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CORRESPONDENCE

as of 8-12-2022

From: [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
To: [Safe Routes to School San Mateo County Office of Education Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Safe Routes Back-to-School Newsletter
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San Mateo County **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

Healthy Kids • Green Communities • Safe Journeys



SamTrans Improves Access and Streamlines Routes

Using three years of valuable community input, SamTrans has expanded coverage in new areas and implemented service changes that have adapted to changing school schedules. Try out these new changes for free as SamTrans is offering free fares for all routes from August 7th to 20th! [Learn more about the new upgrades.](#)

Ride your bike too? SamTrans buses are equipped with bike racks and has no age limit



for riders using the bike racks or bringing bikes on board. Bikes must be single-rider two-wheel bicycles that weigh no more than 55 pounds.

SamTrans offers a variety of special fare passes for youth, seniors, customers with disabilities, and adult customers. [Check to see if you or your family is eligible for discounted tickets.](#)

Walk or Bike to School Alone Readiness Checklist

Walking, biking, or rolling to school can make the difference in a student's physical health, mental wellbeing, classroom performance, and carbon footprint. Before students can safely walk or roll to school alone, they should be confident and prepared. Parents and guardians can use the City of Menlo Park's Readiness Checklist to decide whether to accompany their child or allow their child to walk and roll to school alone. [Print the Readiness Checklist in English or Spanish.](#)

THE READINESS CHECKLIST

For Parent

Depending on the age and experience level of your child, you may opt to accompany them on their trip.



Before walking alone to school, students should be confident in:

- Following walking rules
- Look left, right, and behind before crossing at corners
- Follow traffic signals
- Use paths and sidewalks, where provided
- Walking predictably
- Walk, don't run, across the street
- Watch for cars turning or pulling out of driveways
- Having a safety plan
- Develop a plan with your caregiver in case of an incident while walking
- Staying aware
- No texting or talking on cell phones while walking
- No listening to music with headphones while walking



Before biking alone, students should be confident in:

- Following biking rules
- Ride on the right side with traffic
- Stop at stop signs and look left, right, and behind
- Use proper hand signals when turning
- Riding predictably
- No swerving in and out of cars
- Make eye contact with drivers at intersections
- Ride in a single file line when biking in groups
- Having a safety plan
- Develop a plan with your caregiver in case of an incident while biking
- Staying aware
- No texting or talking on cell phones while biking
- No listening to music with headphones while biking
- Having the right gear
- Wear a helmet
- Have air in the tires and check brakes
- Have white lights in the front and red lights in the rear of the bike

MENLO PARK SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Safe alternative modes of transportation for students include:

- Walking school bus
- Bike train
- Recommended walking and biking routes to schools
- Public transit
- Carpool with another student

Thank you to Menlo Park Safe Routes to School for permission to post the Readiness Checklist!

International Walk to School Day (IWTSD) Poster Contest

**CALLING ALL
ARTISTS!**

Walk and Roll to School Poster Contest

San Mateo County Safe Routes to School is hosting a contest to help design the **2022 Walk & Roll to School Day** poster! Students at all grade levels are encouraged to submit their original artwork that shares the *positive impacts of walking to school*. Posters can be created by individual students, small groups or classrooms. This year, we also have a template with the theme of a multigenerational travel diary. The winning entries will be made into posters that will be shared with schools countywide to promote this annual event!

Entry Rules and Guidelines:

- All entries must be on an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper and leave a ¼" inch border around the perimeter
- Use only a blank sheet **or** the prompted template
- All words must be spelled correctly (English or Spanish)
- Please outline pictures and words in black marker and use markers (not crayons) to color in the poster
- Name, grade-level, teacher, school and district must be written in ballpoint pen on the back of the submission
- Artists may use this year's template or submit original artwork that focuses on one or more of the following themes:

Walking and bicycling to school is fun!

Walking and bicycling to school is good for your health!

Walking and bicycling to school is good for the environment!

Walking and bicycling to school can build community!

Submissions will be accepted until **Friday, September 16**

by mail/PONY/in-person:

Safe Routes to School
San Mateo County Office of Education
101 Twin Dolphin Drive
Redwood City, CA 94065

by email:

SRTS@smcoe.org

Winning entries will be used for Walk and Roll to School Day on October 12, 2022!

Questions?

Contact us at: srts@smcoe.org



[View or print the English and Spanish versions of the flyer.](#)

Free Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Curriculum

The Office of Traffic Safety Go Safely CA has [free educational resources for all ages](#). Pedestrian and bicycle safety curriculum range from activity books, coloring sheets, and virtual padlets. Safety guides and materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Free Crossing Guard Training Classes



The Active Transportation Resource Center (ATRC) is providing free online courses on California School Crossing Guard training. This course will be presented in a "Train-the-Trainer" format to help jurisdictions and law enforcement with guidance on how to train and vet potential new and existing Crossing Guards. Consistent training will help to

ensure that Crossing Guards throughout California have the skills to perform their duties safely and properly. Courses are taking place through August and September 2022. [Register on the Active Transportation Resource Center \(ATRC\) website!](#)

Now Hiring for Two AmeriCorps-Climate Corps Fellows

Join the San Mateo County Safe Routes to School (SRTS) team! There are currently two open positions for AmeriCorps-Climate Corps fellowships.

Are you or someone you know passionate about sustainability and transportation? Are you looking for experience working in environmental equity, active transportation, and community engagement? Work with San Mateo County Safe Routes to School and help increase walking and biking across the county!

Job Openings (Click the links below to view the full job description and apply on the Climate Corps website):

- [Transportation Equity and Safe Routes to School Fellow \(San Mateo County Office of Education & City of South San Francisco\) - AmeriCorps](#)
- [Safe Routes to School Equity Fellow \(San Mateo County Office of Education\) - AmeriCorps](#)

Please share this opportunity with your network and contact our team at srts@smcoe.org for more information.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Program 2022 Cycle 6 Call for Projects

(CFP) is Now Live!

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) Pedestrian and Bicycle Program 2022 Cycle 6 Call for Projects (CFP) is now live. [You can find application instructions, materials, updates, and deadlines on the website.](#) Please note that San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) recently made some edits to the CFP guidelines. Schools and districts cannot apply but they can work with their respective cities to apply for a project near the school.

In addition to the funding from the Transportation Authority (TA), this call for projects includes the opportunity to apply for up to \$200,000 in C/CAG-administered Measure M funds. This funding is available for Safe Routes to School capital (infrastructure) projects only.

San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) will hold a virtual workshop on **Tuesday, August 9 at 2:00 pm** to communicate the guidelines and schedule. [Register for the workshop.](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact Patrick Gilster at gilsterp@samtrans.com or (650) 207-5643 if you have any questions.



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