

ABOUT THE WALK ROUTE

Walking to school each day will help your child meet the daily physical activity requirements of 60 minutes a day, keeping your child healthy, fit, and ready to learn. Children who walk to school also help minimize parking lot congestion at our school. We have developed this school walk route to encourage walking and safe pedestrian behaviors.

The plan has been developed based on traffic patterns and traffic controls such as crosswalks and safety patrol posts. The route limits the number of street crossings children will make and seeks to group children together to increase their visibility and safety. *Therefore, the route may not be the shortest way to school, but it is important that children follow the route.*

Please help your child become familiar with this route by walking it together and practicing good pedestrian behaviors. Teach your child to cross the street only at the locations indicated on the map.

Together we can work to make your child's walk to school an enjoyable part of his or her day.

YOUR SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

West Hills STEM Academy has a School Safety Patrol. Students are trained and then serve duty 20 minutes before and after school, each day.

To help ensure the safety of all of our students, please follow the directions given by the Safety Patrol on duty.

If your student is interested in becoming a part of the Safety Patrol, please have them notify their classroom teacher. It is a great opportunity for leadership and giving back to the school community.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

BE VISIBLE!

- Make sure drivers see you before crossing in front of them. Always attempt to make eye contact.
- Do not play in driveways, streets or by the side of the road.
- Wear highly visible clothing or reflectors when walking in the dark and use a flashlight.
- Cross at least 10 feet in front of a school bus or other large vehicle.
- If you are emerging from behind a parked car or other obstacle, step out slowly and make sure you are visible.

BE CAREFUL!

- Do not cross the street without supervision if you're younger than ten years old.
- Cross at intersections, using traffic signals and crosswalks whenever possible.
- Stop at the edges of driveways, alleys, and curbs or edges of the street where no curb exists and look left, right, and left again for vehicles before crossing the street.
- Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Walk on the sidewalks and trails when they are available, or if it is safe and you must walk on the side of the road, walk on the edge, facing traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Walk in a single file line on narrow sidewalks and shoulders.

BE AWARE!

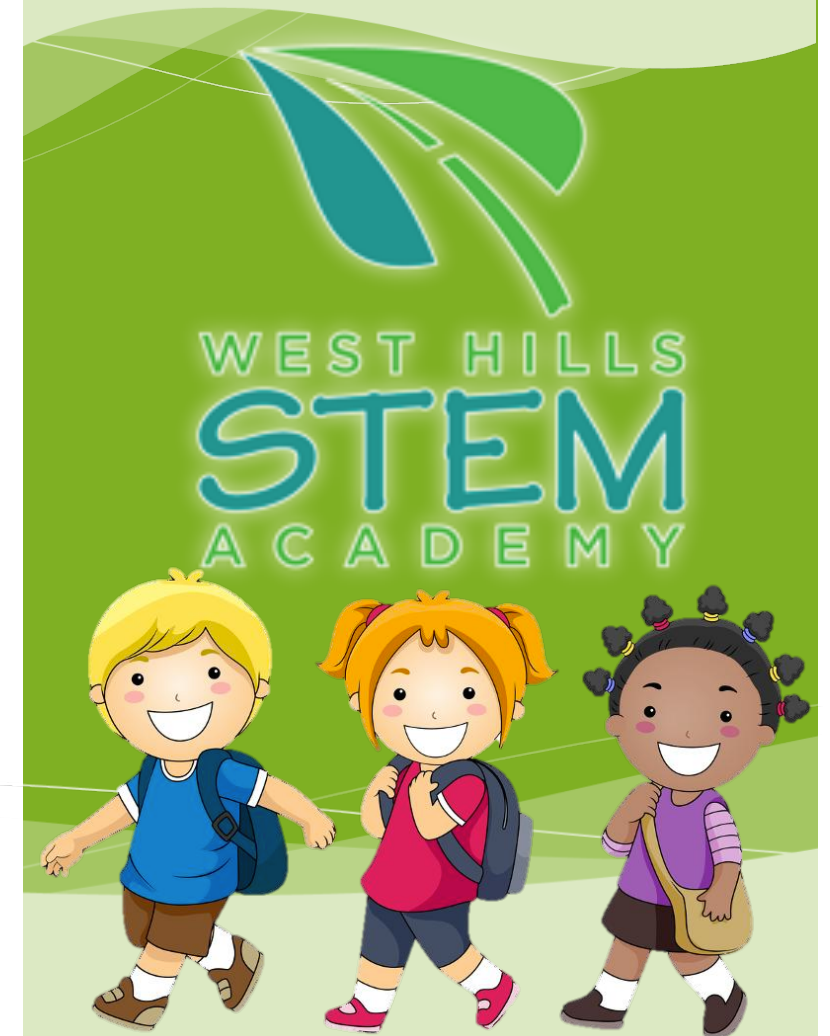
- Don't walk while texting or e-mailing
- Be aware of your surroundings, avoid wearing hoods or hats that restrict vision, wearing earphones and listening to loud music.



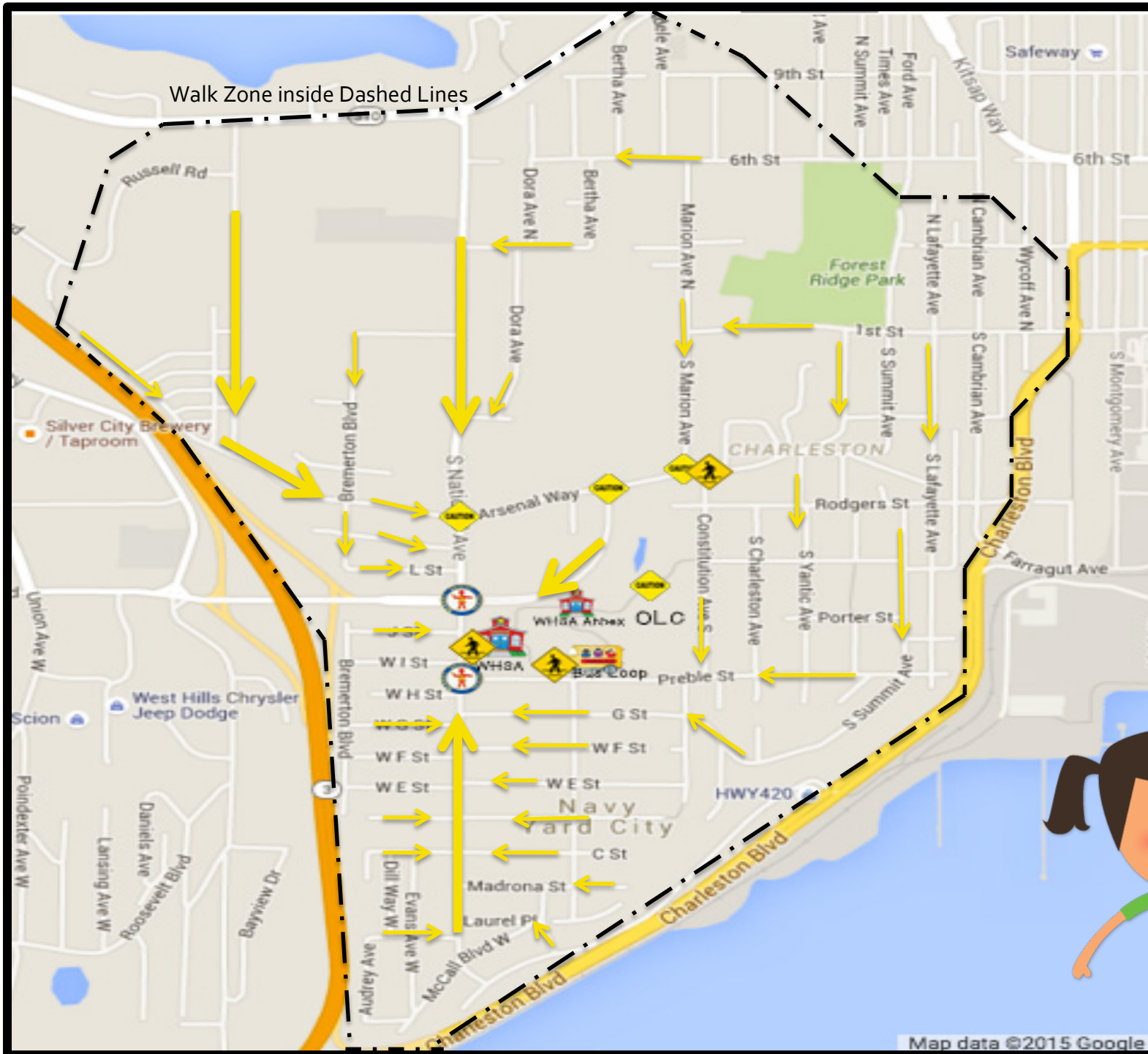
This plan was developed following the recommendations in:

School Walk and Bike Routes: A Guide for Planning and Improving Walk and Bike to School Options for Students.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



Neighborhood Walking Guide



IDENTIFIED ROUTES ARE MARKED IN GOLD ARROWS.

Children living on residential streets that are connected to the walk routes can walk along their streets to the main routes. Small children should be accompanied by adults and all pedestrians should follow the attached pedestrian safety tips.

SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS:

1. Avoid walking through the Outdoor Learning Center (wooded area)
2. Enter the playground through the north and south side fence openings.
3. In the mornings, students should enter through the front door (walkers) or the lower south door (bussers).
4. Be cautious on National Avenue. Only cross at cross walks.
5. Shoulders on Preble and National are Narrow. Use caution and be alert.
6. Sidewalk ends before the crosswalk for Marion. Use caution and be alert.



**BE SAFE...
...BE SEEN**

Safety patrol members will be posted before and after school at the crosswalks as indicated on the map. Remember to tell your child to follow the patrol member's instructions.