



Dear Parents, Guardian, and Community Members,

With schools recently re-opening for in student learning (YAY), I feel it necessary to address some concern for pedestrian and biker safety. I am reminded of a bumper sticker I saw as a child growing up in San Francisco. The bumper sticker was all yellow and in black writing it stated, "School's open, Please drive carefully." If I remember correctly, that was a big AAA marketing ploy, however it drove home an important point.

From a police officer's perspective, how can a pedestrian and/or a student/parent on a bike stay safe. Here are a few very important things to remember:

- ALWAYS wear a helmet when riding a bicycle
- When riding a bicycle, stay in the bike lane when possible (when you must leave the bike lane due to a vehicle being in that lane, try to walk the bicycle, or hug the shoulder as much as possible)
- On a bicycle, obey all rules of the road
- Ride your bicycle with the flow of traffic (Same direction).
- Use proper hand signals to signal turns.
- When riding at dusk/nighttime, have a forward-facing headlight, and a flashing taillight.
- Always walk facing traffic (against the flow). This way you can see the vehicles coming in your direction
- Try to walk in a single file line, or side by side (2 people)
- Walk on the far side of the sidewalk/dirt walkway on the side of the road
- Use crosswalks at ALL TIMES!!! Do not try to cross in the middle of the street.

When driving a vehicle in the morning:

- PLEASE be aware there are children and families walking
- PUT YOUR PHONE AWAY. Whatever you need to text/email can wait until you get home!!! Someone's life may depend on it.
- There is no need to rush. Everyone is in the same boat as you are right now. A little patience may save a life
- Give pedestrians the right of way when using crosswalks.

Remember, we are all in this together. If we work as a cohesive unit, we can and will succeed in getting everyone to school and back home safely.

Officer Andruha
SRO Atherton Police Department