

Schools open, motorists should adjust driving habits

Children are heading back to school and the Waushara County Sheriff's Department urges motorists to keep their eyes open and stay alert in school zones, near bus stops, and at pedestrian crossings.

"This is the time of the year when motorists should take special precautions, adjust their driving habits and take the lead in providing safety for students," Sheriff David Peterson said. "We ask motorists to adjust their schedules to ensure they have plenty of time to get to their destination. Too often, we hear about crashes that could have been avoided if motorists had given themselves five extra minutes."

Peterson offers these safety tips:

- Slow down in or near school and residential areas.
- Drive with your headlights on – even during the day – so children and other drivers can see you.
- Look for clues such as school safety patrollers, bicycles, and playgrounds that indicate children could be in the area.
- Scan between parked cars and other objects for signs that children could dart into the road.
- Use extra caution and slow down in bad weather.
- Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading students.
- Buckle up.

Peterson adds, "This is an exciting time of the year for our students and they are often not as cautious as they should be. Motorists need to step up and take the lead in the safety of our students."