

CITY OF GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

By Sgt. Michael Reagle
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Release #1:

Beginning Wednesday, August 12, 2009 children in Garden City will be heading back to school. The Garden City Police Department is dedicated to keeping the community safe and would like to remind motorists of the laws and penalties for speeding in school zones, passing stopped school buses, failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and violating child passenger safety restraint laws.

Any motorist caught speeding could face fines ranging from \$40.00 to \$180.00 depending on how many miles per hour over the speed limit they are. Those fines will be doubled if a motorist is convicted of exceeding the maximum speed limit in a school zone. The fine for passing a stopped school bus in either direction with red lights flashing is \$300.00. Failure to yield to a pedestrian entering or crossing a roadway while in a crosswalk has a fine of \$40.00. There is an additional \$50.00 assessed to the above violations for court costs.

In addition to the listed moving violations, motorists are reminded to obey laws pertaining to child passenger restraint systems. All children under the age of 4 must be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat. Children age 4 to 8 years of age must be properly restrained in a federally approved child safety seat/booster seat unless the child weighs more than 80 lbs. or is taller than 4'9" (57 inches) tall. For a child eight years of age but under the age of 18 years or who weighs more than 80 pounds or is more than 4 feet 9 inches in height, must be protected by a safety belt. The laws governing child safety restraints is a primary law where a driver can be stopped solely for a violation involving children under the age of 18. Fines for violations of the child passenger safety restraint laws are \$40.00 plus \$50.00 in court costs.

In addition to educating motorists on traffic laws, the Garden City Police Department would like to provide tips to help parents keep their children safe. Children walking to school should always walk with someone else and avoid walking through isolated areas. Parents should educate their children about not talking to, or accepting gifts or rides from strangers. Additionally, parents should teach their children to be aware of strangers utilizing tricks such as asking them for help to find a lost pet or for directions. Parents should also ensure their child knows their address and phone number should they become lost.

We would also like for parents to take specific precautions when picking up or dropping children off at schools. If possible, parents should park on the same side of the street as the school so children do not have to cross the street. If parents must park across the street, they should meet them on the school side to assist them in crossing. Parents should not stop in the middle of the roadway or double park when dropping children off. Parents should not park in crosswalks or other no parking areas. Motorists should exercise special care when driving near schools by

slowing down and paying attention to their surroundings. Many children will be walking, running and riding bicycles to and from schools and may not always be aware of motorists in the area.

Throughout the school year officers of the Garden City Police Department will monitor vehicular traffic in school areas to aggressively enforce traffic laws relating to child safety.

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