

Walk and bike safely in York

Be sure to stop, look and wave

YORK, Maine – The summer season is fast approaching and, with the anticipation of more traffic in York, it is important to focus on everyone's safety.

That's why the town's Bike and Pedestrian Committee announced a new safety campaign called "York Waves." The program focuses on educating pedestrians, bikers and drivers to stop, look at each other and acknowledge each other with a wave. The aim is to build communications among all road and sidewalk users. Here are a few simple reminders that you can share with your children, the bikers and drivers in your family and your visitors:

Walking

- Use a sidewalk when available.
- Walk facing traffic when not on a sidewalk.
- Use crosswalks when available. Look for cars, wave to the driver and be sure the driver waves back or acknowledges you in some way before you cross the street.
- When walking at night, wear bright colors or reflective clothing. Carry a flashlight being careful not to shine it in the eyes of the drivers.
- Be courteous to other



York Village Elementary School physical education teacher Peter Demeritt fits a bicycle helmet for first grade student Laney Newbanks during a balance bike program in 2019. Shannon Belt, background, of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine brought the program to VES. [RALPH MORANG/SEACOASTONLINE/FILE]

walkers sharing the sidewalk.

- Follow all state of Maine and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and rules regarding social distancing and the wearing of masks as during the pandemic.

Biking

- Maine law requires all children under age 16 to wear a helmet.
- All cyclists should consider wearing a helmet.
- Ensure bikes have reflectors and, for riding at dusk or dark, working lights on the front and back.
- Wear reflective clothing when riding – day and night.
- Ride with traffic and please ride single file.
- When crossing a road and moving through an intersection, "Stop, Look, and Wave,"

making sure drivers have seen you and acknowledge you.

Drivers

- Watch out for pedestrians and bikers especially in busy areas.
- Make certain that pedestrians and bikers acknowledge you on crosswalks and as they cross all streets.
- Please obey all posted speed limits.
- Respect the state law that requires three feet additional space when passing a pedestrian or biker on the side of the road.

Following these simple reminders will help us we all have a safe, healthy, and fun summer in the town of York.

Information provided by the York Bike and Pedestrian Committee.