

Gateway Middle School Safety Bulletin

School safety is an important issue at Gateway Middle School. As a school we frequently re-visit our school-wide supervision and safety protocols to ensure that your child is safe. To that end, we'd like to share some items that we'd like you to discuss with your son or daughter regarding their safety here at Gateway and when they are on their way to and from school.

While at school – keeping your things safe:

As noted in our Student Handbook, we strongly recommend that students not bring iPods/MP3 players and cell phones to school. Besides being a real distraction for many students, these items can be stolen from students' backpacks or bags. Here are some helpful tips for keeping your valuables safe:

- 1) Do not leave valuable items unattended or in your backpack or cubbie.** The best place to keep an iPod or cell phone is in your pocket.
- 2) Do not let friends "borrow" your device** as it often starts in one person's hand who then passes it to another and the next thing you know, nobody knows where it is.

LOST or STOLEN electronics are extremely difficult to track down. While the school will try to help recover your missing property, very few turn up and Gateway assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen items.

After School Safety and GMS Supervision Times:

School dismisses at 3:30 p.m. each day, with early dismissal at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. School staff and volunteers will supervise students as they exit the building to be picked up or walk to the bus between 3:30 and 3:45 p.m. (and between 2:00 and 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays). After dismissal, the school cannot supervise students who are not enrolled in the YMCA After School Program or are not participating in school-run activities. Please make clear plans with your child for pick up or for how he or she will walk or take public transit home.

The YMCA Gateway After School Program is in session weekdays from 3:30-6:00 p.m. (2:00-6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays). Students staying after school must be enrolled in this program and must sign into and out of the program. Students in the After School Program are expected to remain in designated classrooms and are not permitted in the hallways or stairwells for they are not supervised spaces. All GMS and YMCA behavioral expectations apply during the after school program.

Safety to and from school:

Pick-up and drop-off safety: All pick-up and drop-off of students will happen on **Golden Gate Avenue**, at the front of the school building. We will have GMS staff and parent volunteers supervising the sidewalk and GMS yard at the beginning of the school day from 7:45-8:15 a.m. and during after school dismissal from 3:30-3:45 p.m. to ensure student safety.

Safety to and from school: We encourage you to discuss with your child how to be safe when walking in the city, especially if your child will be traveling to or from school on his or her own. We recommend that students who take the bus travel to and from the bus stop with other students and when possible, to walk on major streets that have the most foot traffic (e.g. Divisadero). In addition, please speak to your child about keeping valuables in one's pocket or bag. Specifically, we encourage you to remind your child not to keep headphones or earbuds in their ears while walking.