



July 30, 2019

Dear School Faculty, Staff, Parents, and Students,

As you are well aware, students will be “Back to School” on Wednesday August 14, 2019. As such, it is important to make sure that students, and parents alike, get to and from school in a safe manner.

According to The Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths among school children ages 5-18. School zones can be particularly dangerous due to distracted drivers and because they are usually heavily congested.

If you or your child are planning on walking to school, please keep these tips for safe walking in mind:

- Only cross at corners so drivers can see you. Never cross mid-block or between parked cars.
- Always use a crosswalk when it is available.
- Look all ways before crossing; look and listen for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Watch for cars that are turning left or right when you are crossing.
- Remove headphones and put away cell phones and other electronic devices when crossing the street.
- Avoid walking alone. Walk with a friend or in groups.

Parents, if you are planning on driving your children to school, please keep the following in mind:

- Watch for children on their way to and from school.
- Obey all traffic laws.
- Avoid using cell phones and driving distracted, especially around school zones.
- Watch your speed.
- Make sure all occupants in your vehicle are wearing seat belts or are in appropriate safety seats or booster seats.

- Drop your children off at a designated and safe location.
- Remember, children will mimic our behavior.

Finally, school crossing guards will be posted at the busiest intersections. Please cooperate with them as they are there to ensure safety for all pedestrians.

For further information on traffic safety, you can visit the California Officer of Traffic Safety (OTS) at <https://www.ots.ca.gov/> or AAA at <http://news.aaa-calif.com/news/as-56-million-students-head-back-to-school-nationwide-aaa-offers-lifesaving-reminders-for-drivers-parents-and-school-age-children>.

