

August 23, 2007

Dear Parents,

Several safety concerns have come to our attention and we felt it was important to send a letter home to you identifying the areas of concern. We encourage you to sit down with your student and review the concerns identified in this letter, as well as, our recommendations for improved safety.

**Area #1: Parent Pick-up and Drop-off:** The safest areas to drop-off or pick-up your student are in the north and south parking lots. Also note that the south lot is used as a bus loading zone. Please do not pick-up or drop-off your student in the bus loading zone. Other areas pose a number of safety concerns. We discourage parents from dropping off or picking up students on 40<sup>th</sup> Street, and the side streets northeast of the school. These areas require students to travel through moving traffic at speeds of up to 40 m.p.h. It is dangerous for students to meet their parents at vehicles outside of our parking areas. The safest zone to drop-off and pick-up your student is in the north and south parking lots. We are recommending that parents utilize these “safe zones” for drop-off and pick-up.

**Area #2: Safest Routes To and From School:** The safest routes to and from school are the public sidewalks. We discourage students from using the desert wash to travel to and from school. The desert wash is not considered the safest route, as we do not have supervision in the wash. We do provide supervision in the north and south parking lots, the bus loading zones, and the crosswalks directly in front of the school. We are recommending the use of public sidewalks as the safest route for students to travel to and from school. Students are also encouraged to travel in pairs or small groups when walking to and from school.

**Area #3: Student Use of Crosswalks:** Students who live west of Explorer MS, who need to cross 40<sup>th</sup> Street, are required to cross at our designated crosswalk area. A trained school crossing guard monitors this area. No other area on 40<sup>th</sup> Street is controlled and monitored by a trained crossing guard. Students are not safe when they cross 40<sup>th</sup> Street in any other area. The time they take to cross in the designated area will save lives. Again, all students who live west of Explorer MS, must cross at the designated area under the supervision of our trained crossing guard.

**Area #4: Bicycle, Scooter, and Skateboard Expectations:** Students who ride a bicycle, scooter, or skateboard to school, are required to walk their bike/scooter or carry their skateboard when they are on school grounds. It is important that at dismissal time, students who ride bicycles, scooters, and skateboards, leave campus promptly, to prevent any accidents or injuries to themselves or others. It is not safe when groups of students with bicycles, scooters, and skateboards remain on school grounds in high traffic areas.

It is important for our students to get a consistent message from school and home that safety comes first before anything else. We appreciate you reviewing this letter carefully with your student, and we are asking that you sign below for confirmation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marianne Bursi  
Principal

Mr. Jay Woller  
Assistant Principal

Directions: Please complete and return to your student's first period teacher.

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Print Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We appreciate you reviewing the safety expectations with your student.