



COMMUNITY PARENT CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Back to Teen School Driving Safety

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School is back in session and teen drivers are on the road. According to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for people ages 16-24. Many of these crashes are preventable, yet this statistic has not changed in more than a decade. Driving safety is probably not the first thing on most teens' minds, but teaching teens safe driving practices should be the first thing on parents' minds.

To help keep teen drivers out of harm's way, the Community Parent Center and the Bellmore-Merrick CHSD offer these driving tips for the back to school season and throughout the year:

- Always wear seatbelts: Driver and all passengers
- Limit number of passengers
- No cell phones, No texting
- Avoid distractions: No eating, drinking or adjusting the radio
- No alcohol or other drug use
- Do not speed especially in school zones
- Stop for school bus when flashing red lights
- Obey all traffic signs and laws
- Drive defensively
- Parents: Lead by example-Be a role model - Teens model your actions and may adopt your driving habits.

Driving safety is important all year long. If teen drivers exercise caution, obey the traffic laws and drive responsibly, the first days back to school and the entire year will be safer.

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Established in 1988, the Community Parent Center is Bellmore-Merrick's resource center for quality parent and community education programs addressing safe teen driving, substance and alcohol abuse prevention, bullying/ harassment and youth violence prevention. The mission of the Parent Center is to provide parents and families with education, resource information and the support they need to raise resilient children who are safe, confident, non-violent and drug-free. The Parent Center is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization, underwritten by private donations, grants and legislative appropriations. Information about programs and educational materials can be obtained by visiting the Community Parent Center Website at www.communityparentcenter.org, or by calling (516) 771-9346.