

# GO!-ING TO SCHOOL SAFELY

## *A Walk and Bike to School Toolkit*

### **To: Parents, Guardians, Students, and School Administration**

The City of Bismarck's goal is to create a safe and livable city for all by enhancing public safety through proactive measures that continually decrease the five-year average number of traffic fatalities. Street safety around schools is particularly essential to protect our most vulnerable road users and to support healthy and vibrant communities. When neighborhood streets are safe, parents, guardians, caregivers, and children are more likely to choose to walk and bike to school and use their community playgrounds. Active trips to school enable children to incorporate the regular physical activity they need each day while also forming healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Additionally, the whole community benefits from efforts to enable and encourage more children to walk or bicycle to school: less traffic congestion, stronger sense of community, safer streets, lower costs, improved accessibility, and economic gains.

### **About the Toolkit**

Schools can use this educational toolkit to promote walking and biking to school through fun, creative and artistic design; in addition to, building awareness of pedestrian safety around schools. For additional safety messaging, you can enjoy this [short video](#) and visit the Walk & Bike to School [website](#).

### **Learn More**

The City of Bismarck works closely with stakeholders to encourage safe behaviors around schools using enforcement, road design and engineering, and more. Learn more at <https://www.bismarcknd.gov/together2045>.



## DIY SCHOOL SIGN ACTIVITY

Encourage students to get involved in safe street initiatives at their school by creating their own sign! Create a contest to select one design for each participating class and work with me to print signage for the school. Students can create designs that promote safer streets for their school using 8 ½ x 11" paper.

### Benefits:

- Engage students in pedestrian safety
- Allow kids to express their creativity and take ownership of safety at their school
- Add signage in the school area to create awareness
- Increase the number of students walking and biking to and from school

In order to support as many schools as possible, we ask that schools submit only one sign design per participating class to be printed.

### How to Participate:

1. Contact [kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov) to let me know your class and/or school is participating in the DIY School Sign Activity by March 15, 2022.
2. Host a discussion with your students.
  - Why is reducing vehicle speeds in neighborhoods beneficial?  
*When vehicles drive slower, walking and biking is safer. Fast cars make it harder to walk/bike.*
  - What rules do we need to follow when walking or biking to school?  
*Helmets, follow signs on, look both ways, etc.*
3. Invite students to create unique signs showing support for safe walking and biking. Ask them to use their creativity to encourage everyone to participate in street safety.
4. Hold a contest to select the winning design for the class. Submit the winning sign to [kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov) by April 15, 2022.

5. I will coordinate with you the following week to print. Consider posting all signs that were created in a visible space within the school for others to see. Displaying their art is an excellent way to showcase students' interest and commitment to safe streets!
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## VIBRANT SIDEWALK ACTIVITY

Encourage students to get involved in promoting walking and biking to school by creating their own fun and artistic design for a sidewalk near the school!

### Benefits:

- Draw attention to a sidewalk and encourage students to walk and bike to school
- Add personality and school spirit to your sidewalks while increasing safety
- Increase the number of students who are active before and after school

In order to support as many schools as possible, we ask that only one sidewalk design per school is submitted.

### How to Participate:

1. Contact [kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov) to let us know your school is interested in participating in the Vibrant Sidewalk Activity by March 15, 2022.
2. Host a discussion with your students.
  - Why is it beneficial to walk or bike to school?  
*Physical activity, environmental factors, etc.*
  - What are some actions students can take to make sure they are safe when walking or biking to school?  
*To help support the discussion, please enjoy this [short video](#) or visit the Walk & Bike to School [website](#).*

3. Invite students to walk around the school to select one sidewalk to bring to life as part of this activity.
  4. Encourage the students to brainstorm different ideas for the sidewalk and discuss what they might want to symbolize or emphasize in their design.
  5. Submit your classroom design to [kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:kjohnke@bismarcknd.gov) by April 15, 2022.
  6. I will coordinate with you the following week to arrange a date when the students can paint the sidewalk. Supplies will be provided.
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