



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2018

Company Name: Pleasanton Police Department
Address: 4833 Bernal Avenue
Pleasanton CA 94566
Contact: Sgt. Benjamin Sarasua
Prepared By: Sgt. Benjamin Sarasua
Phone: 925-931-5100
Fax: 925-931-5480

Guidelines for Back to School Safety

Pleasanton, CA – The new school year is nearly upon us and the Pleasanton Police Department Traffic Unit would like to take this opportunity to revisit some traffic safety tips for getting kids to school safely.

Whether you are a parent taking your children to school or an everyday commuter, the roadway changes when summer ends and school begins. As the days of summer come to an end there are more cars, bicyclists and pedestrians on the streets and roadways. This means schedules and driving patterns should be adjusted to accommodate for increased vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. Drivers should consider the following tips to make the back to school commute safe for everyone.

1. Give yourself plenty of time in the morning. As traffic volumes and congestion increase, so does the length of time it takes to travel around town.
2. Obey posted speed and directional signs. This includes marked curbs in school zones and signs that indicate parking for buses only. One poorly placed, unattended vehicle can lead to tremendous disruptions in school parking lots.
3. Be patient! Everyone shares the same goal: to get their child to school on time and in a safe manner. Impatience leads to aggressive driving, rude or unwarranted behavior, pedestrian collisions and gridlocks.
4. Have your kids ready when you get to the school curb. Your child should make the transition from car to school grounds as quickly and safely as possible.
5. Explore carpool, ride-sharing and walking alternatives. The City of Pleasanton and the Pleasanton Unified School District have worked long and hard to come up with a variety of traffic calming solutions. More information can be found at <http://www.cityofpleasantonca.gov/resident/schooltrans/rides.asp>.



6. Look for and obey school crossing guards. Crossing guards will be present near each elementary school. Be prepared to stop and follow their directions so children can get to and from school safely.
7. Children riding bicycles, scooters and skateboards must wear a helmet and obey all traffic laws every time they ride.

The Pleasanton Police Traffic Unit and patrol officers will be increasing their efforts at all schools in Pleasanton for the next several weeks. Please do your part by following the rules of the road.

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