

St. Lawrence County Traffic Safety Newsletter

September, 2019

80 St. Hwy 310, Canton NY 13617

PH: 315-386-2207, cconger@stlawco.org

Back to School Etiquette

Summer has come to an end, falls just around the corner and another school year starting.

There's no denying the school year can be stressful with changing schedules, and morning commutes.

Children's safety should be the first consideration when dropping off and picking them up from school.

Most schools have rules for dropping and picking up children. Before school is in session, parents should familiarize their selves with school zones to make dropping off-picking up your child an easier process.

Being polite goes along way so follow the rules of the road and be safe while driving.



Pedestrian Safety

Walking to school with your children is an opportunity to demonstrate to your children about the safety of pedestrian wellbeing.

Children should be taught to walk at crosswalks, walk on sidewalks and if there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left to be seen for

oncoming traffic.

They should also be taught to look "left-right and left again" to watch for advancing traffic in both directions.

Adults should set a good example. Teaching children and teenagers to make a habit of putting down/away all electronic gadgets/earbuds while

walking to ensure children are able to hear approaching traffic that may be hard to see. Adults should also remind children to never rely on a car to stop, wear bright/reflective clothing to be seen, and children 10 and under should have an adult present to cross the street.

During school hours children will be out running around, pay attention, take extra time in designated school zones, and be careful when passing stopped/parked vehicles. Drivers must yield for pedestrians at crosswalk and intersections.

Remain in your vehicle, NEVER get out.

If you must walk into school with your child, park, and shut off your vehicle so you can safely walk your child to the door. This leaves the dropping-picking up lane free for others to continue to move forward in their commute.

Put the cell phone AWAY.

It is illegal to talk, text or use a mobile device while driving in the state of NY. While waiting in line to drop off your child, you should be paying 100% of attention to the things going on around you such as; traffic merging in and out and children running to the school. Children often are unpredictable and tend to not pay attention to the hazards around them. Make sure your child is safely walking to the door. Texting and/or talking can wait.

Do NOT double park.

Double parking is not only rude it is also illegal. Wait your turn in the line. If you cannot safely get into the spot simply motion to your child that you have to go around and will be right back. This is the safest for you and the merging traffic.

NO cutting in line.

Cutting in line is irritating for the people waiting. Wait for the vehicle in front of you to move forward following the traffic even if there is a gap in the line. Remember that everyone's time is valuable.

Move WITH the traffic.

When a vehicle moves ahead move with that vehicle. Keeping the line moving keeps everyone happy. Avoiding distractions will help you maintain your focus.

Be Safe. Be Smart. **Be Seen.**



Make Sure Drivers Can see you

Bus Safety

School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school. The greatest risk to your child is approaching or leaving the bus, kids need to be especially careful around the school bus "danger zone" which is 10 feet in front, 10 feet behind, and on each side of the bus. Before your children start the new school year its best to talk to them about the importance of traffic safety rules. Teach your children to follow the rules to make school bus transportation safer for all.



St Lawrence County Traffic Safety News Letter September 2019

- ◆ Walk your child to the bus stop and then wait with them for the bus to arrive. Make sure drivers can see you waiting.
- ◆ Teach your children to stand at least five giant steps back from the curb and when the school bus driver arrives wait for the driver to say its safe to board.
- ◆ If your child has to cross the street after exiting the bus, they should make eye contact with the bus driver and wait for them to indicate it's safe to cross. Teach your child to look left, right, and then left again before crossing.
- ◆ Remind your children to use the handrails when boarding and exiting the bus. Be careful of loose straps and backpacks. If your child drops something, make sure they know to tell the bus driver before picking the item up so they can be seen.
- ◆ When boarding the school bus, quickly find a seat, sit facing the front and do what the drivers ask of you.
- ◆ As always, remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop for your safety and the driver's safety.

Seat Belt Safety

Car crashes are the leading cause of deaths and injuries among tweens 8-12 years old. Most of the injuries or deaths were due to the children not wearing their seat belts. Tweens are most likely to be hurt in crashes while riding in the front seat. Below are some tips for buckling up and riding safe.

- ◆ It is important to wear a seat belt as the seat belt absorbs the force of the impact in a crash and reduces your risk of being killed or injured. Whereas not buckling up can result in total ejection from a vehicle in a crash which is almost always deadly. (NHTSA-DMV)
- ◆ Buckling up can reduce your risk of fatal injury by 45% (NHTSA).
- ◆ When riding in the back seat of a vehicle it is important to remember to buckle up every time. Not only are you putting yourself at risk of serious injury or death, you are risking the person's life in the front seat, as you become a projectile in the event of a crash.
- ◆ NY State Law requires all front seat occupants to be properly secured in a seat belt, regardless of age.
- ◆ Children up to the age of 4 must be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat that is attached to vehicle by a seat belt or LATCH system.
- ◆ Children ages, 4, 5, 6, and 7 must be secured in a booster seat with a lap/shoulder belt, until the weight and height recommendations of the seat are met.
- ◆ The driver must make sure that each passenger under age 16 is wearing a seat belt if not, the driver can be fined \$25 to \$100 and receive three driver license penalty points for each violation. (NYS DMV)
- ◆ Your lap belt should be snug and low across the upper thighs/hips.
- ◆ Your shoulder belt should cross the chest and collarbone. (Never put your shoulder strap below your arm or behind your back, as this can cause serious or fatal injuries.)
- ◆ Children under 12 should never ride in the front seat. Back seat and buckled up is the safest, as the front air bag can kill.
- ◆ Seat belts save lives, buckle up front and back every time.

