



# Shrewsbury Borough



Dear Parents,

The Shrewsbury Environmental Commission, Shrewsbury Police Department and the Shrewsbury Borough School will be launching a Safe Routes To School program this fall. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a federal, state, and local effort to enable and encourage children to walk and bicycle to school, as well as to make walking and bicycling to school safe and appealing. The Shrewsbury SRTS team will determine the safest routes to walk and bike to school, suggest safety improvements to those routes, develop fun ways to encourage more children to use those routes, and recruit parents and neighbors to accompany children to school. We will be teaching children traffic safety and look at ways to slow the traffic down around the schools.

The Shrewsbury Safe Routes To School program goals are to:

- Reduce traffic congestion in and around the school, improving safety and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Make routes accessible by improving sidewalks and crosswalks
- Plan and conduct walk and bike to school community events
- Improve the health and fitness of the SBS student body, promoting a healthy lifestyle
- Improve safety through increased enforcement of traffic laws
- Further enhance Shrewsbury's status as a certified sustainable community

Through the establishment of a local Safe Routes to School program we believe our community can be improved by working towards and attaining these goals, resulting in a safe, healthy, and environmentally-conscientious student body. For more SRTS information click on or go to the following link: <http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/introduction/index.cfm>

The first Shrewsbury SRTS program event will be a community wide Walk to School Day held on Oct. 16, 2013 in observance of International Walk to School Day. Parents and children who walk or bike to school together that day will arrive to a host of activities and goodies. Mark your calendar and participate in Shrewsbury's Walk to School Day.

In order for the SRTS program to be successful public input from SBS parents and the community at large is critical. As such we would like to invite all Shrewsbury residents interested in the Shrewsbury Safe Routes To School program to an upcoming SRTS overview and planning meeting. The meeting will be held on Oct. 2, 2013 at the Shrewsbury Borough School library.

Additionally, or in lieu of the planning meeting, we ask all SBS parents to complete the Parent Survey enclosed in this letter. Community input is important to determine existing route concerns and where route improvements are needed. Please complete it by Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> and return by one of the methods listed below:

- emailing a completed copy to Walt Huresky at [walt@navcongrp.com](mailto:walt@navcongrp.com)
- Submit to your child's teacher or
- Submit to the SBS main office

Community support, involvement and input is vital to the success of the SRTS program. Thank you for your participation.

Yours truly,

The Shrewsbury Safe Routes to School Team



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## Parent Survey

Please complete the survey by selecting the most suitable responses. Where applicable please feel free to write in options that are applicable but not provided, as well as comments per question.

1. What is the gender and grade level of your child or children?

- Boy \_\_\_\_\_
- Girl \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
- Boy \_\_\_\_\_
- Girl \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_
- Boy \_\_\_\_\_
- Girl \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the approximate distance from your home to the school?

- 1/4 mile or less
- 1/4 to 1/2 mile
- 1/2 mile to 1 mile
- Between 1–2 miles
- Over 2 miles

3. What neighborhood/community do you live in? (a neighborhood name, street name or closest intersection will do) \_\_\_\_\_ (Paddington Farms, etc.)

4. How does your child usually travel to and from school? (check the appropriate boxes below)

### To School in the Morning

	Every Day	2-3 times a week	Once a week	Occasionally
Walk				
Bike				
Driven				
Carpool				

### From School in the Afternoon

	Every Day	2-3 times a week	Once a week	Occasionally
Walk				
Bike				



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Driven				
Carpool				

5. Do you think the school provides a safe place to store bikes?  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have concerns about traffic safety along the routes to school?  
yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

7. Please elaborate (include specific streets or intersections that are problematic)

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8. If you drive your child, why do you make that choice?

- Safety
- Convenience
- Drop off on way to work
- Too far to walk
- Carpool
- Sidewalks (lack of or incomplete)
- High speed vehicles
- Child is too young
- Bad weather
- Child would not obey safety rules
- Backpacks too heavy
- Carrying projects or musical instruments
- Tardiness concerns
- Lack of a safe place to cross the street
- Scary people
- Lack of safe place to store bikes
- No biking or walking route maps
- Paths are incomplete or not wide enough
- Unfriendly dogs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_



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9. Would you allow your child to walk or bike to school if:

- Accompanied by other children
- Accompanied by other parents
- A safe routes map was provided
- Additional Crossing guards
- Safety training was provided for students
- Improvements were made to sidewalks and bike paths
- Car speed was slowed down
- Additional secure bike storage was available
- Paths were better separated from traffic
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

10. Would you be interested in volunteering to help set up, maintain, or support a walking or biking program?

yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

If so please give your name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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General Comments:

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