Say goodbye to summer and hello to fall. It’s school time again! Just like teachers, books, and homework go hand in hand with the school year, so should safety. Make sure you keep safe on your way to school. Follow these easy safety tips and you will be so cool on your way to school.

**Sparky’s Back-to-School Safety Tips**

- While waiting for the bus, take five giant steps back from the curb until the bus has stopped completely.
- Inside the bus, stay seated at all times.
- Keep head, arms and hands inside the bus. Never throw anything out of the bus window.
- Always hold on to the bus handrails when you are getting on or off the bus so you don’t fall.
- Be careful that clothing, book bags, and key rings don’t get caught in the handrails or doors.
- When getting off the bus, go to the closest sidewalk or side of the road and take five giant steps away from the bus.
- If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver. If you bend over to pick it up, the bus driver may not be able to see you.

**Bus Stop Tips**
- Children under age 10 should never cross a street without a grown-up.
- Choose a safe route to school. Look for the most direct route with the fewest street crossings.
- When crossing the street, stop at the curb or edge of the road.
- Look left, then right, then left again for moving cars before crossing.
- Keep looking left and right until you are safely across the street – and remember to walk, not run.
- Obey all traffic signals and markings.
- Don’t enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubs. Drivers might not be able to see you.

**Riding a Bike**
- If you are old enough to ride alone, plan a safe route to school and have a grown-up ride with you the first few times.
- Children under 10 shouldn’t ride on the road without a grown-up.
- Wear a comfortable, properly fitted helmet. Be sure that the helmet sits level on top of the head—not rocking in any direction—and always fasten the safety strap.
- Learn the proper hand signals and use them when you turn or stop.
- Come to a complete stop before entering driveways, paths or sidewalks, then look left, right and left again for bikes, cars or pedestrians heading your way.
- Do not ride at night.