

**Norwalk Police Department**  
**Public Information Release**

Norwalk Schools will begin classes on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 and the page will hopefully turn from this hot dry summer. We look forward to our strong partnership with Norwalk School District Staff and our joint efforts to keep our schools a safe place. Your Police Department is making 'back to school' plans and we would like to share some of those with you.

**School Bus Safety** – Last school year we had 14 school bus stop sign violations and this year with **Kadyn's law, the penalty for such violations was increased to \$250.00 and a possible 30 days in jail for a first offence. A second subsequent offence, if committed within 5 years of the first, may result in a \$1,875.00 fine and one year in jail.** Each day our school district operates 12 buses and moves 1,400 students. Our patrol officers will be watching traffic in those critical areas to hopefully deter any such violations.

**Oviatt Elementary School** – There will be around 190 students beginning school for the first time. Our Officers will be assisting the Oviatt School staff with a safe walk to school class for those students. We would suggest to parents that they rehearse with their Kindergartener their route and their walk to school if they have one. Please consider making a "what if" plan, including "bullies or strangers, etc" with your child and coordinate an alternate place of safety that your child might go to along their way. Fire lanes will also be strictly enforced.

**Lakewood Elementary** – There will be a brief traffic jam on Beardsley as children are dropped off and picked up. We ask that during those times drivers avoid that area if at all possible. Our Officers will be working with the school staff to mitigate the impact to the safety of students and the flow of traffic in the area of Beardsley and Lexington. We encourage parents to consider dropping their children off and picking them up at an alternate location away from that immediate area.

**Norwalk Middle School** – There will be 194 new 6<sup>th</sup> graders entering the challenging world of Middle School for the first time. We also know that for the first two weeks more parents will drop off their 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the school. Our officers will be there to assist the school staff with the heavier traffic flow. We ask that parents please follow the directions provided by the school staff. Please consider dropping off your child northbound along Cherry Street and let him/ her walk in from there on the existing sidewalk.

**Norwalk High School** – There will be about 850 vehicles parked each day in our High School parking lot. Both the parking pass and the driver's license are privileges and we remind parents and students that both can be withdrawn. Our officers will be working with the High School staff to insure the safety of drivers in and around the High School and special traffic enforcement will be done in the residential areas that surround our High School. Fire lanes will also be strictly enforced.

**Drug Prevention** – Our K9 officer will be working closely with our School Resource Officer along with the School Staff to insure that drugs will not be present in our schools. We will again coordinate walk throughs with the school staff, both in the buildings and in the parking lots. Zena and other area K9s will be combined to make our best efforts. Our primary goal is the safety of our students and school staff. We will welcome your assistance throughout the school year in our efforts.

Thank you again for your support,

Eddie H Kuhl  
Chief of Police