

Back to School



School in St. Landry Parish begins Wednesday Aug. 13th. I am asking motorists to be mindful of the start of school, understand that kids will be walking to school as well as crossing streets. I will have officers assigned to school zones however, we need your help by exercising caution and patience.

- 1) Leave home early to arrive to your destination on time, expect delays due to heavier than normal traffic.
- 2) Motorist expect the unexpected, children often running out to get to the bus or bus stop.
- 3) Motorist should drive a safe distance behind a school bus.
- 4) Motorist must come to a complete stop no less than 30 feet when bus stop signs are activated. Failure to do so carries a heavy fine and a 30 day suspension of driver's license. Motorist must stop at all times except where there is a separate roadway. La R.S. 32:80 Example: I-49, South Union street is not separate roadways, we have received several complaints and issued citations in this area each school year.
- 5) Parents if your children walk to school, know their route, make sure they understand do not talk to or accept rides or gifts from strangers. 6) Discuss a plan with children should a stranger approach them. Make sure they report it immediately, remind them how important it is to get details of the person and the car they are driving.
- 7) Have a plan for inclement weather.
- 8) Parents visit your child's school, get to know the staff and assist where you can. Reinforce the importance of a quality education in your child's life.
- 9) Students under the age of 17 who are driving to school drive safely, stay off cell phones when driving it is against the law. La. R.S. 32:300.7
- 10) All motorists be mindful of the change in speed as it relates to School Zones, fines double and is mandatory court appearance.

We at OPD wish all students a safe successful school year.