

Live too far from school?

Park and Walk and Take the 3-Block Challenge!

Reducing traffic congestion and CO₂ emissions results in a safer and healthier environment.

Getting children to school safely can be quite an undertaking for parents, especially when trying to make it a healthy and enjoyable experience. Incorporating a park and ride or bike/scooter experience can be a practicable option when getting your kids active and ready for school.

For the month of February, Safe Routes to School is implementing a 3-Block Challenge. Choose up to three locations where you can park your car and drop off your older children to walk/roll to school and walk with your younger children. This will add valuable family time to your day while all participants benefit from the positive effects of walking and being outdoors.

Tips for Planning your Park and Walk

- Locate a parking spot a few blocks from the school with good walking access to the building. Look for routes with sidewalks or pedestrian paths and safe crossing areas.
- If you are in a neighborhood, make sure to respect the residents by not blocking driveways, mailboxes, trash cans, or fire hydrants.
- If you are near a marked crosswalk, make sure to park at least 20 feet from it so you don't obstruct the visibility of the crossing.
- When crossing the street with your child, keep in mind that in a crosswalk you have the right-of-way as a pedestrian, but you need to make sure that cars can see you before entering the crosswalk. This is a great opportunity to role model safe crossing choices!
- Make sure not to park in designated no-parking zones or bus loading zones.
- Plan your route to avoid making u-turns, a common cause of traffic conflict.
- Practice your route during school breaks or on a weekend.
- Consider arranging a meet-up with a friend from your child's class to walk together.
- Enjoy the extra time in nature!

