

2010 Newsletter
First Day of School – August 31st, 2010
Sykesville Police Department

One of the biggest challenges facing law enforcement within our community is speeding motorists. This is a “year round” concern; however, it takes on added importance as we approach the start of another school year. This year Carroll County will begin its school year Tuesday, August 31st, 2010.

Speeding and traffic violators present a significant threat to public safety and warrant priority attention. The streets and traffic patterns within our community are engineered and designed for 25 miles per hour travel. The Sykesville Police Department and area law enforcement will be out aggressively looking for traffic violators in an effort to eliminate unnecessary risk.

Please take this opportunity to discuss and review the rules of the road with all vehicle operators within your household. All drivers young and old need to remember:

1. Town Roads

All town roads (not State roads) have a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour. Violators will be cited, fined and will receive points on their drivers' license.

2. School Buses

State law requires the operator of a vehicle to stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped and displaying alternating flashing red lights. The law requires the vehicle to stop at least 20 feet from the front OR rear of the bus. This is required in order for students to enter and exit the bus safely and to cross the road, if necessary. Failing to stop will result in a \$570 fine and three (3) points on your driver's license.

3. Pedestrian: Right-of-Way

A driver of a vehicle shall come to a complete stop when a pedestrian crossing a roadway is within a crosswalk.

4. Pedestrian: Sidewalk Not Provided

Where a sidewalk is not provided (Central Avenue) a pedestrian who walks along and on a highway may walk only on the left shoulder, as near as practicable to the edge of the roadway, facing traffic that may approach from the opposite direction.

Note: In the past, children who walk along Central Avenue to and from Sykesville Middle School walk two and three abreast. This action places them in the travel portion of the roadway. Please remind your child or children this unsafe practice could put them in jeopardy of being struck by a vehicle.

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5. Bikes and Skateboards

Please be reminded of the Town Ordinance that requires the wearing of a helmet when operating or riding these devices anywhere in town. This means to and from school. Helmets go along way in preventing head and brain injuries.

6. Report Suspicious Conditions

Please help us protect our children as they travel to and from school. Talk with your child about “Stranger Danger” and tell them to:

- Avoid speaking to strangers
- Keep moving or yell / scream, if approached
- Remember (or write down) vehicle information (tag number, color, etc.)
- Provide police with a description of the “person” and what he/she said.
- Tell an adult as soon as possible
- Call the police

Remember, the first day of school is August 31st.

Let’s all do our part to keep our children safe while making this the best school year possible!