

SAFETY TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Always lock your door immediately after entering your home or vehicle.
- Stay alert as you approach doors/stairwells/bushes.
- Walk with confidence – criminals look for the unwary or distracted (unconfident, digging through backpacks/purses, talking on the phone, or texting).
- Don't leave valuables sitting in your car – backpacks are stolen for the cell phone/wallet/cash/credit cards/ID that may be in them.
- Do not leave windows open/unlocked. Sliding balcony doors are a common access point for burglars. Hardware stores carry window and door stops that allow you to block access.
- Walk/exercise with friends & vary your schedule/route from day to day.
- Be aware of your surroundings – if something looks suspicious, report it to law enforcement and property managers or school staff immediately.
- Get to know your neighbors, so if there is unusual activity, you/they know whether or not to be alarmed.
- Look for people who are sitting around or watching you or your home.
- Park in well-lit areas or move your car closer to the building before starting a late-in-the-day class. Ask classmates to walk with you to the parking lots or drop you off at your car.
- When dropping off a friend at home or their car, make sure they are safely inside/have started their car before you leave.
- Check around and in your car before entering. Have your keys in hand before leaving a building.
- Consider taking a self-defense course – most martial arts schools in the metro area offer them at affordable prices or for free. See the downstairs Community Information board for suggestions.
- Leave on a porch light and indoor lights near any access points to your home.
- Consider getting a dog, door alarm, or “smart” doorbell to alert you when someone is trying to enter.
- Use the peephole on your door & ask for identification for those who come to your home – call the company/manager to verify if they are legitimate.
- Pay attention to your instincts! If something feels wrong to you, don't second guess yourself.
- Never disclose personal identification over the phone. Use only last name or initials on your mailboxes/phone directories.
- Turn off/lock your car when dropping kids off at daycare or school, take your purse/wallet into the building with you. These are common areas scouted by criminals.
- Don't leave your car warming up in your driveway – it takes seconds to break into a locked car.
- Discuss safety procedures with your employer & co-workers so that you know how to react in an emergency situation.
- Never pull over in an isolated area for a police car – put on your blinker and drive to a safe and public spot (i.e. a staffed gas station or open restaurant's parking lot). The officer will follow you there and if it's an imposter, they are likely to choose someone else to attack.
- Train your kids – they need to know the rules for safety in your household and in public.