

# SCHOOL'S OPEN!

## Please Drive Carefully!

At the end of each school year, there are inspirational speeches about the “hope of the future” for those graduating and moving along.

The new academic year begins similarly. We all are filled with the hope of great things that may follow for the young people who are the future of our families and our communities.

Students are excited to see their friends again and eager to do well as they begin to make their way through another year of learning and maturing.

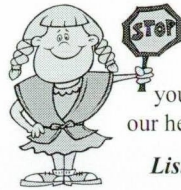
As adults, it is our job to see that our children's expectations can be lived out in a safe and secure environment.

So with the beginning of a new school year, we remind drivers to be cautious on the roads and to please drive safely. A short spell of poor judgment, inattention, or carelessness by a motorist can result in injuries among the children in our schools.

It is a child's nature to be impulsive. Factor in the excitement of the start of school or a holiday and you can imagine how distracted children can be.

*Remember, they need our help to stay safe!*

## It's Worth Repeating!



We can never say it enough times. Please observe the traffic flow around elementary buildings and insist that your child **cross ONLY at marked crosswalks**. Children need our help to stay safe!

*Listed below are safety rules to follow in order to provide a protected environment for our children:*

- Follow the appropriate traffic pattern. Students should exit cars by the curbside adjacent to the school.
- Come to a **complete stop** at stop signs.
- Drive at posted speeds.
- Allow students to cross the street. Often, vehicles will “stop and go” before students are allowed to cross.
- **Avoid double-parking.** Double-parking or parking in “no parking” zones is a serious threat to the safety of our children.
- Do not park in the “crossing areas.” Student safeties cannot see clearly around vehicles.
- Do not remain parked in the “drop off” area. This causes other parents to double park in order to “drop off” their child. Please remember this is only a “drop off” zone and should not be considered a parking area.
- Make certain that children remain visible to moving vehicles.



We are aware that traffic around school buildings during arrival and dismissal times is very busy. However, it is imperative that we stop and think about the safety of our children. The results can be disastrous if we do not take the time to observe procedures and posted signs.

*Thank you on behalf of children!*

## Railroad Crossing Safety

Railroad crossings can be dangerous places! That's why they have special signs and signals. Students, whether walking, bicycling, or driving to school, need to obey all railroad signs and signals.

Parents, please help to strengthen your student's understanding of the need for extreme caution around railroad tracks. The best way to teach your child about the importance of safety at railroad crossings is by your own actions. Please set a good example, and remember, the train can't stop—you can.

### Always Look, Listen, and Live!

Looks can fool you. Trains, like airplanes taking off or landing, appear to be moving a lot slower than they really are. So, if you see a train coming, never try to “beat” it!



Never drive around lowered gates—It's illegal and deadly.



Never race a train to the crossing—Even if you tie, you lose.



Be aware trains cannot stop quickly! It can take a mile or more to stop once the emergency brakes are applied. When the engineer can see you, it is already too late to be able to avoid a collision.



Do not attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment at any time. A slip of the foot can cost you a limb.



*Trains do make frequent stops on the tracks which cross Champaign (by the High School and Bennie Elementary). Students **should not** attempt to hop aboard railroad equipment at any time. We encourage parents to speak with their sons or daughters about the dangers of any reckless behavior at railroad crossings. Thank you!*

## Before You Let Your Child Ride His Bike to School....

*Knowing safety rules and wearing a protective helmet are important for those students riding their bike to school.*



- Wearing a **protective helmet** while bike riding can help prevent head injuries.
- Always **obey traffic signs** like STOP, YIELD, and traffic lights.
- Always ride WITH the traffic on the right side of the street.
- If you must ride at night, wear light-colored or reflective clothing and use a light on the front and a reflector on the back.
- Keep BOTH hands on the handle bars. **NEVER hitch a ride** on a moving vehicle—it's dangerous and against the law!
- Use safety equipment—a horn or bell; a basket for transporting anything.
- When crossing a busy intersection, **look BOTH WAYS and WALK** your bike across.
- Be careful when riding over manholes or railroad tracks. You could lose control of your bike and fall.
- When riding beside parked cars, watch for any car door that could open suddenly.