

For Immediate Release
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Drivers Urged to Use Caution as Kids Go Back to School

San José, California – As children prepare to go back to school this week, the City of San José urges drivers to use caution and be particularly alert when driving near schools. Many children will be attending school for the first time and will be unsure of pedestrian safety rules.

“Keeping our kids safe on their way to school is everyone’s job in our city,” said San José Mayor Ron Gonzales. “An extra helping of caution and common sense by drivers can reduce the risk of accidents and make sure our children are protected this school year.”

Remember not to exceed 25 MPH in school zones and to keep kids safe as they go back to school.

And for parents and caregivers dropping children off at school, here are a few reminders:

- Don’t block or park close to crosswalks. If you do, this forces children out into the street in order to go around your vehicle, thus putting them in closer proximity to moving traffic.
- Don’t double-park while loading or unloading kids. It’s not only illegal, but presents a serious safety hazard for children who might suddenly walk out into traffic from between parked vehicles. Instead, if you’re tired of traffic congestion around schools, walk your child to school, if possible. Or, park a block away and spend a few minutes of quality time talking with your child as you walk. It’s not only healthier for the kids, it also reduces congestion and the potential for accidents.

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- Teach your child how to cross the street safely. In school zones, this means encouraging your child to always use the nearest crosswalk when crossing the street, and obeying School Crossing Guards, when present.
- Do not call to your child to cross the street, as he or she will trust that it is safe to cross, when, in fact, it might not be. Take the time to escort your child safely across the street.

The City of San José encourages parents and caregivers to participate in national ***Walk to School Day on October 2, 2002***. To find out what activities are being planned and how you can participate, contact your school or district office, or visit www.cawalktoschool.com.

Children are the future of our community; let's keep them safe as they return to school. Here's what you can do to help demonstrate your commitment to the children of our community: When driving in school zones, avoid distractions (eating, cell phones, personal grooming, etc.), stay especially alert, and "Drive 25." It's simple to do and can help save lives.

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