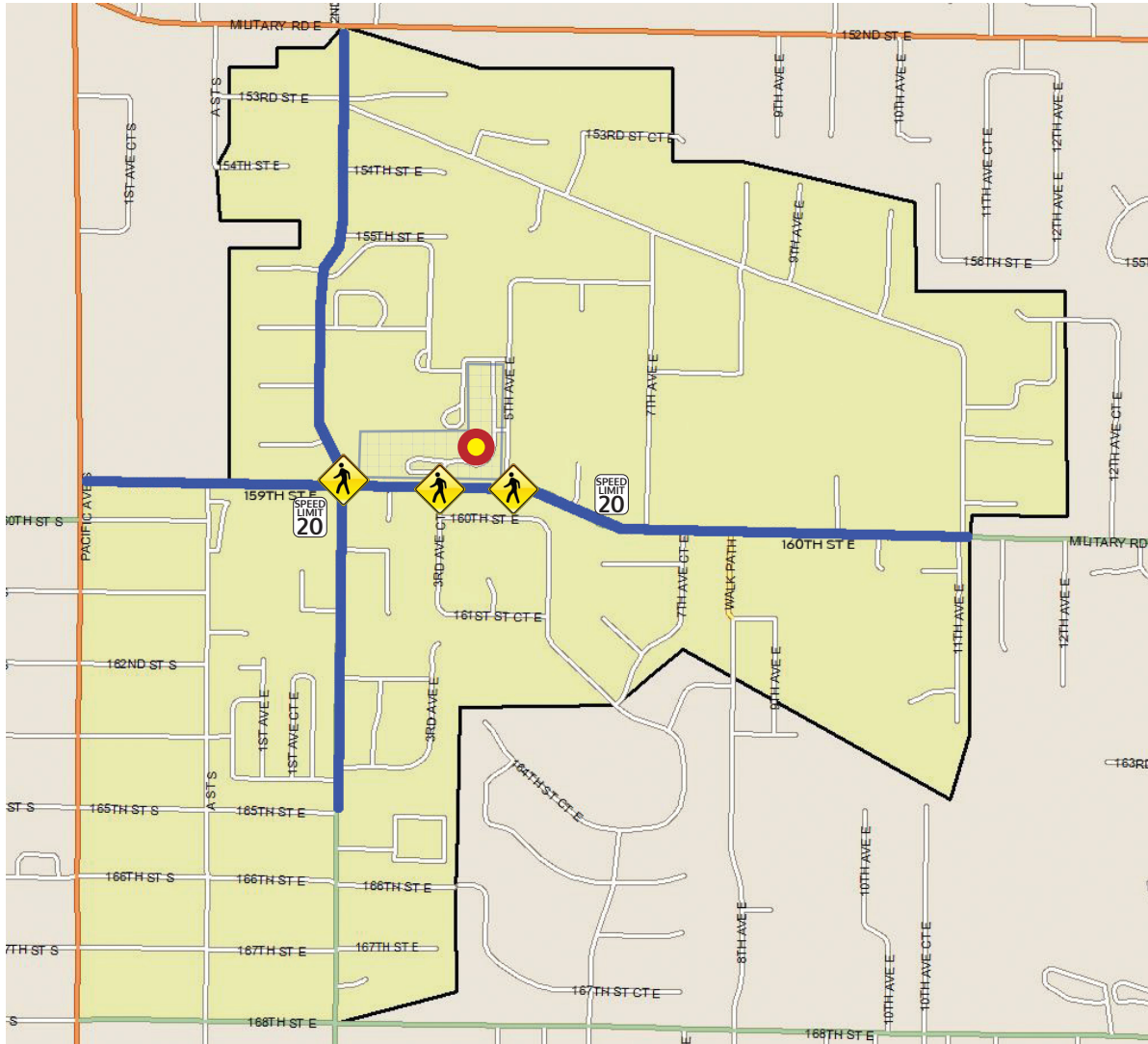


THOMPSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 303 159th Street East · Tacoma, WA 98445

School Walking Routes



 School

 Crosswalk Supervision

 School Property

 School Speed Zone

 Safe Walk Route

 Walk Area

Inquiries regarding student transportation, including safe walking routes to school, should be directed to the Transportation Department at 253.800.5900.

Get to school safe and sound!

Bethel Schools have prepared this map to help parent and students review their options for traveling from home to school and back. Choose the most appropriate route based on your knowledge of route conditions and the needs and experience level of your student.



Tips for walking safely to school

Walking is a fun and healthy activity, but you need to be safe while doing it. Follow these tips to make sure you get to school and home again without any problems.

Selecting a route

- Look for routes to walk or bike that are separated from traffic. Choose sidewalks or paths when possible, even if it means the trip to/from school will take a little longer.
- If there are no sidewalks or paths, walk or bike as far from motor vehicles as possible, on the side of the street *facing* traffic.

Be safe and be seen

- Remember, drivers may not be able to see you well. Always wear bright-colored clothes. If it is dark or hard to see, carry a flashlight or wear reflective gear.
- Watch out for cars and trucks at every driveway and intersection along your walk to and from school. Look for drivers in parked cars; they may be getting ready to move!

Have fun, walk with a buddy

- Younger children should always walk with an adult, and older children should walk with a friend when possible.
- Pay attention. When you are near the street, don't push, shove, or chase each other. Don't be distracted by your phone or headphones.
- Never hitchhike or accept rides from people not arranged by your parents.
- Talk with your parents and teacher about any bullying that may happen during your walk.

Cross the street safely

- Try to cross as few streets as possible. When you must cross, try to do so where there are traffic signals, stop signs, crossing beacons, school crosswalks or crossing guards.
- When you reach an intersection, look left, right, and left again before crossing.
- Walk, do not run across the street, and pay attention to the instructions given by crossing guards and school patrol.

Bethel School District has the responsibility to ensure student safety when walking to school and riding buses as per Policy 6605. In Washington State, school districts are responsible for developing a walking route for each elementary school in their district where children walk to and from school. A walking route to school is based on considerations of traffic patterns and existing traffic controls such as crosswalks, traffic lights, or school safety patrol posts. The chosen route should seek to limit the number of school zone crossings in a way that encourages students to cross streets in groups. In addition, it should seek those routes that provide the greatest physical separation between walking children and traffic, expose children to the lowest speeds and volumes of moving vehicles, and have the fewest number of road or rail crossings.

If your child rides a bike to school, please check with your child's school regarding their rules for riding a bike to school. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding transportation, please visit bethelsd.org/programs-departments/transportation.