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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Traffic in and around school zones can create significant hazards for children and teens, as well as crossing guards and school officials. Parents can unknowingly create traffic hazards as they drop off or pick up their children from school. To ensure everyone's safety, please be sure to do the following:

Drop your child off on the school side of the street, next to the curb. If that is not possible, park your vehicle legally (never double park) and accompany your child (using a crosswalk or at the corner) across the street to the sidewalk in front of the school.

Follow instructions provided by school crossing guards – remember they are there to help protect your child.

Slow down and comply with the posted speed limit, not only in school zones, but where children are walking or biking along the road.

Resist the urge to "drop off and dash." Pull out slowly and look not only ahead, but along-side and behind your vehicle for pedestrians, bicyclists, cars, and buses.

Eliminate all distractions – particularly cell phones and other electronic devices that reduce your ability to react quickly in driving situations involving young children and their spontaneous actions.

Teach your child to look all ways before crossing and to cross only in crosswalks or at corners.

Obey NJ's school bus law (NJ 39:4-128.1). On a two-lane highway, or other road not divided by some type of physical barrier, stop at least 25 feet from a stopped school bus with flashing red lights **whether or not you are traveling in the same direction as the bus**. Remain stopped until all students are safely on the bus or on the side of the highway, and until the bus's flashing red lights have been turned off. School bus drivers are required to use flashing red lights when their bus is stopped to pick up or drop off students, and until every student is safely on the bus or clear of the bus and highway.

Make sure that everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained in the appropriate child safety seat or booster seat or seat belt. New Jersey law requires all children under 8 years of age or who weigh less than 80 pounds to ride in a properly installed car or booster seat. All children between 8 and 18 years of age and all adults must wear a seat belt.

Let's work together to keep students and staff safe!

Sincerely,

Walter Rogers

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"The Youth of Today. The Leaders of Tomorrow."