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West Miami Police Department



Press Release

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Another school year has begun in the City of West Miami. The West Miami Police Department is eager to welcome students, parents and staff back to school.

There is nothing more important to my staff and I than our children's safety. Parents and residents will notice increased visibility and our presence will be seen throughout the City's schools. Our Officers are looking forward to positive interactions with both the parents and the children. Officer Erik Alvarez is very excited to teach the D.A.R.E. curriculum this school year, and I am certain that the children will bond with him as they have done in prior years.

I would like to remind parents of the following safety rules as recommended by the National Safety Council:

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is extremely important that they take proper safety precautions. Here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to school:

Walkers

- Review your family's walking safety rules and practice walking to school with your child.
- Walk on the sidewalk, if one is available; when on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing and always cross streets at crosswalks or intersections
- Stay alert and avoid distracted walking

Teach your child the rules of the road and practice riding the bike route to school with your child.

Bike Riders

- Ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, and in a single file
- Come to a complete stop before crossing the street; walk bikes across the street
- Stay alert and avoid distracted riding
- Make sure your child always wears a properly fitted helmet and bright clothing

Bus Riders

- Teach your children school bus safety rules and practice with them
- Go to the bus stop with your child to teach them the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Teach your children to stand 6 feet (or three giant steps) away from the curb
- If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, teach him or her to walk on the side of the road until they are 10 feet ahead of the bus; your child and the bus driver should always be able to see each other
- Get the facts on bus safety from Injury Facts

I would also like to remind parents to introduce yourselves and your children to our officers who will be assisting with traffic related issues as well as assisting the crossing guard with the children.

Please be courteous to the residents residing in close proximity to the school by not blocking driveways or parking on the sidewalk.

We look forward to another fun and safe school year!

Please feel free to reach out to Officer Erik Alvarez (NRO) with any comments, questions or concerns at (305) 266-0530, or email: alvarez@westmiamipolice.org

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