

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE
10/3/2014**



**CONTACT: Nathan
Barge 540-421-4526
ncbarga@sentara.com**

Harrisonburg City Schools to celebrate International Walk to School Day on October 6-10

Harrisonburg, VA – Harrisonburg City Public Schools and Rockingham County Schools will join schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day.

Approximately **3,500** students from K-8th grades will be walking and rolling to school Monday to Friday along with parents, teachers and community leaders.

The week will kick off on **Monday, October 6 at 8:00 a.m. at Waterman Elementary** with kids, parents and community leaders walking to the school track. Walkers and bicyclists will arrive at the school at 8-8:30.

Other schools will walk on these days of the week:

- October 7 - Smithland Elem. – 10:00 a.m.
- October 8 – Skyline Middle School – 7:10 a.m. until 7:45 a.m.
- October 8 – Keister Elem. 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- October 8 – Mountain View Elem. 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- October 9 – Stone Spring Elem. School 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- October 10 – Thomas Harrison Middle School – 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
- October 10 – Spotswood Elem. School – 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
- October 10 – South River Elem. (Grottoes) – 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Walk to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment. The events build connections between families, schools and the broader community.

The event is being organized by **Safe Kids, Safe Routes To School, HPD and HFD, Sentara Community Health.**

For additional local information, please contact Nathan Barge, Safe Routes to School Coordinator at 540-421-4526.

more

For additional information, please visit these websites:

Walk to School Day in the USA
National Center for Safe Routes to School
International Walk to School Day

www.walkbiketoschool.org
www.saferoutesinfo.org
www.iwalktoschool.org

About International Walk to School Day

- Walk to School Day was established in the United States in 1997 by the *Partnership for a Walkable America*. Canada and Great Britain already had walk to school programs in place. In 2000, these three countries joined together to create International Walk to School Day.
- In May 2006, the National Center for Safe Routes to School was established to assist communities in enabling and encouraging children to safely walk and bike to school.
- The National Center for Safe Routes to School serves as the national coordinating agency for Walk to School activities in the United States.
- Walk to School Day began as a simple idea – children and parents, school and local officials walking to school together on a designated day. It is an energizing event, reminding everyone of the simple joy of walking to school, the health benefits of regular daily activity, and the need for safe places to walk and bike. Schools focus on health, safety, physical activity and concern for the environment.
- Organizations supporting International Walk to School Day in the United States include America Walks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Highway Administration, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the National Center for Safe Routes to School, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Safe Kids Worldwide, and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership.
- The official Walk to School Day is October 8, 2014.

###