Walking School Bus

Stone Academy of Communication Arts
Greenville, SC
Stone Academy
Magnet School for Communication Arts
Located in Greenville, SC

Walking School Bus
The oldest existing school in Greenville County, first founded in 1917 by Eugene Stone.

The current building was built in 1924 in the North Main neighborhood.

Original Purpose as stated by Eugene Stone:

To operate for small pupils so that everyone has a better chance.
Stone became a Magnet School for Communication Arts in 1995:

Visual Arts
Music (Strings in 3rd)
Drama
Dance
Physical Education

Walking School Bus
17% of Stone students walk or bike to school

52 kids live within a ¼ mile radius

211 kids live within a ½ mile radius

300+ kids live within a 1 mile radius

(based on statistics from 2012 Stone Travel Plan)
Our Walking School Bus Goals:

- Reach the students that can’t or won’t walk due to distance (magnet) or perceived barriers
- Provide social time and physical activity for kids before the school day
- Get cars off the road for pedestrian safety and to help clear the air around the school

Walking School Bus
Our Walking School Bus structure:

- We currently run 4 routes every Wednesday (Walk to School Wednesday) during the fall and spring seasons.
- We provide 2 “parent drivers” for each route each week that act as the engine and caboose.
- We give a pedestrian safety sheet (as provided by SRTS on the resource page) and reflective backpack keychain (as provided by Safe Kids) to each new walker.

Walking School Bus
Our Walking School Bus structure:

- Each parent signs in their child(ren) each week by signing a short liability waiver release and providing a cell phone number

- We carry a first aid kit with basic necessities in case of a stumble

- All routes have safety vests for the “parent drivers” who act as the engine and caboose. One route has large stop signs to help cross a busy road

- Each route has a colored flag for the kids to take turns carrying
What we can do better:

- Getting the word out to the kids to get them excited about participating

- Participation incentives, for not only WSB, but all walkers/riders that continually walk and ride to school

- Communicating with the regular participants to remind them each week

- Train more “parent drivers” so that there are more than 2 for each route
One Mom told me:

“This is the highlight of April’s week!”

Resources:

http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/

http://www.scsaferoutes.org/

http://scsaferoutes.org/resources/encouragement

Stone Academy of Communication Arts, Safe Routes to School Travel Plan, February 2012

http://scsaferoutes.org/files/scsr/public/content/file/83/upload/83.pdf