



WALKING & BIKING TO SCHOOL SAFELY!



Student safety is the utmost importance at Portage Public Schools. Parents/guardians of students who walk to school are asked to review the following pedestrian safety guidelines with your children:

1. The best route to school.
2. The safest place to cross the street when walking to school.
3. Where the safety patrol/crossing guards are and what they do to help children.
4. Where to walk if there is no sidewalk.
5. Not to walk between parked cars or buses.
6. Not to ride with or talk to strangers.
7. Encourage your child to walk in groups.

Safety tips for walking:

- Walk on the sidewalk or a walking path. When there is no sidewalk and you have to walk on the road, ***be sure to walk facing traffic.***
- Always walk when crossing the street, ***never run across the street*** to catch a ball or chase a toy, a friend, or a pet.
- ***Darting out in front of a parked car is dangerous.*** The driver of the car coming down the street can't see you.
- ***Cross at corners and use crosswalks whenever possible;*** always stay within the lines of the crosswalk.
- ***Never go for a walk with a stranger.*** Only walk with someone who your parents say is okay.
- ***Be careful around parked cars;*** stop, look left, look right, and look left again before stepping to out.

Safety tips for riding a bike to school:

- When riding your bike to school, ALWAYS wear a helmet that is properly fitted.
- Ride on the right side of the road or trail in a single file line (one bike behind the other) in the same direction as other vehicles and come to a complete stop before crossing streets.
- Walk your bike on school grounds.
- Park and lock your bike in the bike racks located by the south parking lot or the bus loop.

Safety tips for crossing the street when walking or biking:

- ***Stop at the curb or the edge of the road (if there is no curb) before you cross***
- ***Stop and look left, then right, then left again,*** turning your head to see over your shoulder for moving cars, before you step enter the street.
- ***Listen for the sound of car motors, car doors, sirens, and horns before you enter the street.***
- ***If you see a car, wait until it goes by.*** Then look left, right, left again until no cars are coming. Be aware that cars may not stop even if you have the right-of-way.
- If a car is parked where you are crossing, look to make sure there is no driver and that the car is not running. ***DO NOT WALK OR RIDE BETWEEN PARKED CARS OR BUSES!***
- When no cars are coming, ***WALK - do not run- or ride across the road.*** Keep looking for cars while you are crossing.