

TO THE PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT DRIVER

Welcome to the world of Teen Driving!! Teen driving is an exciting time for families. Teenagers want to drive and the parents and/or guardian want to reduce their “chauffer” duties. However, teen driving is **dangerous**. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to teenagers, because teenagers **lack of driving experience**. Notice that we said crashes, not accidents. The reason being is there will always be a reason. **Crashes don't just happen.**

The Illinois Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law is one of the toughest in the United States, if not the toughest. Its' aim is to give teen drivers more exposure to the “art of driving” in phases. They are now in the Permit Phase (ie Driver Education , driving supervised by teacher or parent/guardian). Parents are needed to help increase the safety of their teenage driver by knowing and fulfilling the **parent role in teaching your teen driver how to drive.**

This course consists of thirty (30) clock hours of state-approved classroom instruction, six (6) clock hours of actual state-approved Behind-The-Wheel (BTW) instruction and six (6) clock hours of Observation of the BTW instruction in a dual-brake controlled car. We have operated an excellent program for many years and have achieved a positive foundation for educating teen drivers the task of driving in a very complex Highway Transportation System. We attend Driver Education Workshops and State Conferences yearly to stay informed and update our program in order to teach the most current defensive-driving techniques.

Parents, your son/daughter is taking on **one of the most important responsibilities a young adult will face**....that of which is becoming an active participant in the Highway Transportation System. Your teenager will be exploring values and attitudes; as well as learning to make good decisions and choices for developing life-long safe (low-risk) driving habits.

The administration and teachers of Driver Education at WCHS consider traffic safety education a shared responsibility of the community, school and home. Your participation in this extremely important task of teaching your son/daughter how to drive can make all the difference. Parents, you are the role model for your student driver. Through your positive guidance, the time and energy you spend now practicing with your teenager will make them more capable and confident when they are by themselves driving. We view the home and school as true partners in the process of helping teenagers become safe drivers.

This pamphlet has been designed with you in mind. Your teenager, classroom instructor, BTW instructor and you will be partners for the next 16 or so weeks. We want this time to be a positive and productive experience for your student. **One that will last a lifetime.**

We want the parents/guardians of students enrolled in our Driver's Education program to assist their teenager in perfecting the mental, social and physical driving skills they are being taught in school. That will be difficult if the parent/guardian is not familiar with our program policies, appropriate in-car procedures and the newest Illinois driving laws. This pamphlet will help you.

A successful driver education experience is a cooperative partnership of student, parent/guardian and teacher. Become involved with your son/daughters learning experience. Talk about and support our program, provide practice time and encourage your teenager to be a low-risk defensive driver. You are not expected to replace the teacher, but rather support and supplement.

Sincerely,

WCHS Driver Education Staff