

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
For the Thursday, September 5, 2019 Edition
From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

Back to School Safety

School is now back in session. Heavier traffic in the morning and afternoon can be expected as kids travel to and from school. A few days ago, the local news and many social media pages showed a video of an excited mother standing across the street from a bus stop eagerly awaiting and filming her young child’s return from school. The school bus came to a stop. The bus driver extended the stop signs signaling motorists to wait for crossing kids. However, the mothers’ excitement quickly turned in screams of panic as a car came barreling pass the bus. The car driver ignored the stop signs and narrowly missed hitting her child. That traumatic event could have easily also been a tragic one. I want to encourage everyone to be alert and patient while driving. We cannot be in such a hurry, that we don’t have enough time to stop and wait for children to cross the street.

We were all pleased about the school safety announcement made by Governor John Bel Edwards at Neville High School last week. The governor announced \$4 million dollars in state funding for all K-12 schools to begin using the RAVE panic button app. In the event of a campus emergency (fire, medical emergency, school shooting, or etc.) school officials push a panic button on a smartphone to call 911 and notify faculty and first responders. These are the times that we live in. And, this is a progressive way to help protect the students, faculty and staff at our schools.

I also want to remind parents and students to download the P3 Campus Safety app. In April of this year, we held a very exciting press conference at the Monroe City School Board. I was joined by Superintendent Dr. Brent Vidrine, MCSB members, Monroe Police Chief Eugene Ellis, and Crime Stoppers of North Delta to announce the P3 app would be used in all 19 Monroe City schools. The P3 Campus app that be used on your smart phone, tablet, or computer to report anonymous tips to school officials and law enforcement to prevent or stop fights, bullying, cyberbullying, report suicide threats, stalking, and other issues. We already know this app helped save the life of one student during the spring 2019 semester. Help us by making sure all the Monroe City school system parents and students that you know download and use the free P3 Campus app.

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!