

Back to the books! Seminole County Sheriff's Office offers tips for starting the school year safely - 08/10/2012

SEMINOLE CO. (Aug. 10, 2012) - School begins in Seminole County on Monday, Aug. 13 and the Sheriff's Office urges the community to start the school year safely with these important reminders:

- Begin your day a little bit earlier. Allow more time for your commute due to traffic delays near schools and school bus stops.
- Know where school zones and bus stops are, and slow down. Keep your eyes open for children, pay attention to speed limits, and keep the crosswalks clear. Consider altering your regular driving routes to avoid schools and the school bus routes and stops.
- Pay attention behind the wheel. With school buses, children, and additional motorists on the roadways, drivers need to stay focused. Children are not as cognizant of their surroundings as adults, and they are often not paying attention to traffic. Help minimize distractions by putting away the cell phone until you reach your destination.
- When dropping off children at school, use the car rider lines provided. Ensure your child stays buckled up and in the vehicle until you are at the designated school drop off location. Even if you're running late, make sure your child's safety is your first priority. Consider carpooling with other parents to save time and money.
- Teach children how to cross roads safely. Kids on foot and on bicycles should use sidewalks, and only cross roadways at designated areas, or where school crossing guards are provided. Seminole County Sheriff's Office has 136 crossing guards serving 180 posts at 48 schools. The guards and crossing locations are there to help students get to school safely.
- Make sure children biking to school wear a helmet. Any bicycle rider under the age of 16 must wear a helmet - it's the law. Be sure your child's helmet fits properly and is securely fastened.