Never ask for or accept a ride from stranger.
- Be cautious while dropping off and picking up students in school zones.
- Be courteous, while dropping off and picking up students, to other parents and to the neighbors who live surrounding schools.

## Bicycle Helmets

Kids can out grow helmets fast! As the school year begins now is a great time to ensure your child has a properly fitting helmet. Visit <http://www.safekids.org/video/bike-helmet-fit-test> for a one-minute video to learn how to make sure it's the right fit.

Besides protecting your children, wearing helmets is the law. Vehicle Code 21212 says anyone under 18 years old shall not operate a bicycle, a non-motorized scooter, or a skateboard if they are not wearing a properly fitting and fastened bicycle helmet. This requirement also applies to a person who rides upon a bicycle while in a restraining seat that is attached to the bicycle or in a trailer towed by the bicycle.

## Tip of the Month

The Sacramento Police Department School Resource Officers also want to remind you to be cautious of your child's social media presence. Often, once school is back in session, disagreements that have been brewing over the summer months on social media can present themselves once school is back in session. Monitor what your kids are posting on social media and what sites they are visiting online to ensure the transition into this school year is as free from drama as possible.

Let's be safe and have a great school year!

See our [Back to School Safety](#) video. Help us in "Making Sacramento the Safest Big City in California!"

