

Horace Mann  
Elementary School

# Safe Crossings

We know keeping your kids safe is one of your most important priorities. That's why here at Mann we take pedestrian safety very seriously. Our pedestrian safety program not only helps your family get to school safely, it supports your efforts to teach your kids pedestrian safety skills. We do this through:

## *How it Began*

Mann School was the first public school in Oak Park to create a pedestrian safety program. In 1997, Mann worked with Oak Park Police, Traffic Engineers and Village Hall staff to create safe walking routes and crossing zones. Our program uses a combination of traffic control, pedestrian crossing assistance and education. Families who use the safe walking routes and corners not only use the safest route to school, but teach their children important crossing skills.

## *It Takes a Village*

Research shows when children are learning to cross the street, they watch not only their parents, but other adults, too. When you take the time to cross at a corner, you set an example that keeps all our children safe.



## Safe Walking Routes

The Mann pedestrian safety program uses established safe walking routes that allow families to safely walk to school.



## Safe Crossing Corners

Village Crossing Guards, Student Safety Patrollers and use of traffic barricades create safe gaps in traffic and safe places to cross the street.



## Safe Examples

The Mann Safety Patrol program not only teaches safety to the Patrollers, but to the students they cross as well.

## Practice Makes Perfect

Research shows children learn how to cross the street safely by example and practice. Families who consistently use safe walking routes, cross at corners and wait for the Crossing Guard or Safety Patroller's signal, teach their children the skills they need to be safe pedestrians. Turn the page for great tips on teaching your kids to be smart pedestrians.

Turn to page 3 for ways drivers can help make our school safe

## Teaching Your Child How to Cross the Street

Children learn how to cross the street by example and habit. Here's are some tips from the experts for teaching safe street crossing to your child.

When you cross the street with your child, explain what you are doing:

1. "When I cross a street, I always stop at the curb."
2. "I look Left-Right-Left for cars. I also look over my shoulder for any turning cars."
3. "When there are no cars coming, I cross the street."
4. "I walk, never run, across the street."
5. "I continue watching for traffic while I'm crossing."

Always be a good role model, including going all the way to the corner and crossing with the light, and your children will do the same. Walk that extra block to take advantage of Crossing Guards whenever possible. Make sure you teach your kids to stop and look at driveways, alleys and parking lots. Point out signs that indicate a car or truck is about to move, including rear lights, back-up warning beep, exhaust smoke, sound of motor and wheels turning.

When you think your child is ready to make crossing decisions, do "Walker's Ed Training" with them. This is a period of time when you're walking with your child, but allowing them to make all the crossing decisions. When you see your child consistently making good crossing decisions, you know they're ready to cross alone.

## Safety Patrol Keeps Kids Safe Wherever They Go

Think Safety Patrol only teaches the Patrollers how to cross the street? Think again!

Safety Patrol teaches both the kids in the program *and the kids they serve* how to cross the street. How?

Safety Patrollers go through an extensive one-month training program that includes 2 one-hour training meetings and 4 hours of on-the-job training.

But that's not all. Studies show when student Safety Patrols show peers how to cross the street, kids follow their example at other corners, too. This means Safety Patrol keeps kids safe wherever they go in their community.

### Did you know. . .

*Children under the age of nine usually do not have the skills necessary to cross the street safely by themselves.*

### A Safety Patrol Training Tip You Can Use

*It is very hard to see children when a car is backing up. Make sure your kids know what back-up lights are and what they mean.*

## Playing Games

Sound is one of the first senses young children use to determine how far away an object is and the direction it's coming from (including a car). Here is a fun game that will help strengthen this skill: Have your child cover her/his eyes or leave the room. Set a kitchen timer and hide it. When it goes off, have your child find it by sound.

## Safety Guidelines for Drivers

At Mann, one-third of our families drive each day, so it's essential drivers use safe driving practices.

**Here are the guidelines for dropping-off and picking-up children from school:**

- Follow the attached Mann school traffic pattern for drop-off and pick-up.
- Reduce your speed when you enter the school zone and when children are walking or biking along the road.
- Enter the Berkshire drop-off zone **FROM FOREST** not Woodbine.
- Drop off children on the school-side of the street.
- Never double-park. Do not let your child out of a vehicle that is not next to the curb.
- Do not use the teacher parking lot or block the driveway.
- Use Kenilworth—which gets half the traffic of Berkshire!— for drop-off and pick-up, and let the Safety Patrol help your kids across the street.
- Obey all NO PARKING/NO STOPPING zones.
- Do not stop or park within 10 feet of a corner. It makes it impossible for pedestrians to see or be seen when trying to cross.
- Never use the crosswalk area for drop-off.
- Avoid backing up. Little kids are hard to see.

### ***Dangerous Crossing***

*The crossing at Berkshire & Woodbine was determined to be too dangerous during drop-off and pick-up to be used as a school crossing. Teach your kids to cross Berkshire at either Kenilworth or Forest.*

Let's work together to get all our kids to and from school safely!

Turn to page 4 for the Mann School Traffic Map

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