

Safe Routes to School

Frequently Asked Questions – Part 2 of 3

This is Part 2 in a 3-part series to answer your questions about the STA Safe Routes to School Program and get you prepared for **Walk to School Day on Oct. 6th**! Please visit the school website for additional information and materials:

www.staindy.org/school and watch for Part 3 in next week's School Scoops!

What is Walk to School Day and who participates?

- ❖ Walk to School Day is an international event where students are encouraged to and celebrated for walking and biking to school
- ❖ In our neighborhood, 3 other schools will be participating at the same time: St. Joan of Arc, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and Center for Inquiry will also be walking and biking on October 6th!
- ❖ Over 1,000 schools from around the world have already registered to participate. We will be celebrating International Walk to School Day along with thousands of students from around the globe!

How is STA participating in WTS Day?

- ❖ Our regular Walking School Buses will run on all five routes on October 6th
- ❖ A Bicycle Train will run from 58th/Pennsylvania Street to school on October 6th.
- ❖ A special morning assembly will take place to encourage kids to stay active.
- ❖ Other plans in the works: Special guests, prizes, refreshments, media attention, and poster contests! Be sure to watch for the Butler bulldog on your route!!

What is a Walking School Bus or Bicycle Train?

- ❖ It's one way to get kids to school safely! A Walking School Bus or Bike Train is an organized group of students walking or biking to school with one or more adults.
- ❖ St. Thomas operates 5 morning walking school bus routes, designated by color.
- ❖ We operate bike trains on special event days only for now, but encourage your feedback if you'd like to see them operate more frequently!
- ❖ Maps of the walking school bus routes are available electronically on the school website (www.staindy.org/school) and are posted at the entrance to the school.

How can I participate in a Walking School Bus or Bike Train?

- ❖ Walking: If you live near or along one of the routes, consider letting your child / children join the walk or... even better... walk along with them. On the route map, make note of the route closest to your home and its designated start time (usually around 7:30 AM). An adult will be at the terminus of each route at the designated start time and will walk the length of the route to school. Students may join the route at any location – no reservation required!
- ❖ Bicycling: The bike train will begin gathering at 58th / Pennsylvania at 7:20 am for a prompt 7:30 am departure. The bike train will travel south on Pennsylvania St to 49th Street, then west on 49th to Kenwood. They will turn south on Kenwood and proceed to the STA bike racks. You can join the train anywhere along its route but you must be wearing a helmet to participate!
- ❖ If you live too far away to walk, then consider dropping your son/daughter off at the end of one of the routes to join up with one of the groups. You can also drop your student off anywhere along any of the routes to join the group!
- ❖ Before allowing your child to join one of the routes, please make sure they are familiar with basic pedestrian / bicycling safety rules and that they understand the importance of following any direction given by their adult chaperone! We will have extra eyes and ears out on October 6th, but do expect all students to act responsibly and courteously for the safety of the entire group!
- ❖ Wear brightly colored clothes (and reflectors if you have them!). Bring a flashlight for dark mornings. Remind your younger children to cross streets and intersections only with adult supervision.

Who should walk or bike to school?

- ❖ Allowing your children to walk or bike to school is a personal decision! Only you can decide when your child is ready to start!
- ❖ What the Safe Routes to School Committee *will* do is to make sure that when and if you do make that choice, you will be provided with resources to do so safely. Additionally, we will do our best, using all of the resources we can identify, to make sure that the routes to school are as safe as possible!