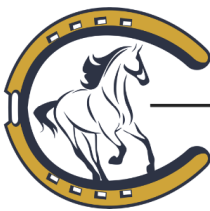


# Colts Neck Township Schools

Superintendent of Schools  
MaryJane Garibay, Ed.D



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Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Vincent S. Marasco

August 31, 2023

Dear Colts Neck Families & Residents,

Effective Wednesday, September 6, 2023, the Colts Neck Township Schools will be back in session with students. In partnership with the Colts Neck Township Police Department, we look forward to another year of providing the safest environment for all of our students. For the majority of our students, their school day begins and ends at their bus stops. As a motorist in the State of New Jersey we are reminding all drivers of the following motor vehicle law, citing N.J.S.A. 39:4-128.1 as follows:

*On a New Jersey undivided highway [road], when approaching or overtaking a stopped bus that is being used to transport children to or from school...a driver must stop at least 25 feet from the bus and wait until all children have entered the bus or safely reached the side of the road, or until the bus is no longer exhibiting a flashing red light. (The bus driver will exhibit a flashing red light until all children entering or exiting the bus have reached a place of safety). Similarly, on a divided highway, a driver must stop and wait when passing a bus from behind. When passing on a divided highway in the opposite direction, a driver must slow to 10 miles per hour until passing the bus and any children that are entering or exiting."*

One might assume that it is okay to proceed past a stopped bus with flashing lights when you do not see students. Be advised that **IT IS NOT OKAY. IN FACT, IT IS ILLEGAL.** And it could turn deadly. To prevent injuries or tragedies involving students and school buses, we respectfully ask for your cooperation in not only knowing the law but following it. The Colts Neck Township Police Department will have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy for any motorist who is observed violating this motor vehicle law. Please be advised that as an additional layer of monitoring school bus traffic safety, Colts Neck Township Police Officers will occasionally follow our school buses.

In addition to the potential for a hefty financial penalty, jail time, and/or points on your driver's license, by "RUNNING THE REDS" of a school bus, you may unnecessarily be risking the lives of children. Too familiar to us are stories from across the country about tragic incidents involving students who were either harmed or were put in harm's way because of careless, inattentive, or impatient drivers who ignored the red flashing lights of a school bus. This is a completely avoidable situation for our Colts Neck children. So, as we prepare for the start of the 23-24 school year, we ask all drivers to remember that a momentary inconvenience in *your* life can make all the difference in the life of a child.

We sincerely thank you for your anticipated cooperation in keeping our students safe!

Sincerely,

The Colts Neck Township Schools and Colts Neck Township Police Department