

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Safety Patrol Parent Resource



Congratulations!

Your child has been selected to serve as a school Safety Patrol! Your child has displayed behaviors that exemplify leadership qualities and will now assist with arrival and dismissal safety procedures, along with other duties, that help make the school safer.



Some important things to remember about Safety Patrols:

MEET EXPECTATIONS – Safety Patrol Members need to have exemplary attendance, maintain good grades, and be a positive role model for others. Failure to meet any of these expectations may result in being removed from the Safety Patrol Team.

- Have a conversation with your child about the school's expectations of Safety Patrol members. Make sure that your child understands what is required of him/her to stay on Safety Patrol.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – Your school's Safety Patrol Team leader will have a list of Safety Patrol member's duties and stations.

- Talk with your child about what it is they are doing on the Safety Patrol Team. Discuss how they are responsible for displaying safe behaviors and how they support the safety of others.

STAY SAFE – All Safety Patrol members are positive role models for their classmates. This means practicing pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, and car rider safety at all times. Go over the following tips with your child and discuss real-life examples where safety is especially important.

■ Pedestrian Safety

- Before crossing a street, you should always look left, right, and left again. Do not run across the street. Always walk when crossing the street.
- If there is NOT a sidewalk available, you should walk on the left side of the road so that you are facing oncoming traffic.
- Walk with friends and/or with a trusted adult. Do not walk by yourself.
- If walking at night, make sure to wear reflective or light-colored clothing.

■ Bicycle Safety

- When riding your bike, you should always ride on the right side of the road and go in the same direction as traffic.
- A helmet is the most important piece of safety equipment a bike rider can wear. It should sit two finger widths above your eye brows, have the chin strap buckled, and fit snugly.
- When riding your bike, you should be "predictable." Predictable means that car drivers should be able to expect what you'll be doing on your bicycle, and therefore you should ride in a straight line and not weave in front of cars.
- Wear closed-toed shoes when riding a bike, and make sure shoe laces are tied and tucked.
- By state law, if riding your bike at night, your bicycle must be equipped with a white bike light affixed to the front of the bike and a red reflector affixed to the back of the bike.

■ Car Rider Safety

- Passenger side airbags deploy at over 200 miles per hour and may injure a child riding in the front seat. Therefore, it's suggested that children under 13 should always ride in the back seat.
- Best practices indicate that children under four feet, nine inches tall and 80 pounds should ride in a booster seat.*
- Being a respectful passenger means that you are not causing distractions for the driver of a vehicle. Make sure you are respectful in allowing the driver to pay attention to the road.
- Be careful when helping unload and load students in the parent loop. Do not approach a car while the car is moving, and stay at least one big step from the curb on the sidewalk.
- Always wear your seat belt when riding in the car. Ask the driver to not drive until you are buckled in.

*South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), Child Passenger Safety Program

QUESTIONS?
We are here to help.

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