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BHSD Voices - Safe Routes to School

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Hello, this is Sean Gallagher — Superintendent of Brookings-Harbor School District here to share some important safety reminders to help our community maintain safe routes to school for all students, whether they walk, ride the bus or are dropped off each day.

This time of year, as twilight comes sooner and morning comes later, it is especially important that drivers be on high alert around our school buses. Every year, there are students injured around bus stops. According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus.

You can help prevent a tragedy: Increase your following distance and never pass a bus from behind or while it is stopped to load or unload children. It is illegal in all 50 states! All of our buses are equipped with video cameras. If a driver violates the requirement to stop their vehicle when the red lights flash, law enforcement will be contacted.

Next, as you approach the school campus, slow down and observe crosswalks, watch for pedestrians and cyclists and follow the instructions of crossing guards. At certain times of day, our parking areas and the streets around campus can become particularly congested. Stay patient.

Observe the posted traffic flow and follow staff instructions. Do not linger in no-parking zones; do not double park, as it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles; and please do not use left-hand turns in order to keep the line moving!

Finally, don't ever drive distracted in our school zones. In Oregon, using any function of your phone that requires holding or touching is outlawed while driving. Together, we must all do our part to keep our students safe and to ensure that "Every Student Can Succeed" here at Brookings-Harbor School District.