

(2/21/24 District Administrator's Corner Article)

In February, we celebrate some incredible individuals that take part in school safety on a daily basis before and after school. The State of Wisconsin celebrates Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week during February 19-23, 2024. We want to highlight the following persons who serve as our school crossing guards: Duane Christof, Nora Moe, Eugene Schulz, Tammy Schaffer, Tara Buringa, and Russ Jones.

These wonderful community members—through rain, sleet, snow, or heat—stand at attention to help our district get people to and from our campus. And, if you want to witness a daily miracle in traffic congestion, come down to the east end of Daley Street in the morning or midafternoon. These kind individuals help our most vulnerable pedestrians on a daily basis, among the bus transportation and daily pick up and drop off by parents. Their commitment really truly does make a difference.

School safety is important to our families and a trained school crossing guard can help to accomplish the following goals (http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/crossing_guard):

- Our crossing guards encourage safe behavior by all pedestrians at the school crossing. They discourage children from behaving unsafely near traffic, such as darting into the street without looking or crossing against a traffic signal.
- Our crossing guards utilize gaps in traffic to help students cross safely. When the natural traffic flow does not allow enough time for children to safely cross a street, a guard may need to create gaps by stopping traffic temporarily. The guard stops traffic with hand signals or a STOP paddle, then verbally directs children to cross the street. A guard is always the first person in the street and the last person out of the street.
- Our crossing guards alert motorists that pedestrians are in the process of using the school crossing.
- Our guards also help observe and report any incidents or conditions that present a potential safety hazard to the school children or the guard.

In cooperation with the Village of Spring Green and the students and families in The Valley, we would like to celebrate and thank our crossing guards for their dedication to our district and assistance with safety. Their work is important and we appreciate them greatly.

Sincerely,

Loren Glasbrenner, District Administrator
River Valley School District