



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Bike to School Day on May 6 – Record Number of Solano Schools to Participate

SUISUN CITY - Hundreds of local students will strap on safety helmets and pedal to school on National Bike to School Day Wednesday, May 6. The annual event focuses attention on the physical and environmental benefits of biking or walking to school instead of commuting by car.

This year, 17 elementary and middle schools throughout Solano County have registered with Solano Safe Routes to School (SR2S) to promote Bike to School Day, an increase of 10 schools over the previous year. Along with promoting safety, SR2S aims to improve children’s health by increasing their daily physical activity by walking and biking to school. SR2S staff works with schools and parents to organize Walking School Buses, conducts traffic safety assemblies, bike safety rodeos, bike and helmet inspections in Solano County schools.

“Students who walk or bike to school arrive energized and ready to learn,” said Benicia Mayor and STA Board chair Elizabeth Patterson. “Also, when there are fewer cars dropping off students, there’s less traffic congestion and less air pollution around schools.”

Participating schools:

Benicia

Mary Farmer

Fairfield

Anna Kyle

Center

Green Valley Middle

Laurel Creek

Nelda Mundy

Vacaville

ACE Charter

Browns Valley

Callison

Cambridge

Fairmont Charter

Markham

Padan

Vallejo

Franklin Middle

Patterson

Pennycook

Vallejo Charter

As a reminder to parents and students alike, the Safe Routes to School Safety Rules are:

1. Think safe to be safe. Observe all traffic safety rules - especially when crossing the street. Parents must ensure that children know and follow the rules.
2. Be safe by walking or riding in groups supervised by an adult.
3. When riding a bicycle or scooter, wear a properly fitted, buckled helmet; (no dangling straps.) A good safety helmet can reduce the risk of severe brain injury by 88 percent, according to Safe Kids Worldwide.
4. To correctly fit helmets, tighten the straps leaving no more than two fingers of space between chin and strap. The helmet should sit level on top of the head and not rock side-to-side or front to back when the straps are tightened.

SOLANO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe Routes to School (SR2S) in Solano County is a program of the Solano Transportation Authority (STA). Education and encouragement events are conducted in partnership with Solano County Public Health. The program was launched in 2008, with an aim to increase the number of students that walk, bike, rideshare or take transit to and from school and supports these activities with educational events throughout the year. There are substantial benefits to increasing active transportation to and from school including improving students’ health and well-being plus reducing both air pollution and traffic congestion.

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