What is Safe Routes to School (SRTS)?

SRTS is a partnership program of the City of Redwood City, San Mateo County, Redwood City School District, and Redwood City 2020. The goal of the program is to encourage and enable children to walk and bicycle to school by implementing projects and activities that improve the health, well-being, and safety of children and result in less traffic congestion and emissions caused by school-related travel.

Why SRTS?

SRTS activities can be an opportunity to try taking more trips on foot or bicycle. Choosing an active transportation mode provides:

- Safer routes to school
- Community benefits
- Health benefits
- Environmental benefits
- Improved test scores
- Decreased traffic

Learn how to share the road safely.

Respect and listen to directions from school personnel and volunteers who make sure children arrive and leave school safely.

**WALK SAFELY**

- Be alert. Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street. At a four-way intersection, also look over your shoulder for cars that may be turning.
- Don’t assume drivers see you! Make eye contact – especially at intersections and driveways.
- Cross at corners or at a marked crosswalk. This is where drivers expect you.
- Follow directions from crossing guards and safety patrols.

**BIKE SAFELY**

- Always wear your helmet and buckle it every time; it’s the law! To best protect your brain, your helmet must fit properly: snug and level on your head, just above your eyebrows.
- Be predictable. Follow the same rules of the road as drivers when riding your bike. This includes obeying ALL stop signs and traffic signals, as well as yielding to people walking.
- Ride on the right hand side of the road, in the same direction as traffic. Watch out for turning cars and cars coming out of driveways.
- When riding on the sidewalk, ride slowly and watch out for people walking as well as cars coming out of driveways.
- Be alert. Watch out for drivers turning left or right, or cars coming out of driveways. Avoid doors being opened in front of you by riding out of the door zone.

**DRIVE & CARPOOL**

- Slow down in school zones. The safe speed may be below the 25 mph speed limit.
- Be aware of students walking or biking to school – use extra caution. Students think drivers can stop instantly and may not be able to judge speed or distance of vehicles moving toward them.
- Obey “No Right Turn on Red” signs. This allows students to cross safely without cars turning through the crosswalk.
- Yield to people walking in crosswalks.
- Avoid making U-turns and other unsafe maneuvers.
- Never double park. Don’t block red curbs or disabled access ramps.
- Ensure your student gets out of your car on the curb side, not near traffic.
- Set a good example by following instructions of crossing guards.
- Try to carpool whenever possible to help increase safety near schools.

Look on the back for a cool map!
This map will help you to choose the best walking or bicycling route – it may not be the same way you would drive in a car!

Parents are encouraged to walk or bike with students and use this mapping tool to explore options for commuting from home to school. Parents are responsible for choosing the most appropriate route based on their knowledge of conditions on the route between home and school and the experience level of their child.