



August 25, 2017

INFORMATIONAL RELEASE:

The Grand Blanc Township Police Department in conjunction with the Grand Blanc School District and the Grand Blanc City Police Department announce the start of "Operation, Safe Arrival".

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 is the first day of school, for Grand Blanc Community Schools, Woodland Park Academy, and Grand Blanc Academy. The goal of "Operation, Safe Arrival" is to educate the motoring public to help ensure the safety of our children. A cooperative effort between the school district, law enforcement and the media can make this a reality. This is the fourteenth year of the program, which focuses on two primary areas of concern. This includes vehicles failing to stop for buses with flashing red lights and drivers speeding in school zones.

We ask drivers to be patient and allow extra drive time, especially during the first week of classes. Traffic backups can be expected on Grand Blanc Rd., near Woodland Park Academy, Perry Rd., near Grand Blanc East Middle School and E. Hill Rd., near Grand Blanc Academy.

In school zones we will continue to target speeding vehicles and urge drivers to be cautious. Starting Tuesday and through the first week of school, Grand Blanc Township and Grand Blanc City Police will put marked patrol vehicles in school zones with their emergency lights activated. This will hopefully remind drivers that school is back in session and to slow down. Officers will continue to monitor the school zones throughout the year and take appropriate enforcement action.

Fines for speeding in school zones are enhanced. 1-10 M.P.H. over the limit is \$125 and 2 points, 11-15 M.P.H. over is \$140 and 3 points, 16-25 M.P.H. over is \$190 and 4 points, 26-35 over is \$260 and 4 points and 36+ is \$340 and 4 points.

We remind drivers to be observant of school buses that are stopped loading and unloading children. As part of "Operation, Safe Arrival", Officers will patrol problem bus stops looking for violations.

A large number of violations occur on roads such as, Fenton, Maple and Saginaw. Traffic approaching the stopped buses fail to stop for the red lights. We want drivers to understand the law and the penalties of passing a stopped school bus. State Statute 257.682 says “the driver of a vehicle overtaking or meeting a school bus which has stopped and is displaying two alternately flashing red lights located at the same level shall bring the vehicle to a full stop not less than 20 feet from the school bus and shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or the visual signals are no longer actuated.” A vehicle approaching a stopped bus must stop, unless the roadway is “divided into two roadways by leaving an intervening space, or by a physical barrier, or clearly indicated dividing sections so constructed as to impede vehicular traffic”.

The fine for this violation is \$195 and three points assessed to their driving record. In addition to the civil fine and court costs, a judge or magistrate can order a person who violates this section to perform up to 100 hours of community service at a school. The statute also allows an officer to issue a ticket based on the bus driver’s statement. If the bus driver observes a vehicle pass his or her stopped bus, they can get the license plate and forward it to the police. In that case the ticket is issued to the owner of the vehicle.

For further information please contact Captain Matt Bauserman at 810-424-2611 or Jeff Wilson, school transportation office, at 810-591-8965.
