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Thomas P. Johnson
Chief of Police

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to a new School Year. Summer is over and it's back to school time. In an effort to keep your new school year fun and safe we ask that parents/guardians and children/students, and also school staff and teachers, follow these simple guidelines when traveling to and from school.

Be Safe, Be Smart


- **Walk with your children to school.** Walking to school promotes health, saves gas and time, and reduces traffic congestion around the school for everyone.

- **Obey all posted speed signs.** Slow down when entering . Pay special attention at the signs showing hours of activation. ***Police will enforce this!***

- **Obey all posted roadway signs.** For example:  signs are for designated limited access streets around some schools. ***Police will enforce this!***

- **Stop** at all posted  crosswalks when pedestrians are present. ***Police will enforce this!***

- **When parking, standing or parking your vehicle, please use the designated area only.** Do not **block** driveways or sidewalks. If you use non-designated areas, or are **blocking** access ways, you will be ticketed!

- **Buckle up!**  Ensure that all occupants of the vehicle, especially children, are always buckled up. Children must be secured in proper child safety seats and/or booster chairs, if applicable. The State of New Jersey Primary Seat Belt Law requires everyone (adults and children) to buckle up. If a child (under the age of 18 years old) is seen not wearing a seat belt or child restraint, the driver will also be ticketed.



- ➡ **Pedestrian safety tips:** Always **STOP** at the curb/edge, and LOOK LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT before crossing street. Always use designated crosswalks and pedestrian signals with crossing guard, when available making sure to follow all signal instructions. Do not cross mid block between intersections, unless there is a designated crosswalk. Do not cross in front of a vehicle unless you know for sure the driver clearly sees you.

- ➡ **Be Safe...Be Seen.** When walking or bike riding wear bright colors during the day. During dawn, dusk and night times, use lights and/or reflective clothing so you are more visible to drivers. Backpacks should have reflective materials on them. Carry a flashlight.

!!SAFETY RECAP!!

FOR MOTORISTS

- ***Stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. Failure to stop carries a \$200 fine, a 2 point license penalty and insurance surcharge.***
 - ***Watch for pedestrians when turning right on red.***
 - ***Obey speed limits***
 - ***Do not block or park in crosswalks.***
 - ***Keep your windshield clean for maximum visibility.***
 - ***Be alert for pedestrians at all times***

FOR CHILDREN

- ***Cross at intersections only.***
- ***Never cross from in-between parked cars.***
- ***Before crossing, look left, right and left again and listen for traffic.***
 - ***Always walk facing traffic.***
 - ***Wear light colored or reflective clothing at night.***
- ***If there are no sidewalks available, walk as far off the roadway as possible on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.***
 - ***Obey all traffic signs and signals.***

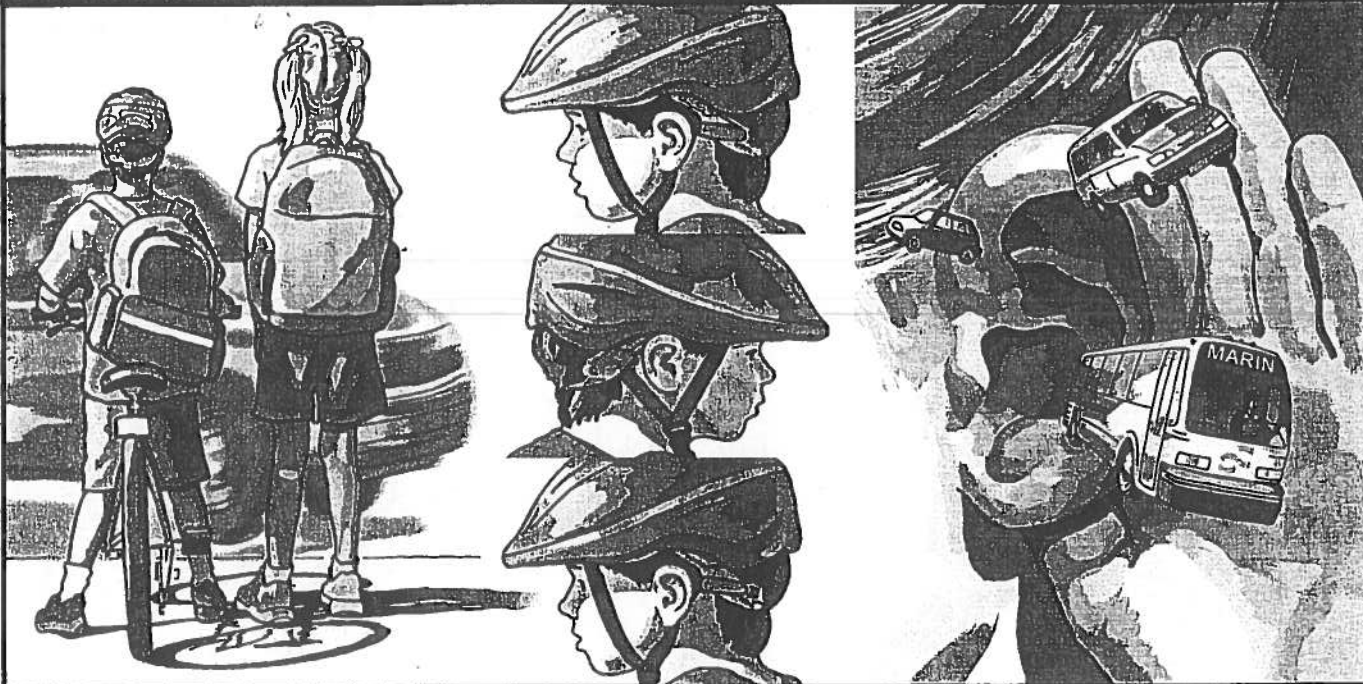


- **Learn the proper use of**  **“Walk/Don’t Walk” signals.**

Please remember, there will be more children walking or biking to and from school. The Elmwood Park Police Department will do our part in making the streets and sidewalks safe, please do your part also to ensure everyone is safe this coming school year!!

when riding and walking

6 Simple Steps for Staying Safe



- ① **STOP LOOK AND LISTEN** at every road edge
- ② **Look LEFT** look right, then left again
- ③ **NEVER** run across the street
- ④ **Find the safest place to cross the street**
- ⑤ **Always wear a helmet** when riding a bike
- ⑥ **Obe**y all traffic signs and signals



**SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOLS**

MARIN COUNTY a program of Marin County Bicycle Coalition

saferoutestoschools.org

Starting a walking school bus: the basics

Why develop a walking school bus?

Studies show that fewer children are walking and biking to school, and more children are at risk of becoming overweight. Changing behaviors of children and parents require creative solutions that are safe and fun.

Implementing a walking school bus can be both.

What is a walking school bus?

A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. If that sounds simple, it is, and that's part of the beauty of the walking school bus. It can be as informal as two families taking turns walking their children to school to as structured as a route with meeting points, a timetable and a regularly rotated schedule of trained volunteers.

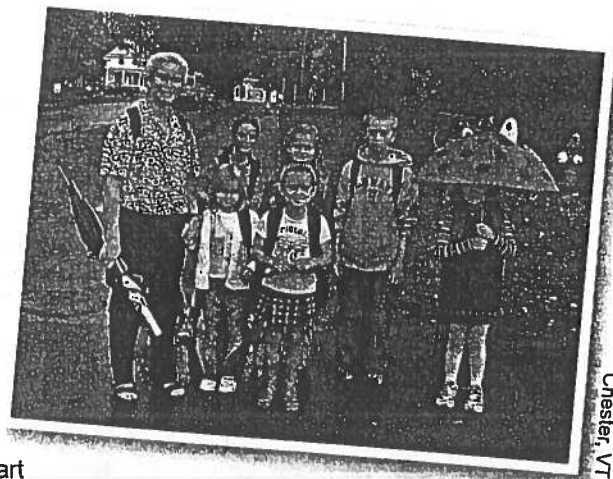
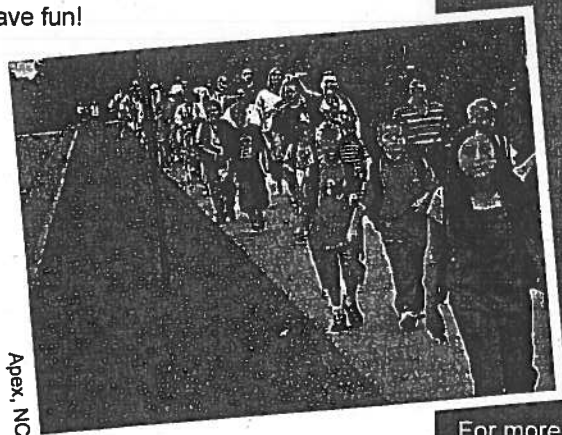
A variation on the walking school bus is the bicycle train, in which adults supervise children riding their bikes to school. The flexibility of the walking school bus makes it appealing to communities of all sizes with varying needs.

Parents often cite safety issues as one of the primary reasons they are reluctant to allow their children to walk to school. Providing adult supervision may help reduce those worries for families who live within walking or bicycling distance to school.

Starting simple

When beginning a walking school bus, remember that the program can always grow. It often makes sense to start with a small bus and see how it works. Pick a single neighborhood that has a group of parents and children who are interested. It's like a carpool—without the car—with the added benefits of exercise and visits with friends and neighbors. For an informal bus:

1. Invite families who live nearby to walk.
2. Pick a route and take a test walk.
3. Decide how often the group will walk together.
4. Have fun!



When picking a route, answer these four questions:

1. **Do you have room to walk?**
Are there sidewalks or paths?
Is there too much traffic?
2. **Is it easy to cross the street?**
3. **Do drivers behave well?**
Do they yield to walkers?
Do they speed?
4. **Does the environment feel safe?**
Are there loose dogs?
Is there criminal activity?

For more help identifying walkable routes, use the Walkability Checklist that can be found at www.walktoschool.org/buildevent/checklists.cfm.

SafeRoutes
National Center for Safe Routes to School



www.walktoschool.org www.saferoutesinfo.org