

Parents of Walkers/Bikers: Important Information!

Keeping our children safe is one of the most important activities you, as parents, and we, as school staff, ever undertake! We are asking for your help to ensure that children who walk or ride a bike to school stay safe, even when they're not on school grounds. Attached to this issue of the Howler is a handout with even more information about going to and from school more safely.

Please visit with your child about the importance of following basic safety rules when they are coming to or leaving from school. Here are some of the rules that you might want to discuss:

Safety Tips and Rules for the Road

One of the premier rules of the road to teach your children is "STOP, LOOK & LISTEN". These additional tips will help reinforce this rule as well as provide more safety tips to practice and teach children:

- Always look both ways and exercise caution when crossing at a cross walk or intersection. It is important to not just look at the cars stopped at the intersection but any approaching vehicles and cyclists as well.
- Even when crossing an intersection at a green light it is still important to look all ways and watching for turning cars.
- Make eye contact with drivers to be sure you have been seen and that all cars have come to a complete stop before crossing at an intersection or cross walk.
- Constantly reinforce and demonstrate safety rules when walking with children and even by yourself - you never know who may be watching.
- Stay away from and never go into a car with a stranger.
- Children should always tell parents where they are going. All adults should always leave a note at home when they are going for a walk too - noting their destination and route in case of emergency.
- Teach children to walk in safe areas - avoid parking lots, paths through wooded areas, secluded areas, loose gravel and busy roads.
- Don't let children walk alone at night.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing for night or evening walks.
- Watch for cyclists.



- Walk across cross-walks and intersections only. Do not cross the street between intersections and parked cars.
- Be aware of driveways and lanes. Look both ways and stop before crossing. This is especially important to teach young children.
- When walking on roads without sidewalks always walk on the side of the road facing traffic and as close to the edge as possible.
- Stay out of ditches and away from ponds, streams and rivers.
- Stay away from school buses and other buses.
- If you hear a siren, it is best to move away from the road as far as possible, stop and wait until the emergency vehicle has passed before continuing on your walk.
- Children under 9 should not walk alone.
- Come to a complete stop at all stop signs and obey all other road signs.
- Walk across all intersections, obeying traffic signals - never run across an intersection.
- Never walk along or on railroad tracks and bridges. Use caution when crossing railroad tracks. Never cross railroad tracks when signals are flashing or you hear a train whistle.
- While dogs and puppies may be cute, it is never too early to teach children to stay away from strange dogs, even if they are on a leash and the owner says it is okay. Even a well known dog can pose a danger.
- Be careful with umbrellas - sharp points can injure and cause damage to eyes.
- Look for immediate indoor shelter during thunderstorms - check the weather before heading out.
- Skipping and throwing balls while walking should be avoided.
- Plan routes that are not too long for the age of the youngest walker.
- Consult with your local library, government offices and health departments for booklets, programs and guides about road safety.