



February 2, 2016

Dear Families:

On Monday, Feb. 1, one of our students reported that while walking home from school she witnessed a man acting in an inappropriate manner in a car parked on Delaware Avenue. The student immediately contacted an adult, who then contacted the Albany Police Department. Police are investigating this incident with the assistance of the information our student provided.

The safety of all of our students is a top priority throughout the City School District of Albany. This is the third such incident that our students have reported in the community in recent weeks. In each of these cases, our students acted appropriately and contacted adults immediately to report what they had seen or experienced. Albany police are investigating all of these incidents.

We ask parents and guardians to review the following safety tips with the entire family. These tips are intended to keep children safe while they are walking, biking or riding a bus to school in the morning and home in the afternoon, as well as anytime they are out in the community without adult supervision.

- **NEVER WALK ALONE** – Walk with an adult family member, an older student or with a group of students.
- **DO NOT TALK TO STRANGERS** – If approached by a stranger **RUN immediately** to the nearest store or crossing guard and tell an adult about it.
- **COME TO SCHOOL ON TIME** – Sometimes being late is unavoidable. Parents and guardians, on those occasions please escort your children into the school building and be certain of their safe arrival.
- **WALK AGAINST TRAFFIC SO YOU CANNOT BE FOLLOWED** – It takes time for a driver to turn around and it will give you a head start.
- **TELL SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY** – If you have had something happen to you, have had an experience that made you feel uncomfortable or scared, or if you have information, tell school officials or your parents immediately.

Please review this information with your children and impress upon them the importance of avoiding strangers. If you have any further questions please contact my office at 475-6010.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Young Wilkins, Ed.D.
Acting Superintendent of Schools