



St. John the Baptist DHS

Virtual Senior Driving Seminar

September 2021

Welcome to Your Senior Year!

You have recently received or will receive at some point in the future, your Class D license. When you have your license, it means that New York State has determined that you've earned the privilege of driving a car. Remember, that it is a privilege. New York State can revoke this privilege if it determines that you've done something to necessitate the revocation. Similarly, after you and a parent sign and hand in the driving contract and show us your Class D license and pay the fee, you will have earned the privilege of driving to school. And, just like your license, the privilege can be revoked for behavioral or attendance problems.

The intention of this Driving Seminar presentation is to help ensure student safety, as well as the safety of others. Distracted driving is the biggest factor in endangering the lives and safety of drivers and others.

Three Types of Distracted Driving

- ▶ Visual Distraction - Taking eyes off the road
- ▶ Manual Distraction - Taking hand or hands off the wheel
- ▶ Cognitive Distraction - Taking mind off driving

(from *Distraction.gov*)

Examples of Distracted Driving

- ▶ Texting
- ▶ Using a cell phone or smartphone
- ▶ Eating and drinking
- ▶ Talking to passengers
- ▶ Changing Clothes
- ▶ Grooming
- ▶ Reading, including maps
- ▶ Using a navigation system
- ▶ Watching a video
- ▶ Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

Texting and Driving

- ▶ New York State Law bans all handheld devices (phones)
- ▶ New York State Law bans texting while driving
- ▶ You will receive a large summons and get points on your license for texting and driving

Key Facts and Statistics

- ▶ In 2018, 2841 people were killed in accidents involving distracted driving.
- ▶ 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers, a decrease of 40,000.
- ▶ Distracted Driving accounts for 25% of accidents involving fatalities.
- ▶ Distracted Driving accounts for 58% of teen accidents.
- ▶ #1 cause of death for teenagers
- ▶ The number of teens killed while drinking and driving has gone down. The number of teens killed in vehicle accidents has gone up - due to distracted driving. (TEENSAFE)

Texting and Driving

- ▶ It is estimated that approximately 481,000 people use their cellphones while they are driving during daylight hours.
- ▶ 2016 - 42% of high school students who have driven in the last month admit to texting or emailing while driving.
- ▶ Approximately 170 billion text messages are sent in the US (including Territories) every month. (CTIA)
- ▶ *Because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most dangerous distraction.*
- ▶ *Texting while driving comes with a hefty summons and points on your license.*
- ▶ *Your driving privilege at SJB will be suspended if you are texting and driving. No Excuses.*
- ▶ BE CAREFUL using Bluetooth- a driver can become distracted even using Bluetooth.

Be Alert!

- ▶ Drivers under 20 have the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted at the time of the crashes - 3 times more than any other age group. (NHTSA)
- ▶ At any given daylight moment across America, approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phones or manipulating electronic devices while driving, a number that has held steady since 2010. (NOPUS)
- ▶ Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field (blindfolded). (2009, VTTI)

Reckless Driving

Occasionally, we receive reports of reckless driving (usually speeding or weaving in and out of traffic) by our students from teachers or from people outside the school like Good Samaritan personnel, homeowners in the area, etc.

Don't put yourself in this position - DRIVE SAFELY.

- ▶ **Distracted driving is a form of reckless driving. Types of reckless driving include:**
- ▶ Distracted Driving
- ▶ Speeding
- ▶ Weaving in & out of Traffic
- ▶ Unsafe Lane Changes
- ▶ Driving under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs

Alcohol and Drugs

- ▶ Another form of reckless driving is driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Something like this would obviously not be tolerated and we would have no problem contacting the police.
- ▶ In New York State it is against the law for persons under 21 to possess alcohol with the intention of consuming it. The attempt to purchase alcohol by presenting fake ID—even if you are not successful—can get you a \$100 fine, required alcohol awareness training, and up to 30 community service hours, plus the suspension of your license for 90 days. (If you don't have your own license yet, you may have to postpone applying for it for the penalty period.)

DWAI and DWI

- ▶ Zero Tolerance in NY State for underage drinkers who get behind the wheel with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of .02% or higher. If you are pulled over and your Breathalyzer test results in a charge of DWAI (Driving While Ability Impaired) or DWI (Driving While Intoxicated), your license will be suspended at arraignment and remain so until the matter is resolved in the courts. (Important to note that if you refuse the Breathalyzer test, your license is immediately, automatically revoked for one year.)
- ▶ If you are stopped by a police officer for having consumed alcohol and the officer deems that you are younger than 21 and appear to have consumed alcohol, you will be temporarily detained for the purpose of taking a breathalyzer test to determine your blood alcohol level (BAC), usually at the police station.
- ▶ If you refuse to take a breath test, you will be subject to a license revocation of at least one year.
- ▶ To help prevent or reduce the amount of underage drinking, New York State and Nassau and Suffolk Counties have passed a number of laws that hold parents responsible for underage drinking on their property, even if the parents do not supply the alcohol, even if the parents are not present. These are referred to as social host laws.

New York Social Host Laws

- ▶ Parents who serve alcohol to their children in their home need to understand they may serve **ONLY** their children. Social host laws in New York place criminal and civil liability on parents who allow underage drinking in their homes, even if they didn't supply the alcohol, even if the other parents gave their permission. Initial offences subject the violator to a \$500 fine. Subsequent violations are considered misdemeanors and could result in jail time. **In addition, depending on circumstances, violators can also be charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Minor or similar offences.**

Leandra's Law

- ▶ Leandra's Law, New York's Child Passenger Protection Act, has been expanded since its enactment in 2009 to provide for stiffer penalties for all alcohol-impaired drivers. Courts must now order all drivers convicted of misdemeanor and felony drunk driving charges - even first-time offenders and regardless of whether a child under 16 was in the vehicle at the time - to install and maintain ignition interlock devices on any vehicles they own or operate for at least six months at their own expense, in addition to any other terms of sentence.

New York State has a Good Samaritan Law

- ▶ Following is from Drugpolicy.org
- ▶ Amnesty for Good Samaritans:
- ▶ Accidental overdose deaths are the leading cause of accidental death in New York State, exceeding even motor vehicle accidents. In 2009, nearly 2,000 people in New York died from accidental alcohol/drug overdoses.
- ▶ On Long Island, one person dies nearly every day from an alcohol/ drug-related overdose.
- ▶ Many of these deaths are preventable, but most people witnessing a drug overdose don't call for emergency assistance. Why?
- ▶ Studies have found that for those witnessing an alcohol/ drug overdose, *the majority hesitate to call emergency services due to fear of police arrest or criminal prosecution for drug possession.*
- ▶ On September 18, 2011, New York's 911 Good Samaritan law went into effect. It states, "A person who, in good faith, seeks health care for someone who is experiencing a drug or alcohol overdose or other life-threatening medical emergency shall not be charged or prosecuted for a controlled substance offense." In this state at least, you can't be punished for saving a life. Don't ever hesitate to dial 9-1-1.
- ▶ The law encourages people to call 911 immediately during an overdose situation by offering a limited shield from charge and prosecution of drug and alcohol possession for a victim or witness who seeks medical help during a drug or alcohol overdose.

SJB Driving Regulations

- ▶ Driving or parking on the campus is a privilege that is paid for by you or your parents.
- ▶ The fee is \$200 a year and the privilege can be temporarily or permanently revoked by me or any of the other administrators for failing to follow our driving rules or for failing to follow other school rules regarding Discipline, Attendance, Lateness, etc.
- ▶ Must be a Senior (or demonstrate significant hardship)
- ▶ Must be at least 17 years old and have taken Driver Ed*
- ▶ Must hold a valid Class D License*
- ▶ *These are NY State requirements not SJB

SJB Parking Lot Regulations

- ▶ Every day we have over 75 school buses in our parking lot
- ▶ We also have numerous parental pick-ups and drop offs
- ▶ This creates very crowded conditions in the parking lot
- ▶ Students must enter parking lot through entrance closest to softball fields (on Beach Drive).
- ▶ Students may only leave the parking lot through this exit OR the exit onto Montauk Hwy (front of school).
- ▶ Remain in parking spots until buses leave (approximately 2:50).
- ▶ **NO EXCEPTIONS - DO NOT ASK**
- ▶ Drive responsibly. Avoid reckless or distracted driving

SJB Regulations about Passengers

- ▶ Seniors are permitted to have passengers in their vehicles.
- ▶ Each driver **MUST** have a signed permission form from a parent indicating who is permitted to ride with him/her.
- ▶ Each passenger **MUST** have a signed permission slip from a parent indicating who is permitted to drive him/her.
- ▶ Signed & completed forms must be submitted to Mrs. Ferretti in the Main Office.
- ▶ Mrs. Ferretti will give permission slips to students.
- ▶ Students **MUST** keep these slips with them & be prepared to present them to authorized personnel.
- ▶ **No more than 3 passengers in a vehicle (you can get permission for more).**

SJB Parking Lot and Driving Safety Protocols

- ▶ SJB personnel will randomly check vehicles with passengers for permission slips
- ▶ Passengers without permission slips will be told to find another method of transportation
- ▶ Driver and passenger of vehicle may be assigned detention.
- ▶ SJB is a Closed Campus
- ▶ No parking off campus or at Good Sam
- ▶ Only family members can pick up students
- ▶ Unless a student has a signed note from a parent, he/she CANNOT be picked up by students from other schools.

Bad Weather Days

- ▶ Seniors who purchase parking permits are also strongly encouraged to register for busing with their school district.
- ▶ This is necessary so the student will not have to drive in inclement weather.
- ▶ On days where the possibility of snow is forecasted, SJB **STRONGLY** recommends that students who usually drive to school take their District buses instead.

SJB Parking Permits

- ▶ Students who are permitted to drive to school and park on SJB property will be issued a permit.
- ▶ The permit will be attached to the rear-view mirror, facing outward.
- ▶ If the permit cannot be attached to the mirror, it should be attached to the dashboard, using two-sided tape.
- ▶ You **MUST** have the permit in the appropriate place.
- ▶ **If you use a different car and forget your permit, write your name on a piece of paper and put it on your dashboard. In addition, inform Mrs. Ferretti and she will let me know.**
- ▶ If you do not have your sticker in the appropriate place, **DO NOT** come to me if you see one of those unpleasant orange stickers on your window.
- ▶ SJB has Open Parking for students; there are no assigned spots.

Reminders

- ▶ Please do NOT schedule doctor, dentist, work, therapy, etc., appointments around school dismissal.
- ▶ Students who are sick and must leave school, MUST be picked up.
- ▶ Students who are ill are not permitted to drive home.
- ▶ Cars may be left in the parking lot, if necessary.

Loss Of SJB Driving Privileges

Students can permanently or temporarily lose the privilege of driving to school at the discretion of school administration.

Issues that could result in the revocation of the driving privilege include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Repeated lateness to school
- ▶ Poor Attendance
- ▶ Reckless Driving (can be reported by staff, visitor, or someone from outside school)
- ▶ Distracted Driving
- ▶ Disciplinary Issues
- ▶ Cell phones