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# ARLINGTON HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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Village of  
Arlington Heights

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## Back To School- Think Safety- 2015-16 School Year

As the new school year begins, the **Arlington Heights Police Department** is urging motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists to share the streets responsibly so everyone can have a great start for the back to school season. Drivers should allow extra travel time and watch for children and buses. Students need to stay alert and think safety. Parents should talk with their children about staying alert, looking both ways, obeying crossing guards, using crosswalks and thinking about safety. This will help students get to school safely and securely.

Tips below provide reminders about the basic *Rules of the Road*, including pedestrian, driver and cyclist safety, and how to drive when around school buses.

### WHAT TO DO WHEN APPROACHING A SCHOOL BUS

- When a school bus stops, the flashing red lights go on and the stop arm comes out, drivers in **BOTH** directions are required to stop. This is the most dangerous time with children getting on or off the bus.
- It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus with its flashing red lights activated and stop arm extended.
- Drivers must be patient. There is simply no room for aggressive driving around a school bus.

### DRIVERS NEED TO REMEMBER

- Realize that your commute takes longer when school is in session – allow more time.
- Stay alert. Avoid distractions – especially mobile devices.
- And remember, Illinois law requires motorists to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks.

### WHAT PARENTS AND KIDS NEED TO KNOW

- Children and their parents need to review the rules of the road too.
- For travel by school bus: have a safe place to wait for the bus, **AWAY** from traffic and the street, stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When walking: only cross the street at a marked crosswalk, preferably one that has a crossing guard. Before crossing a street, look left, then right, then left again. Stay alert. Follow signals.
- When riding a bike, don't ever ride your bike across an intersection. Get off and walk it across after looking both ways for oncoming traffic or waiting for a crossing signal. Children should always wear a helmet when cycling.
- Stay visible – wear light and/or reflective clothing, especially when walking in the dark.

Motorists should take extra care between the morning hours of 6-9 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. during the school year. Motorists should limit distractions in the car and watch for pedestrian crossing, especially around school zones. We are all responsible for traffic safety. If you have any questions, please call the police non-emergency number, 847-368-5300.

Per the authority of Deputy Chief Andrew Whowell.