



## **PGUSD Back to School Traffic and Safety Reminders:**

### **When walking to and from school:**

- Anyone who crosses the street must only do so in painted crosswalks. Please obey the crossing guards and any pedestrian signals, traffic lights, etc.
- When a crossing guard is not present at the crosswalk, students should either push the button near the pedestrian sign to trigger the warning lights, or look both ways prior to crossing the street.
- **Avoid crossing at mid-block locations; use crosswalks.**
- Crossing guards are present at several intersections to assist with safety. Please listen to and obey their instructions.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Students should seek to make eye contact with drivers and crossing guards when crossing streets and intersections. Never assume that you are seen.
- Please do not use cell phones or other electronic devices while you are driving or walking. Even a moment when your eyes are not on the road or on an oncoming car can make a big difference.
- Please drive slowly and mind all stop signs/traffic lights. Leave a few minutes early, when possible.
- Each of our schools have specific traffic procedures and parking restrictions that are enforced by the police. We encourage you to review each school's procedures on the district and school websites.
- Remember, children are smaller than adults and less visible to motorists; they are easily hidden behind parked vehicles, trees, shrubs, etc.
- Children have difficulty judging distance and the speed of oncoming traffic; they are unable to accurately predict if it is safe to cross. It is especially difficult for children to judge the arrival time of traffic coming from two directions at once

and determine if a particular gap in traffic will provide them sufficient time to cross the street. This is why children are inclined to run across the street.

- Children do not naturally use their peripheral vision. Children can be taught to use their peripheral vision when searching for traffic, however, children in grades K–3 have slower reaction times than older children and adults in identifying relevant objects in their peripheral vision.

## **When Driving to and From School**

### **Drivers should *always*:**

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits, both in school zones and in neighborhoods surrounding the school.
- Comply with individual school drop-off and pick-up procedures for the safety of all children accessing the school. Please refer to district and site websites for drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- Avoid double parking or stopping on crosswalks to let children out of the car. Double parking will block visibility for other children and other motorists. Visibility is further reduced during the rain and fog seasons when condensation forms on car windows.
- Avoid loading or unloading children at locations across the street from the school. This forces students to unnecessarily cross busy streets—often mid-block rather than at a crosswalk.
- Prepare to stop for a school bus when overhead yellow lights are flashing. Drive with caution when you see yellow hazard warning lights are flashing on a moving or stopped bus.
- Stop for a school bus with its red overhead lights flashing, regardless of the direction from which the driver is approaching unless the road is a divided highway. Drivers must not proceed until the school bus resumes motion and the red lights stop flashing, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed.
- Watch for children walking or bicycling (both on the road and on the sidewalks) in areas near a school.
- Watch for children playing and gathering near bus stops. Watch for children arriving late for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

- Watch for children walking or biking to school when backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage.