



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Back to School Message**

**August 12, 2014—Olean**—It's back to school for over 2,500 students in the City of Olean and local drivers will have to start sharing the road with some very tiny individuals carrying very large backpacks.

William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean and Captain Jeff Rowley of the Olean Police Department would like to remind residents of some of the rules of the road before school starts.

The Olean City School District has four schools located on East Spring Street, Washington Street, Wayne Street and West Sullivan Street. Archbishop Walsh Southern Tier Catholic is located on North 24<sup>th</sup> Street and New Life Christian School is located on North Union Street. In addition Head Start is housed on East Elm Street. "Speed zones encompass the area around all of the schools and the school zone speed limit is 20 miles per hour," said Captain Rowley. "Motorists should be alert and reduce speed when necessary. They should also be aware of crosswalks and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk."

There are two crossing guards to assist children to safely cross the street and parents should teach their children to cross with the guard. The guards will be located at Olean Intermediate Middle School from 7:15 until 8:00 am and from 2:30 until 3:15 pm. The second one will be at Washington West Elementary School from 8 am until 9 am and from 2:30 pm until 3:30 pm. Motorists should be alert to the crossing guards and stop their vehicle when told to do so.

School buses will also be taking to the roads in the next few days. "Motorists should be aware that it is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload students," said Capt Rowley. "School buses are equipped with yellow flashing lights that remind motorists that the bus is preparing to stop. Red flashing lights signal that the school bus has stopped and motorists on both sides of the road must stop as well. Keep an eye on the children after exit the bus, make sure they are on the sidewalk and out of harm's way before driving away. Children can be unpredictable after they get off of a bus."

"It is important that drivers pay special attention to children walking to school as they may sometimes abruptly enter the roadway." Mayor Aiello added. "Be observant of the flashing speed limit school zone signs near the Olean schools, reduce your speed and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks. The Olean Police Department will be out actively enforcing violations"

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