

# **Bicycle, Long Board, and Scooter Safety Rules**

As we begin the school year, many students **choose to 'ride' to school. We encourage this as it promotes healthy physical activity while at the same time helping with traffic congestion around the school during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.**

In keeping with Our Lady of Fatima's Safe School policies and procedures, we remind parents and students riding to school that once on school property riders are to **walk their bike, board, or scooter on the school yard.** School property includes all walkways and the parking lot. It is unsafe for students to ride through school property.

Safety is the most important part of helping your child ride to school.

Make sure they have appropriate gear:

- **Helmet that fits!** Your child's helmet should fit level on the head, tight enough that it does not move around, and straps pulled snug under the chin.
- **Closed toe shoes.** Flip-flops, untied shoe laces or strappy sandals are not appropriate for riding because they could get caught in the chain or other parts of the bike.
- **Bright clothes/ reflectors.** Wearing bright clothes or having reflectors on your bike will make the child more visible to other riders and vehicles on the road.
- **No loose clothing.** If your child has baggy pants or loose articles of clothing (like a jacket tied around the waist) it could get caught in the chain. Instruct your child to roll up their right pant leg (the gears are on the right side of the bike) and pack unneeded jackets into a backpack or basket.
- **Lights.** If your child goes to school early or returns late (if in an after-school activity), make sure they have bike lights with working batteries.
- **Bike Racks and Locks.** Make sure your child has a sturdy bike lock and he/she knows how to properly lock the bike to the rack. ***Bikes should be locked in the rack and NOT along the fence. Bikes left along the fence are susceptible to interference from students at recess from the other side of the fence. Our Lady of Fatima is not responsible for 'rides' that are stolen, vandalized, or interfered with.***

Teaching rules of the road is going to make them a more independent, knowledgeable and safe rider.

- **Yield to Pedestrians:** If riding on the sidewalk, yield to pedestrians and communicate. When riding up behind a pedestrian say, "Rider back." If passing say, "On your left." When riding with your child practice communicating with pedestrians.
- **Ride in a Straight Line:** Riding in a "predicable line" on the way to school and be aware of other riders and vehicles.
- **Ride on the Right:** If riding on the road, your children should ride on the right-hand side and follow the same rules of the road that cars would. Obey traffic signs and signals, look back and signal before turning.
- **Take caution at intersections, crosswalks and driveways:** Using sidewalks, bike paths and greenways are the safest ways to get your children to school, especially if they are young and less coordinated on the bike. Make sure to take extra caution at intersections, as motorists do not always expect to see bikes (moving at higher speeds).

**Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a safe school environment for your child.**

Our Lady of Fatima Staff