



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Sheriff's Office Promotes Back to School Safety**

August 28, 2014—Washington County Sheriff's Office reminds drivers that school will be back in session beginning September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office asks everyone to be safe and extra cautious as most schools will begin next Tuesday. The Washington County Sheriff's Office Traffic Safety Team will be providing enhanced patrols in and around the school zones to remind drivers to expect the thousands of children crossing streets. Drivers need to pay attention and watch for school zone flashing lights and signs advising the busiest times for children to be present. Drivers should be alert for school buses to stop often and unexpectedly.

Children are the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see. Take extra care to look out for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds and parks. Many children ride their bicycle to school and may be in the roadway, sidewalk or behind a vehicle as it backs out of a driveway.

Every year Washington County Sheriff's Deputies respond to complaints of speeding drivers in school zones. A number of the speeding drivers are parents dropping their children off at school. Plan ahead and expect traffic delays around all schools, especially during the first week. Drivers are reminded to stop behind the crosswalk and not obstruct the designated area causing children to walk around their vehicle.

Drivers are cautioned that speeding in a school zone doubles the presumptive fine.

The Sheriff's Office wishes everyone to have a safe and enjoyable school year.