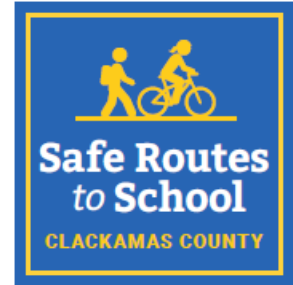

School Action Plan for Sunnyside Elementary School



Principal: Glory Okeke
Enrollment: 437
First bell: 7:45 a.m.
Last bell: 2:00 p.m.

Grades: K-5
Address: 13401 SE 132nd Ave
Clackamas, OR 97015

This report summarizes existing conditions, observations, and recommended improvements and programs for Sunnyside Elementary School resulting from the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) walk audit conducted on December 7, 2022. Maps on pages 9-11 illustrate the school location, area characteristics, and locations of infrastructure recommendations. This action plan supports the county-wide SRTS efforts of Clackamas County. For more information on the program, visit: www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html.

What is Safe Routes to School (SRTS)?

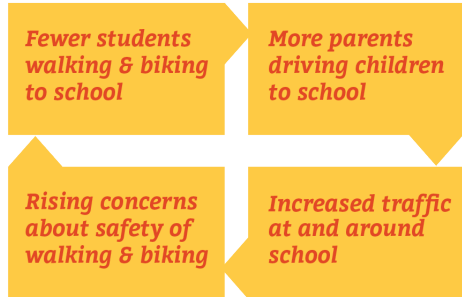
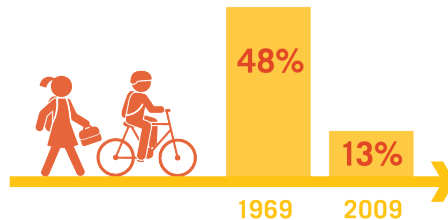
SRTS is a comprehensive program to make school communities safer by combining engineering tools and enforcement with education about safety and activities to enable and encourage students to walk and bicycle to school. SRTS programs typically involve partnerships among municipalities, school districts, community members, parent volunteers, and law enforcement.

Although most students in the United States walked or biked to school before the 1980s, the number of students walking or bicycling to school since has sharply declined in both urban and suburban areas. The benefits of implementing a SRTS plan are far-reaching and include improving safety, encouraging physical activity, and reducing traffic congestion and motor vehicle emissions near schools. Implementing SRTS programs and projects benefit adjacent neighborhoods as well as students and their families.

Clackamas County SRTS has a Program Handbook that outlines activities and local resources that school and community members can use to encourage walking and biking and promote traffic safety in school areas. See www.clackamas.us/engineering/srts.html for more information.

Why Safe Routes to School for Clackamas County?

Within the span of one generation, the percentage of children walking or bicycling to school has dropped to 13%.



This movement away from active transportation is a self-perpetuating cycle.



SRTS education & encouragement programs can result in a **25%** increase in walking and biking over 5 years.

A comprehensive SRTS program addresses reductions in walking and biking through a multi-pronged approach that uses education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement efforts to develop attitudes, behaviors, and physical infrastructure that improve the walking and biking environment.

SRTS programs provide many benefits for communities!



Healthy Living



Less Traffic



Better Educational Achievement



Increased Social Interactions



Cleaner Air and Water



Cost-Effective

How Do Students Get to School Now?

Student Hand Tallies

Hand tallies are a standard way of tracking the different ways (modes) students used to get to school. Students are asked how they traveled to and from school over a 2 day period. Students raise their hand when the mode they took is called out, and the teacher or a volunteer records the findings. Nineteen classroom hand tallies were collected. The results showed the most common way students get to school is by family vehicle with school bus being the next most common mode.

Tracking the change in mode over time can indicate how successful the SRTS program is at addressing concerns and promoting walking and bicycling. Resources and best practice programs for conducting hand tallies include:

- ◆ The Oregon SRTS website provides [evaluation resources](#).
- ◆ The [National Center for SRTS](#) has forms, data collection guidelines, and hosts a data center.

Caregiver Surveys

Parent/caregiver surveys ask families about the barriers to walking or biking to/from school, health information, how children travel to and from school, and perception of crime and other social behaviors.

For the Action Plan, Clackamas SRTS program collected parent surveys in Winter of 2023 and all grades were represented. Of the respondents, most live 1-2 miles from the school, but 40% live within a one mile radius. Figure 1 shows how parents and caregivers who responded to the survey allow their students to travel to school.

Figure 1. How caregivers allow their student to travel to school

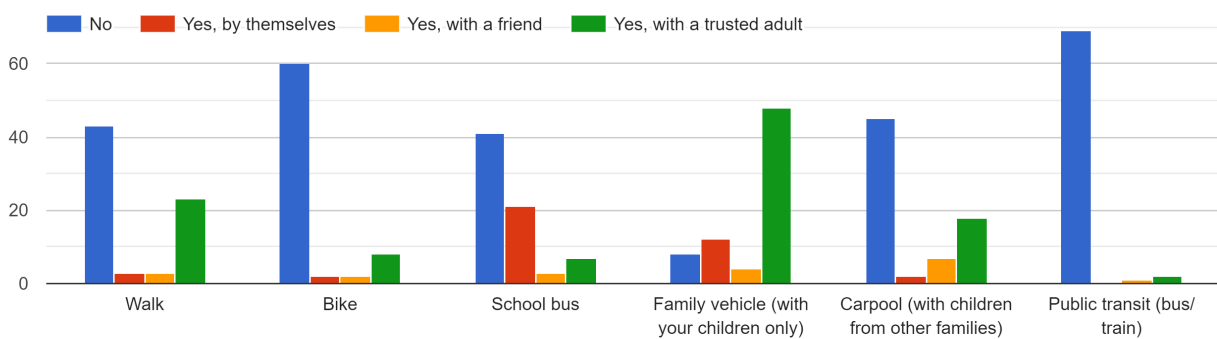


Figure 2. Caregiver concerns that limit a child’s ability to walk/bike to/from school

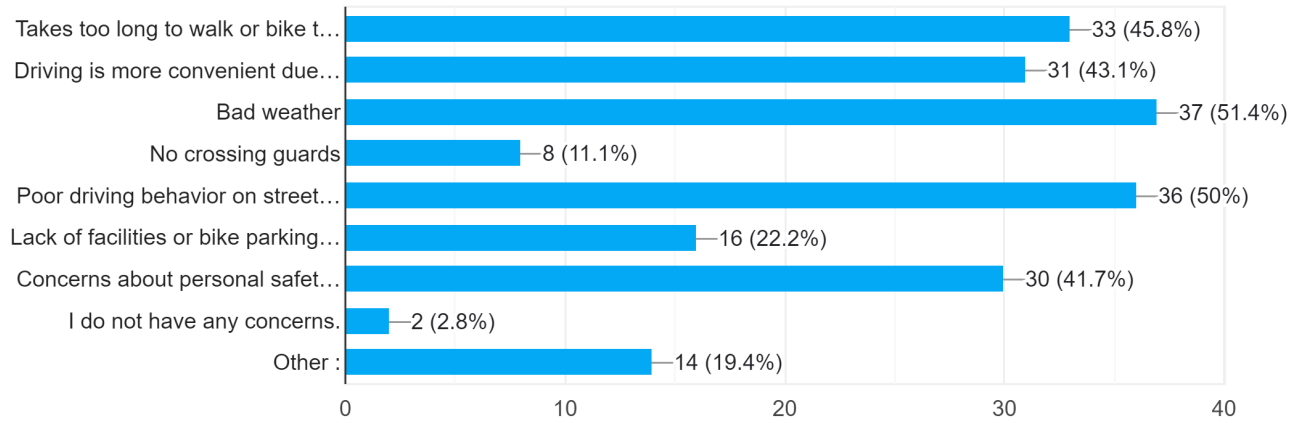


Figure 2 shows the main concerns for caregivers of students who did not walk or bike. Poor weather and driving behavior were leading reasons for people not allowing their students to get to school on foot or wheels. Convenience and time were also factors, as well as concerns about safety.

Resources and best practice programs for conducting parent surveys include:

- ◆ The Oregon SRTS website provides [evaluation resources](#).

Walk Audit Summary

Date: December 7, 2022
Day of Week: Wednesday

Meeting Time: 7:30-9am
Weather: Cloudy

Attendees:

- Scott Hoelscher, Clackamas County
- Christian Snuffin, Clackamas County
- Carl Olson, Clackamas County
- Nicole Perry, The Street Trust
- Glory Okeke, Sunnyside Principal

Existing Conditions

School Layout

Sunnyside Elementary School is located on SE 132nd Drive between Sunnyside Road and Highway 212 in the Happy Valley area of urban, unincorporated Clackamas County. Buses utilize a driveway along 132nd and private vehicles circulate through a separate parking lot that is also accessible by SE 132nd.

SITE CIRCULATION

Vehicles: Student drop-off occurs in the larger parking lot south of the school. Vehicles enter via 132nd and loop the perimeter of the lot dropping students off at the sidewalk leading to the main entrance. After the student departs, the vehicle continues to the parking lot exit. For student pick-up, vehicles follow the same routine of looping through the existing lot to retrieve students. Upon exiting the driveway, cars are required to turn right (south) out of the parking lot

School Buses: Buses load and unload students in a driveway off 132nd, just east of the main entrance.

Pedestrians: Students and families cross SE 132nd, mostly at the main crosswalk directly across from school entrance, but also at adjacent intersections.

Bicyclists: There is bike parking that is not covered.

Walk Audit Observations and Infrastructure Recommendations

Key locations are described below, including issues identified during audit observations and discussions. Project numbering refers to the Improvements Map on page 11. The party responsible

for implementing each recommendation is in parentheses (i.e., Clackamas County or North Clackamas School District).

1. School Parking Lot and Grounds

Student drop-off and pick-up operate in a fair manner. Vehicles enter the school parking lot from SE 132nd and circulate through, pausing near the entrance to drop students off. Four school buses use a separate driveway to deliver students to the school. There is a staff member that serves as crossing guards at the crosswalk on SE 132nd and another at the main entrance to the parking lot drop off area. Some families park in a church parking lot across 132nd and cross the street, especially in the afternoon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Provide crossing guard training for staff or volunteer guards (North Clackamas School District)
- b. Upgrade bike rack parking, consider new location (North Clackamas School District)

2. SE 132nd Ave.

SE 132nd Drive is a collector street that is the eastern border of the Sunnyside Elementary property. A circular driveway off 132nd serves as the school bus drop off and pick up area. There are sidewalks leading to the school, although some sections are in poor condition. A major crosswalk serves as the main way students access the school from the east.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Upgrade existing crosswalk with RRFB signs (Clackamas County)
- b. Refresh crosswalk markings and lengthen crosswalk bars (Clackamas County)
- c. Fill sidewalk gaps on east side of 132nd (Clackamas County)
- d. Upgrade school zone signage (larger signs, better retro reflectivity, additional signs), portable option be In-street crossing sign set out in morning and afternoon (Clackamas County and North Clackamas School District)
- e. Upgrade all ramps to be ADA compliant (Clackamas County)
- f. Reduce speed to 25mph (Clackamas County)

3. SE Highpointe

This residential street is across from the middle school that Sunnyside feeds into and does not have any markings for safe crossing.

RECOMMENDATION

- a. Provide new crosswalk with ADA ramps and possibly lighting (Clackamas County)

4. SE Summers Way

Three way stop near Rock Creek Middle School and Clackamas High School

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Replace old signs with degraded retro reflectivity (Clackamas County)
- b. Upgrade ADA compliant ramps throughout walk zone (Clackamas County and City of Happy Valley)

6. General

RECOMMENDATIONS

- c. Replace old signs with degraded retro reflectivity (Clackamas County)
- d. Upgrade ADA compliant ramps throughout walk zone (Clackamas County and City of Happy Valley)

Cost Estimates

Table 1 summarizes recommendations for Sunnyside Elementary School, provides order-of-magnitude cost estimates, and places the projects in priority tiers.

Table 1. Sunnyside Elementary School Recommended Improvements

RECOMMENDATIONS	LEAD AGENCY	PLANNING – LEVEL COST	PRIORITY
1. School Parking Lot and Grounds			
a. Provide crossing guard training for staff or volunteer guards	North Clackamas School District	\$	Low
b. Cover bike rack parking	North Clackamas School District	\$	Low
2. SE 132nd Ave			
a. Reduce speed to 25 mph	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
b. Upgrade existing crosswalk at Shannon View Dr. with pedestrian median and RRFB	Clackamas County	\$\$	High
c. Refresh crosswalk markings and lengthen crosswalk bars at Shannon View Dr. crosswalk	Clackamas County	\$	High
d. Fill sidewalk gaps on east side of SE 132 nd Ave.	Clackamas County	\$\$\$	High
e. Upgrade school zone signage	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
f. Upgrade all ramps to be ADA compliant	Clackamas County	\$\$	Medium
g. Upgrade existing bike facility with protected bike lane.	Clackamas County	SSS	Low
3. SE Highpointe St.			
a. Provide new crosswalk with ADA ramps at intersection with SE 132 nd Ave	Clackamas County	\$ \$	High
4. SE Summers Lane			
a) Replace old signs with degraded retro reflectivity.	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
b) Upgrade ADA compliant ramps	Clackamas County	\$\$	Low
5. General			
a) Replace old signs with degraded retro reflectivity	Clackamas County	\$	Medium
b) Upgrade ADA compliant ramps throughout walk zone	Clackamas County	\$\$	Medium

Map 1: Attendance Area & One Mile Radius Map

Metro Regional Safe Routes to School Strategy

School Area Map Sunnyside Elementary

13401 SE 132ND AVE
CLACKAMAS, OR

Grades: K-5
Enrollment: 559
School District:
North Clackamas
<http://www.nclack.k12.or.us/>

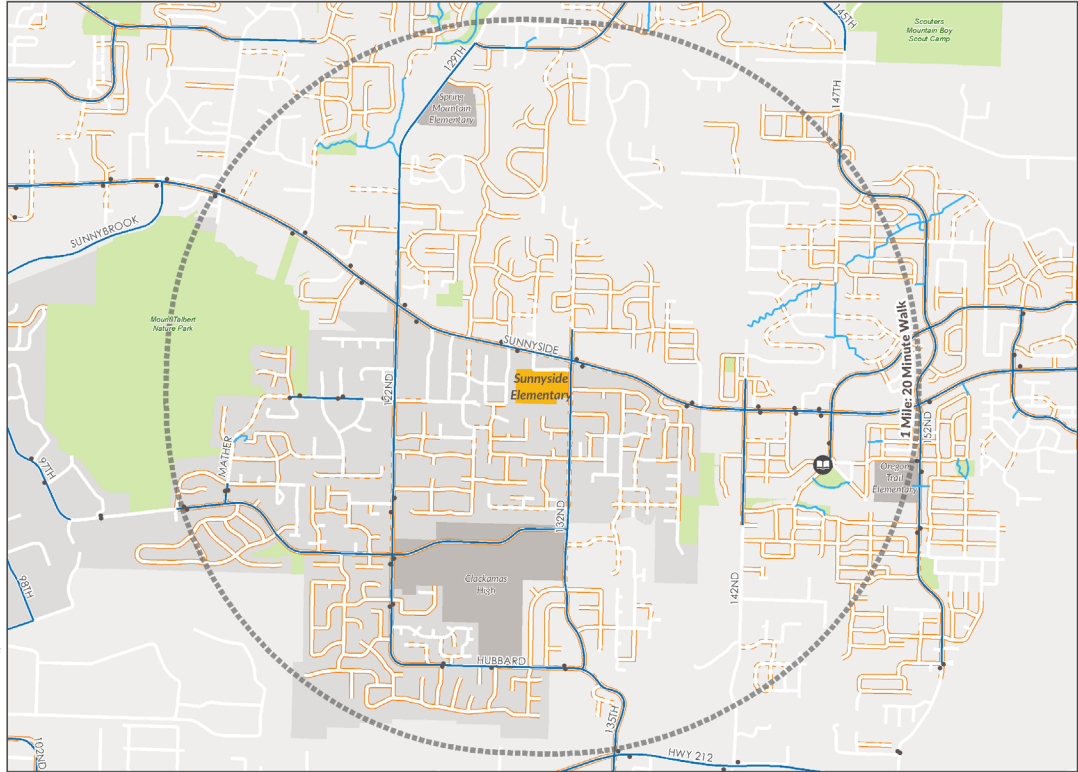
- Transit stops
- Full Sidewalk
- - - Partial Sidewalk
- Enrollment Area
- 📖 Library
- 🏛️ City Hall
- 🏠 Community Center

BIKEWAY NETWORK

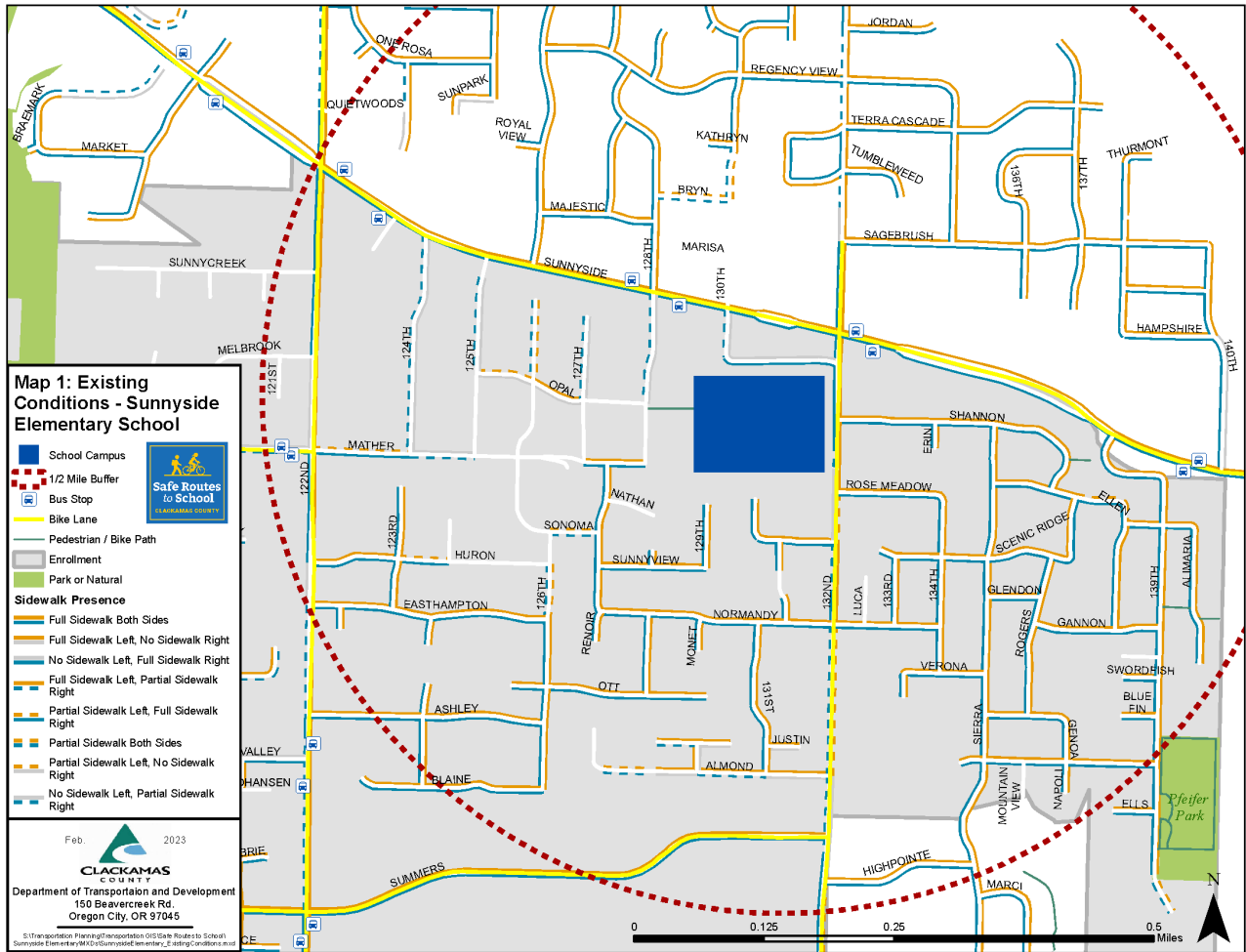
- Bike Boulevard
- Bike Lane
- Shared Roadway
- Underpass/Overpass
- Path

0 750 1500 FEET
2 MIN 4 MIN BIKE RIDE

Data Source: Metro's RUS and ODOE
Map produced October 2016.



Map 2: Existing Conditions Map



Map 3: Recommended Infrastructure Improvement Map



Programmatic Recommendations

Programmatic activities and events complement infrastructure improvements by empowering students and their families to try walking, bicycling, and rolling and by making it safer for them to do so.

Sunnyside Elementary School currently promotes transportation safety by sending information to parents about student drop-off and pick-up patterns, as well as reminders about driving safely.

The activities below are recommended for Sunnyside Elementary School to improve and promote safe walking and bicycling to and from school and in the community. They can be implemented by school administrators, teachers, parents, or even school clubs.

Education Programs

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY EDUCATION

Pedestrian and bicycle safety education teaches students basic traffic laws and safety rules.

- ◆ [Educational guides](#) are available from Oregon SRTS that address a variety of modes and safety issues involved with student travel to and from school.
- ◆ Oregon SRTS curriculum [Neighborhood Navigators](#) includes series of lesson plans grouped for grade levels that can be taught in a variety of settings in school communities.
- ◆ The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers [pedestrian safety](#) and [bicycle safety](#) resources.



PARENT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Parents are the primary decision-makers about how their children get to school. Informing parents about their options for walking and bicycling, as well as communicating the benefits of active



transportation, can encourage more families to walk and bike. This can occur through school e-news or announcements, and other informational resources. Suggested route maps can show parents the best walking or biking route to the school, overcoming concerns about barriers.

Resources and best practice programs:

- ◆ Clackamas County's SRT program has a [guidebook, brochure, and safety tip sheets](#), as well as other information about efforts
- ◆ [Oregon SRTS](#) provides materials, handouts, and theme ideas for monthly themes, year-long events, messages.
- ◆ [Metro's SRTS collaboration page](#) contains a variety of resources and toolkits.

Encouragement Programs

WALK + BIKE TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The Oregon Walk + Bike to School Challenge celebrates students walking and bicycling to school. International Walk to School Day is held the first Wednesday in October and Bike to School Day takes place the second week in May. There are also other encouragement event options throughout the school year, including Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day in November, Winter Walk to School Day, and Earth Month (April).



Volunteers can set up a table on the event day to provide refreshments and small rewards for families who participate, as well as maps, lights, and safety information to encourage more students and families to join in the fun.

Even families who live too far from school to walk and bike can participate by driving to a designated central location and walking together from there. Coffee and snacks can be provided, and students can dress up or hold posters to make a fun, parent-supervised parade to school.

Resources and best practices:

- ◆ Schools in Oregon can order incentives to support and promote [Walk + Bike Challenge Day and Month](#).
- ◆ [Walk Bike to School](#) suggests event ideas and planning resources for encouraging active transportation at schools.

STUDENT CLUBS AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Clubs and leadership programs allow students to form groups to support the causes they care about most. Older elementary school student clubs can host Walk + Bike Challenge events, organize a competition, or work with their peers to promote walking and bicycling. Student clubs can offer excellent ideas, and provide exceptional energy and drive to get things done.



Resources and best practice programs:

- ◆ [Eco-school network](#) started as a project of the Center for Earth Leadership and is an organization that aims to promote sustainable practices and raise ecological awareness.
- ◆ [Oregon Green Schools](#) is a nonprofit organization that supports school in establishing and sustaining practices that shape the next generation of environmental leaders, including an active transportation track of certification.

Enforcement Programs

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL

Safety patrol programs vary by school and district. Older elementary school student volunteers can sign-up to become a certified AAA School Safety Patroller. With support and leadership from school faculty and parents, student patrollers help fellow students develop a better understanding of pedestrian and vehicular traffic hazards.

Resources and best practice programs:

- ◆ The Oregon Department of Education published an [Oregon Traffic Patrol Manual](#) that describes the roles of patrols and operational guidelines.
- ◆ AAA has [School Safety Patrol membership information](#) and descriptions of student, teacher, and parent roles.

