

# STMA Middle School West

## Walking and Biking to School Safely



Excellence Is Our Tradition

**Teachers and Parents - we need your help!**

*In an effort to make our schools more safe we would like you to take some time to talk to your student about their role in getting to school safely.*

*Thank you in advance!*

*~ Mr. Jennissen, Assistant Principal*

# *If your student walks...*

- o **Use the safest route:** Always stay on the sidewalk or walking path and use the crosswalk at intersections.
- o **Face the traffic:** If your walking routes do not have bike paths or sidewalks and you are forced to walk on the road, always walk in the face of oncoming traffic.
- o **Never Walk Alone:** If at all possible, walk with a friend. Not only does this increase your safety while walking; it also makes your traveling so much more enjoyable. In the absence of a traveling companion, always tell someone which route you will be walking and what time you expect to arrive and consequently, return.

# *If your student walks...*

- **Walk defensively.** Don't simply assume that all road-users know about the 'pedestrian has right-of-way' rule. Many of them don't.
- **Keep right:** If you're walking on a cycling or pedestrian path, always walk on the right hand side so that faster walkers, runners and cyclists can easily pass. If you're walking with one or more companions, don't hog the path and prevent others from easily overtaking.
- **Leave the cell phone, device or earbuds etc. in your backpack:** That way you will be alert to any potential dangers, be it a dog, a fast-approaching car, or the sound of other people around you.

# *If your student walks...*

- **Be aware of your surroundings: Stand clear of parked cars and obstacles before crossing.**
- **Be alert: Look and continue look for vehicles in all lanes of traffic when crossing the road.**

# *If your student rides bike...*

- Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that your brakes work.
- Watch out for drivers. **Remember, just because you can see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.**
- Be on the lookout for hazards such as potholes, broken glass, gravel, puddles, leaves, and dogs. All these hazards can cause a crash. If you are riding with friends and you are in the lead, yell out and point to the hazard to alert the riders behind you.

# *If your student rides bike...*

- Always cross intersections at marked crosswalks or designated bike crossings.
- Always ride with at least one hand on the handlebars. Carry books and other items in a bicycle carrier or backpack.
- Do not make careless or reckless maneuvers.
- When arriving at the Middle School West Campus, get off your bike and walk it across the crosswalk and safely to the bike racks between Doors A and B in the front of the building. Please use the available racks and lock up your bike!

## Reminders for both bikers and walkers...

- Enter the building using Door B.
- Utilize crosswalks.
- Follow the directions of the School Crossing Guard (when available).
- Walk on sidewalks once on school property (including those who ride bikes, Razors, scooters etc).



A quick message from Deputy Chad Torkelson  
MSW School Resource Officer

**Safety is our number one priority. Wright County Sheriff's Office has partnered with STMA School District to educate students on safety while walking or riding bikes to school.**

**Mr. Jennissen has mentioned several great ways to remain safe while walking or biking. Please remember to look both ways while crossing the street as vehicles may not see you and if you are biking, wear a helmet.**

**Any questions or concerns stop into the office and ask me.**

**Thank you for your attention. Deputy Chad Torkelson**



# Thank you!

You can find more information and safety tips/resources by going to the MN Department of Transportation using [this link](#).

**Have a wonderful and safe school year!!!**