Back-to-school countdown begins

Friday, August 15, 2008
Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator is reminding motorists to slow down, watch for pedestrians, and practice safe driving habits as children return back to school.

"Drivers should watch for school zones which may be marked by flashing overhead lights, safety cones or crossing guards," Prator said. "Drive the posted speed limit, which decreases in school zones, and watch for children crossing the street in and near school zones."

On the road, drivers who meet or are behind a school bus must stop at least 30 feet from the bus when it is loading or unloading passengers, Prator said. School bus drivers are authorized to notify law enforcement of any violators. Drivers on other roadways or those separated by a median are not required to stop.

Prator also offered the following suggestions:

Students - Don't walk in the street. Use sidewalks;

Mind all traffic signals;

Cross with a crossing guard or at the corner;

No running or pushing;

Walk your bike through all intersections;

Carry everything in a backpack or bag;

If you travel by school bus, always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus;

If you drop something while getting on or off the bus, never pick it up. Instead, tell the driver;

Be aware of the traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road, but not all do.

Parents - Make sure children are on time;

Wait with your children at the bus stop, especially if they are young;

Always insist that your children buckle up. Remember, most traffic crashes occur close to home.

Bus drivers - Check your bus before going on your route;

Inspect the interior of your bus; and

Abide by all traffic laws.