

“Safe Practices” walking home from School

Walking home from school is standard practice for many students in the Eastmont School District for a variety of reasons. Considering the times and the recent reported incident, I wish to give parents and their students some “safe practice” tips to consider whenever practicable.

1. Walk in groups as much as is feasible.
2. Be intentional about alternative people to walk to and from school with if plan “A” does not work. Talk with parents in the neighborhood who have school aged children of similar age and coordinate with them.
3. If you can take the school bus, do so.
4. If parents or another responsible adult can pick up the student, this is another alternative to walking. Make sure the school is aware and has marked that the adult can pick the student up.
5. Have student carry a cell phone and talk with them about what to do if they feel unsafe/uncomfortable about their surroundings at a given moment. It is important to have rehearsed with parents a plan for a variety of possible incidents that could occur.
6. If cell phone, school bus, or groups to walk with are not available on a given day, have a number (parent’s cell, etc) that you can call from school telling that person that you are now leaving for home with a route described. Also let that person know when you arrive by calling them again to advise you safely made it home. An alternative can be that a trusted neighbor who is home can be used to make sure student is fine. Note: if you do this, you need to make sure that exceptions are communicated to that person so there are no surprises.
7. Communication with parents/police by students about any suspicious persons/vehicle is important. Do not minimize facts or suspicions and then not communicate them. Information given to the parents/police whether or not you feel an actual crime occurred is still good intelligence information.
8. Please call me, Greg Renggli, Eastmont Resource Officer, at 888-1181 or your school principal, if you have additional questions.