



## Fall Safety Tips



It's that time of year again. Parents embrace it and students dread it. **BACK TO SCHOOL!!!** With the change in foliage and weather comes the increase in buses, bikes, scooters, skaters, and pedestrians out in our streets. Children run to make the first bell at school, race to the park to play, and dash in and out of cars to make it home before dark. To start the season off right, take a moment to review some simple safety measures with your children.



Be sure your child knows their phone number and address, parents work number, and a number where a trusted family friend can be contacted. Or prepare the information on a card and have it laminated for your child to carry with them.



Plan a safe and direct route for your child. Try to avoid congested streets without safety patrols and isolated areas. Walk the route with your child before the first day of school to determine how long the trip will take them.



Find a buddy for your child to walk with.



Be sure your child wears protective gear when using a bike, scooter, skateboard, or roller blades.



Remind your child never to talk with strangers, take gifts from strangers, or accept rides from strangers.



When exiting a bus, remind children to take 10 large steps forward before crossing in front of the bus.



Always remain seated and wear a seatbelt when available on buses.



Remove all loose drawstrings, straps or ties from children's clothing and replace with Velcro, snaps, or buttons. Loose straps or drawstrings can snag on bus handrails or doors.



If your child is going to be home alone for any period of time, establish rules for answering the phone and door, keeping entryways locked, checking in with you, having friends over, and what appliances your child can operate. Have easy snacks on hand that don't require cooking.



Remember to be meticulous in knowing your child's schedule. Have a phone list of neighbors, school staff, and family with you at all times in case any unforeseen events arrive.



Take your time. Cutting corners and racing around could save you time but may cost you your life.