
[princi_elem] Walking School Bus opportunity!

From : Sarah Mazze <mazze_s@4j.lane.edu> Fri, Mar 23, 2018 10:35 AM
Sender : princi elem-bounces <princi_elem-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [princi_elem] Walking School Bus opportunity!
To : Principals, Elementary <princi_elem@4j.lane.edu>

All,

In an attempt to be more inclusive of our bus-riding students on Walk & Roll to School Day this May 9th, Safe Routes to School and the Transportation Department are planning “walking school buses” for schools with busing that choose to participate. The current plan is as follows, but we’re open to suggestions for making it a success!

- Buses will stop ¼-1 mile from school at a designated spot like a church or other large parking lot selected for its bus accessibility and the safety of the route to school from that location. I will contact you individually about your school’s route.
- Ideally, you will meet the bus riders along with other school staff, prominent community members like City Councilors, and any other non-bused students and families that would like to join the walking group.
- From the drop-off spot, the group will have a blast walking *safely* in a huge, chaperoned "walking school bus" to school with banners and whatever else your school would like to do to make it festive and to show pride for your school and what students are doing both by riding the bus and by walking.
- Students who are not participating will be driven the rest of the way to school on the bus.
- At school, the walkers should arrive before bell time, but those who wish to eat breakfast may need accomodation, perhaps in the form of permission to eat in the classroom?
- I have reached out to the Special Education department to determine how best to be inclusive of our students with special needs.

We expect that students will be empowered and will feel a part of something bigger than themselves through the event, and that for some this could carry into their daily commute by encouraging them to bus or walk more. Students will arrive at school having gotten some energy out. Neighbors will see that students walking to school are sharing their streets, and ideally, that they should drive with care and insist on safe infrastructure for them.

You may choose whether you would like your school to participate, and parents will be informed ahead of time so that individual participation can also be voluntary. I hope that you will seize this exciting opportunity! I will begin sending your routes, but in the meantime, feel free to ask questions and to let me know if you are interested in participating.

Sarah

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