



TOWNSHIP OF UNION

IN THE COUNTY OF UNION

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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Summer is over, school has begun and children have returned to the classroom. With all of the excitement related to back to school, sometimes important things can be overlooked. The Township of Union Police Department urges students, parents, and especially drivers to be aware of the increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Parents should take time to review the basic safety rules with children, including the routes they should be taking to and from school and the locations of school crossing guards. Encourage use of the same route each day. Young children should be advised of basic safety rules, including the importance of not talking to strangers.

Parents who drive students to school should remember to pull up to the curb before letting children out and only park in designated areas around schools. Disregard of parking regulations, especially around schools, can create dangerous situations for both drivers and children.

Sergeant Robert Christie, Supervisor of the Union Police Department's Traffic Bureau feels children are never too young to learn good safety rules. "Learning how to stay safe is something that can be fun and doesn't have to be frightening," advises Christie. "Children need to be taught how to keep themselves safe as they grow and venture out into the expanded world of school and community, although the Police Department and other community helpers are there to provide assistance, parents are often their child's first and best teachers in this area," added the Sergeant. Mayor Florio encouraged parents to sit down with their children and to advise them about basic safety rules. "Parents are a child's best and first teacher when it comes to safety," stated Mayor Florio. "Safety should never be overlooked."

Parents of students who walk to school (Middle and High School students) should be aware that walking in the street rather than on the sidewalk is not only dangerous for the student, but is a violation of a traffic law 39:4-34. (Where sidewalks are provided it shall be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway.)

Parents of students who ride bicycles to school should know that any person under 17 years of age is required to wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet. The safety of the students should be a concern of all, so following these rules will help make Union safe for the children on their way to and from school.

According to Union's Police Director, Daniel Zieser, the Department will be utilizing strict enforcement when it comes to motor vehicle and pedestrian violations. "Strict traffic enforcement and summoning of all violators is an effective tool in reducing motor vehicle accidents and protecting the safety of local residents, said Zieser. "The serious injury of one person due to disregard of traffic laws is one too many. We

have to do everything we can as police officers to modify driving behaviors that are obvious causes of accidents and injuries,” added the Director.

The Union Police Department also advises parents to discourage children from taking items of value to school such as cell phones, i-pods, mp-3 plays, expensive jewelry or other costly items. These items are often misplaced or can become the target of a theft.