

Tips for Students Walking or Biking to School

Children Who Walk or Bike to School

- Choose the safest route from your home to the school. Select a route that is most direct and has intersections with crosswalks when possible.
- Develop a buddy system for walking to and from school. Students should never walk alone. Always walk in groups with at least two or three other students.
- If possible, parents should walk their children to school.
- Wear bright colors so that motorists can easily see you.
- Stay on the sidewalk and be aware of traffic in the area. If there is no sidewalk, walk and stand facing traffic.

Crossing the Road

- Stop at the curb or edge of the street.
- Look left, right, left and behind you and in front of you for traffic.
- Wait until no traffic is coming and then begin crossing.
- Keep looking for traffic until you have finished crossing.
- Walk, don't run across the street.
- Obey traffic signs, signals and school crossing guards.
- Cross roads in crosswalks instead of making mid-block crossings.
- Be aware of drivers in parked cars that may be ready to move.
- Look for cars that may be entering or exiting driveways or alleyways.
- Do not enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes or shrubbery.

Avoid Shortcuts and Abandoned Area

- Students should not take shortcuts or cut through alleys, private property or across vacant lots.
- Students should try to avoid walking near abandoned houses. Never enter or play near abandoned houses.

Be Alert

- Students should immediately report anyone suspicious to an adult – a parent, school personnel or the school resource officer.
- Never accept a ride from people not arranged or approved by your parents.
- Students should not wear headphones or text while walking, as they may not hear the sounds of oncoming traffic.
- Be extra alert in bad weather.

Turn on Porch Lights

- Parents and neighbors should turn on porch lights and other outdoor lights before dawn and at dusk.

Be on Time

- Leave on time for school and/or in plenty of time to arrive at school or the bus stop. Students should be on time, every day.

Safe Houses

- Talk to neighbors and local businesses on your child's route to school and ask them if it is okay for your child to stay there in case of an emergency.

Important Phone Numbers

- Be sure your children know their home phone number and address, your work and pager number and the number of another trusted adult. Put a card with this information in their backpack.

After School Phone Call

- If you work late, have your children call you as soon as they arrive at home after school.