

In the zone: drivers reminded of school safety tips

Written by Darci Tomky



Holyoke educator Yesenia Bencomo, pictured at right, holds the slow/stop sign at the crosswalk in front of Holyoke Elementary School, alerting drivers that students are crossing the street. Students are pictured from left, Adison Goldenstein, Cooper Goldenstein, Laura Conde, Jackie Gonzalez and Yovanna Iniguez. □ □

—Enterprise photo

As school has gotten back into the swing of things this fall semester, it's a great time to remind drivers to be cautious of school buses on the road as well as children and teens arriving and leaving school.

According to the National Safety Council website, all 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children. That means both sides of traffic must stop when students are entering or exiting a school bus.

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Robert Jacobs, director of transportation for Holyoke schools, explained the yellow flashing lights on the bus indicate it is getting ready to stop. When it is stopped and the door is open, red lights will be flashing, and an extended stop sign arm signals motorists to stop.

Jacobs said on a paved road, the bus will only stop if the speed limit is 45 mph or less. Otherwise the bus will pull into the student's driveway. On dirt roads, the bus could be stopped on the road, and drivers should be ready to stop.

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