



POLICE DEPARTMENT

275 Forest Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650.329.2406

August 2017

Dear Parents of Middle and High School Students,

The Palo Alto Police Department is proud to support the City's Safe Routes to School Partnership with the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) and Palo Alto Council of PTAs. We invite you to join this partnership to provide a safer school commute by reducing traffic congestion for your child and all students in our community.

More than half of all PAUSD students are now getting to and from school by foot, on bikes or in buses and carpools. Your role in modeling and reinforcing the traffic safety skills taught in school is vital. **Please review our Safe Routes to School tips for people riding bicycles, walking or driving cars. Distractions such as texting or ear buds in both ears are both illegal and dangerous.**

Your school's Walk and Roll Suggested Routes to School map can also assist you in planning a good walking or biking route. Find it on your school's web site or on the City's Safe Routes to School page: www.cityofpaloalto.org/saferoutes.

If walking, biking or taking the bus is not feasible for your student, consider carpooling with a neighbor, especially on rainy days. For times when you or your student must drive, be sure to share the road safely by putting away cell phones, using extra caution and avoiding the last minute rush.

The Police Department will continue to prioritize enforcement on school commute routes, especially during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. Unsafe choices, such as driving in bike lanes, wrong way bike riding, not wearing a helmet, disobeying stop signs and other traffic infractions will result in a citation. Students who receive a bicycle-related citation will have an option to participate in a "bicycle traffic school" class for a reduced fine, as long as it's their first citation.

Find out more about local Safe Routes to School educational, encouragement, enforcement and engineering efforts from your school PTA and principal, or by contacting saferoutes@cityofpaloalto.org. Traffic enforcement concerns can be directed to the Police Department's non-emergency line at 650-329-2413. Let's all work together for a safe school commute in Palo Alto in 2017-18!

Sincerely,

Ron Watson
Interim Police Chief



CityOfPaloAlto.org