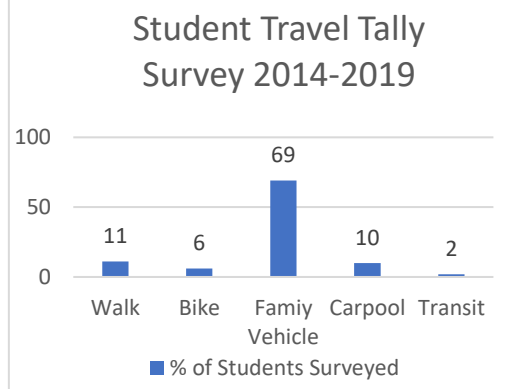


DIXON MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

TK-8th Grades | 400 Students | Charter School

After noticing a considerable increase in bike riders after the Bike to School Day celebration in May 2017, Ben Ernest, Executive Director at Dixon Montessori Charter School, wanted to capitalize on the momentum and launched a WOW (Walk or Wheel) Wednesday program at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. The TK-8th grade school has students traveling from throughout Dixon and several other cities in the area, which adds to traffic challenges. The school wasn't originally designed to have 400 students dropped off by their parents, said Mr. Ernest. It was built when students rode the bus, their bikes, or walked to school.

As a Montessori school, "We believed that riding or walking to school would promote independence in our students, strengthen our community and reduce traffic congestion at a site that wasn't designed for today's commuting habits," Mr. Ernest shared as incentive to participate in the WOW Wednesday program.

The Dixon Montessori WOW Wednesday events are celebrated with the help of parent volunteers who lead the group and help students cross streets along the route. This weekly event has increased the number of students walking or rolling. As a result, traffic issues have been reduced, and students and the school community benefit, as well.

"Our students and parents who ride and walk begin the day more engaged and alert," Mr. Ernest said. "Many of them come to school with a smile on their face and that's a great way to start the day", he added.

The program, now popular with parents and students alike, continued for its second year during the 2019-2020 school year. Students who walk or ride a scooter meet at Northwest Park. Bike riders can either ride from Northwest Park to school or meet Mr. Ernest at Hall Park to ride to school from there. The goal for the next school year is to add more meet-up spots giving more students the opportunity to participate.

In addition to the weekly WOW event, the school has held 14 SR2S activities and programs over the last 5 school years. In March 2019, Dixon Montessori was awarded funding from the SR2S Pilot Micro-Grant Program to purchase incentives and safety equipment to further address the safety of its students as they travel to and from school. The dedication that the staff, parents and students continue to show makes Dixon Montessori Charter School a Solano SR2S Champion School.

Participation by School Year

2014-2015

Student Travel Surveys (Fall)
Student Travel Surveys (Spring)

2017-2018

Bike Rodeo (2 events)
Nat'l Bike to School Day
Dean of Students Meeting

2018-2019

Int'l Walk to School Day
Nat'l Bike to School Day"
Rock the Block" Assembly
Student Travel Surveys (Spring)
WOW Wednesday launch

2019-2020

ATP Project Feedback Meeting
Int'l Walk to School Day
"Light the Way" Assembly
WOW Wednesday continues

