

Dear Hightower Community:

At Hightower Elementary, we continually assess the safety of all members in our community. It has been brought to our attention that the safety of the children and guards at our two crosswalks, as well as in the car pool lanes, needs to be addressed.

The following guidelines demand our respectful abidance to ensure safety of our children and adults in these locations.

Safe Monitoring Near Crossing Locations

- **No Cell Phone** use in Plano school zones. (*Texas- House Bill 55*)
- It is unlawful to disregard a School Crossing Guard. Motorists can avoid being ticketed by stopping **BEFORE** the crosswalk, driving 20 MPH, and **WAITING** until the guard is safely **OUT OF THE STREET** before proceeding through the crosswalk.
- It is extremely dangerous and unlawful for any motorist to enter an intersection that has been stopped by a School Crossing Guard.
- The entire intersection of Decator and Tulane is required to stop when the Crossing Guard has stopped traffic, even though the crosswalk is on the west side of the intersection. Though you feel you can safely make the turn, you are still breaking the law if you pass through any part of an intersection that has been stopped by a Crossing Guard.
- Watch for clearly marked pedestrian crossings at locations where Crossing Guards are **not** on duty. It is the law that motorists **STOP** and allow for safe passage of all pedestrians at marked locations, not just those that have Guards in attendance.
- Please do not 'wave' a child on from your vehicle. Your 'wave' could cause a fatal accident. Even though you see the child and plan to wait for him/her to cross, there may be other motorists around you who are not aware of the instructions you have given.
- Cars turning off Tulane and onto Decator should **not** stop "in the turn." This blocks other motorists from seeing the guard's location. Remain stopped on Tulane or wait until you can complete the turn and stop entirely on Decator.

Further, when in the carpool lanes, please do not pass or go around another vehicle that is not finished unloading or loading its students. And, finally, we ask that if you walk to pick up your student(s), that you also use the crosswalks manned by the crossing guards. Please do not walk across Decator except at the crossing guard station. Your cooperation is appreciated.

References:

- Texas Transportation Code Chapter 552 Pedestrians, Chapter 544 Traffic Signs, Chapter 543.001 Subtitle C: Rules of the Road
- National Guidelines for MUTCD 2009 edition
- www.plano.gov School Crossing Guard Coordinator
- www.texas.gov

Thank you for helping us to stay safe!

Hightower
PTA
everychild. onevoice.

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