



A MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF, BRIAN STURGILL

Back to School Safety Reminders

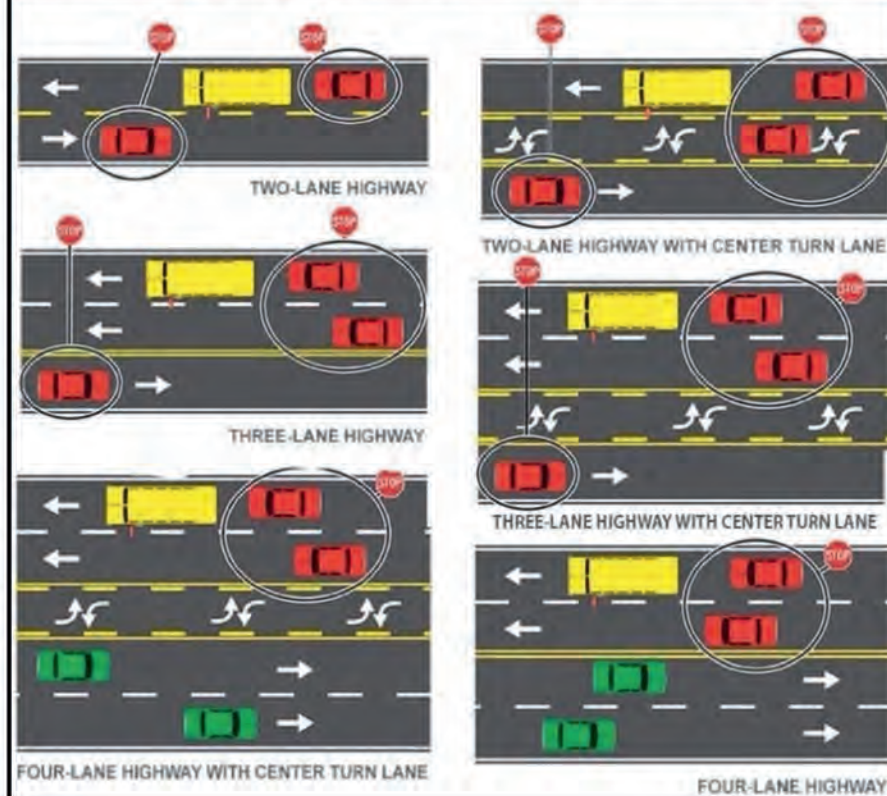


It is once again that time of the year when our young persons have returned to school. The signals will be active M-F 6:30 am to 4:00 pm. Due to the constant and consistent traffic arriving and departing the Cuyahoga Heights campus throughout the day, the signals will not be turned off while school is in session. Please review the following safety tips:

Driving in the School Zone

- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the posted 20 MPH speed limit.
- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.
- When required, always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children. *(see image attached)*
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
- Never make U-Turns while driving in a school zone.
- Never text while driving in a school zone.
- Do not use cell phones, unless it is completely hands-free, while driving in a school zone.
- Unless permitted to do so, never use handicap spaces, bus lanes, or fire lanes to drop off or pick up children at school.

When to stop for a school bus in Ohio





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School Bus Safety

- Make habit of arriving at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.
- Make sure your child stays out of the street and avoids excessive horseplay while waiting for the bus.
- Stand at least six feet from the curb while waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus has completely stopped and watch for the driver to signal that it's safe to board.
- Hold on to the handrail and find a seat quickly once boarding the bus.
- Listen to the bus driver and sit still to avoid any distractions.
- After exiting the bus, cross only in the front, never behind it.
- When crossing, make eye contact with the driver and wait for the driver's signal that it is okay to cross. Look left-right-left and safely cross when there is no traffic or vehicles that have stopped.
- When on the bus make sure to buckle up if seat belts are available.
- Keep aisles clear of books and bags.



Walking to School

- Leave early enough to arrive at school at least 10 minutes prior to the start of school.
- Use the same route every day and never use shortcuts.
- Go straight home after school. Do not go anywhere else without permission.
- Always use public sidewalks and streets when walking to school.
- Demonstrate traffic safety awareness and pick the safest route between your home and the school, and practice walking it with your children.
- Try and walk to school with other students. *There is strength in numbers.*
- Teach your children to recognize and obey traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings.
- Only cross streets at designated crosswalks, street corners and controlled intersections.
- Always look both ways before crossing the street and never enter streets from between obstacles like parked cars, shrubbery, signs, etc.
- Always walk and never run across intersections.
- Avoid talking to strangers. Teach your children to get distance between themselves and anyone who tries to approach or contact them. If a stranger does approach your child, make sure they know to immediately report the incident to you, a teacher or a police officer.
- Teach your children to never get into a vehicle with anyone, even if they know them, without your permission.

