



# CITY OF BISHOP

## BISHOP UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



### News Release

### Crosswalk Safety and the New School Year

With the start of the school year, the Bishop Police Department and the Bishop Unified School District reminds students, parents, and drivers about crosswalk safety and crossing guards.

The Police Department has four crossing guards who maintain the safety of crosswalks on Home Street within the school zones. The crossing guards must handle heavy pedestrian and vehicle traffic before and after school. The primary responsibility of a school crossing guard is to help children cross the street in a safe and efficient manner on their way to and from school. The following tips on crosswalk safety will assist drivers, pedestrians, and crossing guards alike.

#### **Drivers:**

- When travelling through school areas, drivers should anticipate pedestrians, slow down, be patient, and be prepared to stop.
- Drivers should be attentive to all pedestrians crossing the street in and out of crosswalks, especially small children who may dart into traffic without looking.
- Drivers need to pay attention when approaching a crosswalk area and look for a crossing guard. All crossing guards will have a red STOP paddle and will place the sign in the air while crossing the street with pedestrians. The crossing guard is the first to enter the crosswalk and the last one to leave.
- Avoid in-vehicle distractions at all times and abide by the speed limit, especially in the school speed zoned areas.

#### **Pedestrians:**

- When approaching a crosswalk where there is a crossing guard present, please listen to the crossing guard's instructions.

- All crossing guards wear safety apparel such as a reflective vest and use a STOP paddle.
- Do not follow the crossing guard into the street until told to follow. When instructed to cross, always look to make sure it is clear to cross before stepping into the roadway.
- Walk at a steady pace within the crosswalk and pay attention to traffic.
- If you arrive to a crosswalk after a group of pedestrians has already started to cross, do not run into the crosswalk, wait until the next crossing and instruction from the crossing guard.

During the start of school and throughout the school year, officers will conduct high-visibility traffic enforcement in and around school zones for all traffic violations, particularly speeding, cell phone violations, and failing to follow instructions of the Crossing Guards.

For more information contact the Bishop Police Department at 760-873-5823 and the Bishop Unified School District at 760-872-3680.