

A student was approached by a stranger in a car while walking home from school in one of our neighborhoods, and we want everyone to remember how to stay safe and aware to and from school.

Here are some important **tips to help you stay safe**:

Walking Safety

- **Stick to sidewalks and crosswalks.** Use them every time—even if it takes a little longer.
 - **Walk with a friend or in a group** when possible. There's safety in numbers.
 - **Keep your head up** and avoid using your phone while walking—especially when crossing streets or near traffic.
 - **Make eye contact with drivers** before crossing to be sure they see you.
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Limit Distractions

- Keep at least one earbud out (or better yet, none!) so you can hear traffic or someone approaching.
 - Avoid staring at your screen—being alert keeps you aware of what's going on around you.
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Trust Your Instincts

- If someone or something makes you uncomfortable, **go to a safe place**—like a nearby business, park with other people, or straight to school—and **tell a trusted adult immediately or call 911**.
 - **Don't talk to or follow strangers**, even if they ask for help. Adults should ask other adults for assistance—not kids.
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Stay Connected

- Let your parents or guardian know when you leave for or arrive at school.
- Keep your phone charged in case you need to call or text someone.

We share this because we care. You deserve to feel safe, confident, and supported every day. Let's look out for ourselves and one another—because that's what Bengals do!

Stay smart. Stay kind. Stay safe.  