

# Safe Routes to School

## Frequently Asked Questions – Part 3 of 3

This is Part 3 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. 6<sup>th</sup>**! Please visit the school website for additional information and materials:

[www.staindy.org/school](http://www.staindy.org/school)! All three parts in this series will be posted online for your reference.

### *What activities will take place at STA for Walk to School Day?*

- ❖ All Walking School bus routes will operate on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Even if yours doesn't typically run on a Wednesday, it WILL on Walk to School Day! Please refer to the Walking School Bus map (download from the school website [www.staindy.org](http://www.staindy.org) or check the map posted at the school entrance!) to find the route nearest to your home. If you live too far for your kids to comfortably walk or bike, please consider dropping them somewhere along one of the walking school bus routes so that they can participate on this special day. Starting times for each route are indicated on the map.
- ❖ We have invited a number of community leaders to join us on our walking routes. So far we know that the Indianapolis Marion County Police Dept and members from the Butler Basketball team will be joining our walking school buses that morning! We expect to hear from other special guests in the coming days. Especially on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, we are also encouraging parents to join in the walk to school too! We'll have a lot of kids walking, so extra adult support will be welcome.
- ❖ All students who walk or bike to school on this day will receive a raffle ticket, good for a chance to win a special prize from Peyton Manning's Children Hospital at St. Vincent!

### *How can we stay safe on our walk to school?*

- ❖ It will be dark when we get started, so wear bright colors and/or reflective gear if it is available to you and your children! You may also want to bring along a flashlight!
- ❖ Walk and bike with your kids frequently (not just to school). As you travel, show them how to safely cross streets, watch for traffic, and use the sidewalk or roadway. Remind them that they MUST obey any directions from their walking school bus driver and may not cross any streets without adult supervision.
- ❖ A flyer about how you can teach your kids to be safe pedestrians is included in this week's Scoops. Find additional resources for teaching your kids safe walking and biking habits at [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org) or [www.staindy.org](http://www.staindy.org) (click on Safe Routes to School).

### *How can I help on WTS Day or any other day of the year?*

- ❖ Most importantly, encourage your children to join one of the walking school buses that day! Kids can meet up with one of the "buses" at any point along the routes and can even be dropped off by car to join one of the groups if you live too far to walk the entire way!
- ❖ Ideally, we would love to have students carrying signs and posters as they walk to school on the 6<sup>th</sup> – to help drivers become more aware of our daily presence. Consider helping your son or daughter make a poster to carry with them. The message is up to them, but if you're having trouble coming up with one, some suggestions are "We Love to Walk to School", "Slow Down! We're Walking!", "St. Thomas Celebrates International Walk to School Day", etc.
- ❖ The biggest impact on that day will be for the people that drive down our neighborhood streets to see us out in full force ... so that next time their speedometer starts to creep up on their way to work, they'll remember us and choose to slow down and pay a little extra attention! Encourage your kids and their friends to participate and walk along with them!
- ❖ Volunteer to chaperone a walking school bus one or two days a week or join our Safe Routes to School committee! If you are interested in helping out, please email our committee chair, Jennifer Pyrz, at [pyrz@pbworld.com](mailto:pyrz@pbworld.com).

### *How can I get more information?*

- ❖ Our committee has posted some useful information on the school website, including preferred routes and Walking School Bus routes. Visit us at [www.staindy.org/school](http://www.staindy.org/school)... choose "Safe Routes to School" from the menu. We will continue to post relevant safety information, updated maps etc here as they become available
- ❖ The National Safe Routes to School organization also has a great deal of useful information online at [www.saferoutesinfo.org](http://www.saferoutesinfo.org).
- ❖ We can only improve and maintain the program with your support, so please don't be shy about sending the committee your ideas, concerns, or thoughts as we proceed! Email [pyrz@pbworld.com](mailto:pyrz@pbworld.com) or leave a note with Rose to forward to the committee.