



Back to School Reminders and Tips Irving schools begin their new year on August 24th!



The following tips and information are being posted as reminder to all and to reemphasize the importance we all place on the safety of our school age children. Our goal is to provide Irving's children, parents and community with a safe and successful school year and with your help this can be accomplished. Please take a few minutes and review this information and share reminders with your children as well so that together we can all do our part to avoid preventable accidents and incidents this school year.

Students Walking to/from School – Parents, don't assume that your child has a plan of what to do if some unexpected circumstance presents itself on a walk to/from school. Take the time now and at various times throughout the year to talk about possible circumstances/situations that may occur (to them or someone else) in an effort to make awareness part of their thought/planning process. This is not to make them fearful or scared, but rather to prepare them with realistic choices/possible action(s) to take, should they see or become involved in a situation that could be stressful, hazardous and/or threatening. Actively discuss and work through possibilities using a level of understanding and realistic (age appropriate) capability of your child. If possible determine/provide more than one option/solution for them to use, (if they only have one solution, and it doesn't work, they may not be able to come up with an appropriate "Plan B" under a now, more stressful situation). If you need some help/suggestions regarding this, contact your school's Resource Officer or the Irving Police Department - Community Services Division (972) 721-2544 and ask for a School Resource Officer to contact you.

Suspicious Activity – Be aware and watch for suspicious activity in and around our schools, if you see or hear something that seems suspicious, hazardous, "out of place" (or out of character), please do not hesitate to contact the police, school officials or both! Help watch for the well being of students and parents walking to and from school, they too could use your awareness and watchful eye for safety and suspicious activity.

School Zones – Most have flashing signals to alert you of their location but some only have signs with times so be aware and mindful of school zone locations and please, slow down and make it safer for the children! The speed limit in school zones is 20 mph unless otherwise posted. Slow to posted speed before entering the zone.

Cell Phone Use Prohibited - The use of cell phones while driving in active Irving school zones is prohibited except for emergency contact with police/fire/emergency medical personnel. This ordinance was enacted to reduce driver distractions and enhance the safety of pedestrians and motorists alike by preventing motorists from engaging in calls; talking, dialing or listening on a hand-held mobile telephone, and/or entering/reading text messages. Devices include: Hand-held cell phones, Personal digital assistants (PDAs), Pagers or other electronic communications devices.

School Crossing Guards serve the community by providing safety for children and other pedestrians on their way to and from school. When you see a crossing guard step out onto the street, stop sign raised and blowing their whistle, Stop and allow the pedestrians to safely cross, wait for the crossing guard's signal before proceeding.

Watch for School Buses making stops to pick-up and drop-off students. When stopped for this purpose they have their red flashing lights activated and their stop sign swings out, (on driver's side), when the passenger door is open. Be cautious of children that may cross into traffic lanes from in front of the bus without warning and without looking for cross traffic!

One Way Streets – During certain times at some schools there are streets designated ONE WAY. Be aware of these and determine your route accordingly for a more orderly and less frustrating commute.

Fire Lanes – are not drop-off and pick-up points! Do not use them for that purpose and do not park in them.