

SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

by Rodney Sumner, T-M ISD Interim Superintendent

School is just around the corner with the first day of school for Tuloso-Midway students being Tuesday, July 17, 2018. As we start a new school year there are several things we all need to remember to help ensure a successful school year for all our students.

For many that live around our schools the start of school brings a lot of traffic to your neighborhoods. You are encouraged to plan accordingly and remember that the first couple of weeks the traffic is more congested than normal.

There will also be many of our students walking or riding their bikes to and from school. All motorists should exercise extreme caution in school zones and at all marked cross-walks around our schools. With all the excitement of a new school year often times our youngsters aren't as cautious as they should be and it is not uncommon for them to dart out in the street unaware of the hazards around them. As adults, it is our responsibility to slow down and keep an eye out for these hazards in order to prevent accidents.

Also, state law mandates that drivers come to a complete stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped to pick up or drop off students. Our school buses operate visual signals; when drivers see one of these signals, they must stop until either the bus driver resumes motion, deactivates the visual signals, or gives the passenger vehicle the signal to proceed. Fines for violating this law are \$500-\$1,250. In addition, state law prohibits cell phone use not just on the road in designated school zones, but also while operating a vehicle on the property of a public elementary, middle, junior high or high school. This includes driving through school parking lots and drop-off lanes.

At the Primary and Intermediate Schools traffic is compounded with parents wanting to walk their children into school and bring in their school supplies for the school year. We are hosting several "sneak peaks" at these grade levels and parents are encouraged to use these opportunities to walk

your child to their new classroom and drop off their school supplies for the year. This will help lessen the congestion on the first day of school.

Parents are also reminded that while dropping their child off in the morning to have your child ready to exit the car. It is not the time to check to see if your child has their lunch money or have what they need to start the school day once you pull up to the curve to drop your child off. By planning ahead you can help make the start of the school day easier on everyone.

Parents are also reminded that the start of the new school year things can be a little hectic around our schools especially during drop off and pick up times. It is easy to lose your temper and get angry due to the traffic being backed up and the inconsiderate actions of others. You are asked to be patient; most of these issues are resolved during the first couple of weeks of school as we all get back into a new routine.

The safety of our students is our primary focus. With the start of a new school year let's do our part to ensure that all of our students have a great and safe school year!