



WALK

WITH US ON THE BUS

The Walking School Bus Introduction and Rules of the Road

WALK

WHAT IS A WALKING SCHOOL BUS?

Walking school buses are groups of students and parents who walk to or from school together. A walking school bus works like a carpool, with parent volunteers “driving” the group. Parents teach the rules of the road, and parent volunteer coordinators can help with the route logistics. All parents do not need to be on each walk; instead each group can work out sharing of supervision to everyone’s satisfaction. The Irvington Walking School Bus serves Dows Lane and Main Street Schools.

JOIN NOW!

- 1. Submit the forms: Family Information, Consent and the Walk Safe Pledge. Find the forms at www.irvingtonnypts.org/walking-school-bus.html**
- 2. A volunteer coordinator will contact you with introductory materials, a route and the timing of the stops.**
- 3. Your child isn’t registered to walk until you receive a confirmation email from irvingtonsaferoutes@gmail.com.**



Share the walk!

Help your kids to practice walking safely and get some outdoor time before (or after) their day at a desk, get some exercise yourself, spend a little unplugged time with the kids, and reduce car traffic on the roads! It's fun!

Getting started

Sign up, review the educational materials and rules with your kids and come along. Join an existing Walking School Bus route or help us to create one that serves your neighborhood. Bring your neighbors and share the walk! The routes are flexible, but once they are set, they stay consistent. As we assess demand, we will give an estimated departure time for each stop. Kids must be at the stop and ready before the departure time.

Don't worry, volunteering doesn't have to be a weekly commitment. Let us know which dates work for you. Parents can take turns as drivers and alternates. You can also join us along the walk any time. When parents walk, they may give a child whose parents cannot be there a chance to walk as well.

Staying safe

The purpose of the Walking School Bus is to teach kids how to walk mindfully and safely. For participating parents, being safe means we all show the kids who walk with us the same approach. Review a copy of the brochure *Teaching your Children to Walk Safely* and go over the Walking School Bus Policy with your kids. These are our rules of the road.

Each fall and spring walking season, we begin with a brief orientation meeting for new parent participants to ensure that all adults are reinforcing the walking behaviors that we want to see our kids practice when they are walking independently. It's also when we set routes and form walking groups. It's a great chance to meet other parents who may be on your route.

Ask your child to sign the Walk Safe Pledge and return it with your consent form. Kids who can't follow the supervising parents' directions risk the safety of the group or themselves and won't be able to participate in future walks!

The supervision for Dows Lane and Main Street walkers is one parent per three kids ages 4 to 6 and one parent per six kids ages 7 through 10. In order to maintain safe walks for each family, participating children must have a spot reserved each week prior to the day of the walk. In this way, we ensure that we have sufficient parent volunteers to supervise all of the kids who want to participate.

Questions? Email
irvingtonsaferoutes@gmail.com

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Photos by Tamara Magritsky Photography.





IRVINGTON WALKING SCHOOL BUS POLICY (Rules of the Road)

1. Once set, the Walking School Bus (WSB) always follows the same route. The driver does not have the authority to change the route or stops without permission.
2. In order to share supervision of other kids, parents must register with the school as a volunteer Driver. Any non-parent must have a background check, or can't be counted in the group of supervising adults.
3. Drivers will be provided with a reflective safety vest to wear at all times while operating the WSB. An adult must hold the stop sign at crossings.
4. Walkers should arrive at their stop a few minutes early. They wait on the sidewalk or in an agreed on area for pick up. The WSB will leave each stop at the designated time. It does not wait for latecomers.
5. Apartment buildings will have one designated spot for pick up and drop off.
6. Drivers escort the walkers onto school property.
7. The ratio for supervision will be one parent to three children ages 4-6, one parent to six children ages 7-10. If an additional parent volunteer cannot be found to provide enough supervision for the walkers, the trip may have to be canceled or the last to sign up will not be able to walk.
8. Walkers must show cooperation with Drivers' directions in order to keep themselves and other walkers safe.
9. Walkers follow accepted pedestrian rules such as crossing at crosswalks. They stay on the sidewalk unless they are directed to walk elsewhere by Drivers.
10. Walkers must remain with the group. They do not wander off, run ahead or lag behind.
11. The bus stops on the sidewalk before crossing the street. The group crosses together with an adult at the front and back of the line.
12. Walkers are expected to carry all their belongings independently.
13. Walkers show respect to property and kindness and respect to others, whether on the bus or as they pass. They may not go onto other people's property.
14. No electronics or wheels on the bus: i.e. skateboards, rollerblades, scooters or wheelie shoes.
15. When you reserve a spot for your walker(s) and yourself each week prior to the day of the walk, you help the volunteer coordinators to ensure that every walking child will have enough supervision.



Although we are serious about safety, kids have fun! We have games to play as we walk, and prizes for just getting up and out on the trails and sidewalks. Rewards will be given periodically to the kids for being great listeners and safe walkers.