

Student Safety Alert Information

Some Tips from Safety Experts

Younger Students

- * Never accept rides from or talk to strangers.
- * If a driver pulls to the curb to ask directions, avoid getting too close.
- * Know how to use the telephone and how to call for the police using 911.
- * If a strange vehicle is stopping near you, turn and walk in the opposite direction. The driver will have to turn around or backup to follow.
- * Don't take candy from a stranger and never approach a stranger to see his nice puppy dog in the car.
- * If you think you have been followed home, avoid going to your house. Instead, go to a neighbor's house that's near home or to the nearest business.
- * PARENTS: Set up a code word with your children in the event of an emergency, during which a friend or neighbor may have to pick up your child/children somewhere other than at school. Also, know which neighbors are home during the day and notify them of this contingency plan. Your child should know the code word and understand its importance, and he/she should be prepared to respond to anyone who knows the code word. Make the word meaningful to your family so a real stranger would not be able to figure it out.

Older Students

- * If a stranger does approach in a car and then leaves, try to remember the license plate number of the motor vehicle and report this information to a parent or to the police immediately.
- * Don't assume it was nothing. Report any suspicious activity. If you think ANYTHING is out of the ordinary report it to the police by calling 911 immediately.
- * Be aware of your surroundings and don't be consumed by your cell phone, tablet or any other electronic device.

Information Needed By Police:

1. Vehicle license number and Make/Model/Color
2. Gender and race of stranger
3. Approximate age, weight and height of stranger
4. Clothing worn by stranger
5. Length and color of stranger's hair
6. Any unusual marks, scars, tattoos, jewelry, hat worn, glasses, etc.
7. Last direction of travel of stranger (either on foot or by motor vehicle).

NOTE: ALL kids need to know that police officers are their friends, but unfortunately strangers sometimes purport to be the police and may have with them identification that could fool even an adult. If a police officer needs to speak with your child, in the majority of these cases the police officer will be in a fully marked squad car with the name of your local community displayed and the officer will be in uniform. The police will understand the child may not want to speak with the officer, for whatever reason, especially if the officer is in an unmarked squad car and is in civilian dress. In these cases, the plain clothes officer will always try to get a uniformed officer to interact with the child once contact is established.