

OL Smith Middle School

Dearborn Public Schools



November 22, 2024

Viking Families,

I would like to take the time to communicate with you a traffic incident that took place this morning. Our student's power scooter collided with a vehicle departing from Yale street, at the end of student drop off. The driver stopped immediately and 911 was called. Thankfully, our student's injuries are not life-threatening. We are grateful to the OL Smith families who immediately supported; as well as our School Resource Officer, who was on site at the time of the incident. The swift action of our community and Dearborn Emergency Response contributed to the strong and rapid aid from the moment this unfortunate accident occurred.

The safety and well being of your children during the school day has always been and will continue to be a high priority for all of us at Smith. Part of this ongoing effort is to review the traffic patterns around our school, especially at drop-off and pick-up time. We are noticing an increase in students using powered scooters to get to school. These scooters travel at a much higher rate of speed than walking and bicycles. It is important to remember that following traffic rules, such as stop signs and proper passing is crucial for all that share the road to ensure safety. Along with practicing safe driving procedures, wearing a helmet is one of the most important and simple steps in ensuring safety. When it comes to motorized scooters, the requirements are similar to those of bicycles and skateboards, other than the age requirement. Please review these requirements with your child and talk with them about street safety:

- *Minors age 12 and older are permitted to drive motorized scooters. Minors must wear helmets.*
- *Drive the electric scooter as far to the right side of the road as possible.*
- *No riders.*
- *Do not pass between lanes of traffic.*
- *Sidewalk use is permitted, however yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian.*
- *All power scooters should be walked once on school grounds.*

Obviously traffic around our school can get very heavy in the morning and at the end of the day. We need to continue to work together to maintain safety around our school.

The OL Smith Community prides ourselves in having a safe learning environment for your child during the school day. By working together we can ensure that our students, your child will also be safe as they arrive at school in the morning and leave in the afternoon.

Sincerely,

Mark Rummel

Principal

OL Smith Middle School-Dearborn Public Schools