

Canton Public Schools
Driver Education Department

February 2, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is intended to provide you with an introduction to the driver education experience along with some helpful information. Many students view driver education as a necessary step to obtaining a Massachusetts license. However, the primary goal of the course is to promote safe driving habits.

The Registry of Motor Vehicles requires thirty hours of classroom instruction, twelve hours of driving instruction, and six hours of in-car observation for certification. When both the classes and driving are completed, students should submit a check for \$15.00 payable to the Mass/DOT. The check is given to a driver education instructor and should have the student's learners permit number and home phone number on it.

A parent or guardian is also required by the registry to certify in writing on the license application that their son or daughter has completed not less than forty hours of supervised behind-the-wheel driving with them or with a licensed driver age 21 or older. The twelve hours of driving in the course do not count toward the forty hour requirement.

In class, students are expected to acquire the knowledge and awareness expected of a safe and efficient driver. They will learn the rules of the road, how to anticipate adverse driving situations, and procedures for safe operation of a vehicle. In addition, students will demonstrate a realization of the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol, an understanding of defensive driving, and an appreciation for the rights of pedestrians and other users of the road. Guest speakers include representatives from the Canton Fire Department and Canton Police Department. A representative from an insurance company will discuss the Massachusetts automobile insurance policy. *Students must be approved by the classroom instructor in order to begin their driving.*

On-the-road instruction includes the following: using hand signals, starting and stopping the vehicle, making left and right turns, entering and leaving intersections, recognizing and obeying traffic signs and signals, employing good judgment, and demonstrating the maneuvers required on the license test.

We continue to appreciate the generosity of Rodman Lincoln/Mercury of Foxboro, and Mazda Gallery of Norwood. These dealerships provide new automobiles to the program. Their participation enables us to teach safe driving in vehicles equipped with the latest technology.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah J. Sullivan
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