

# Frank Cantor: Road Warrior

By GARY PULEO

PLYMOUTH — With the roads crawling with so many nutty and bad drivers these days, you'd need nerves of steel to turn the wheel over to an inexperienced teenager day after day.

As a driving instructor and the owner of Cantor's Driving School, Frank Cantor is a guy who has more than nerves of steel going for him.

The seasoned pundit of the road has been saying "them's the brakes" for the last 18 years while teaching more than 25,000 kids how to be better drivers..

Cantor knows that traffic and driving conditions have gotten a lot worse since his dad, Allan Cantor, started the business in 1976, and he's well aware that teens are twice as likely to be involved in an accident as their parents.

"The roads have definitely changed," Cantor said. "It's tougher now because there are more bad drivers and people are more aggressive. They're really impatient. We get beeped at a lot. When we're on the highway trying to merge, and a kid has his turn signal on, some people will take note of the driving school decal on the back and be considerate by getting out of our way. But some people will just run them over.

"When people see student drivers on the road, they should back off and give them some space and know that kids are going to make mistakes and are slower," he added. With many retired police officers on staff as full-time instructors,

Cantor said the parents of his students can rest easy knowing their child is being taught by experienced drivers with more than 100,000 miles a year of instruction under their belts.

"The benefit of instruction by a retired officer over an off-duty officer working 12-hour shifts and then teaching a kid to drive is that he's not tired and he's doing it because he enjoys it and has the time," Cantor allowed.

The school also helps older drivers reconnect with the skills that will bring them back up to speed — which is sometimes mandated by the Department of Motor Vehicles if there's been a violation or an accident.

He recommends at least 10 hours of lessons in preparation for a driver's test.

"Driver's education is not mandatory in Pennsylvania, so a lot of parents just do six hours behind the wheel and get a certificate for car insurance. I would recommend that kids do at least 10 to 12 hours with a driving school. In six hours some parents just want the kids to know how to switch lanes and make turns, but with more lessons we can get a lot more accomplished."

Cantor also suggests that parents do more driving with their kids in between the lessons given in CDs late-model vehicles.

"We'll do a two-hour lesson with a kid and don't see them for a week until the next lesson and ask them if they've done any driving since the last lesson, and they won't have

done any driving at all. We give every parent a 'student at the wheel' magnet to put on their car to help them and maybe make people back off a little when they're out driving."

Unlike some driving schools where instruction takes place only on the premises, Cantor's students learn the realistic nuts and bolts of tooling around in a safe and courteous manner via plenty of highway and city driving throughout Montgomery, Chester, Bucks, Delaware counties and Philadelphia.

Those who prefer a woman teaching their teenage daughter to drive should know that Cantor's Driving School can accommodate that request.

"I also just hired a multi-lingual instructor who speaks Spanish and Portuguese," he noted.

On the newly redesigned Web site, [www.CantorsDrivingSchool.com](http://www.CantorsDrivingSchool.com), visitors can check out fees and tons of glowing reviews from satisfied customers, as well as schedule an appointment.

Though the competition has increased since the days when Cantor's father began showing new drivers the ropes, Cantor said his company's longevity stands for itself.

"Driving schools just come and go, but we're not a trend. We've been around a long time and we're not going anywhere. We've grown mostly by referral and word of mouth and I'm very proud that I've come a long way with this business."