SAFE WALKING ROUTE LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents:

Walking to school each day can be part of a good exercise program that keeps your child healthy, fit, and ready to learn. Children who walk to school also help minimize parking lot congestion at our school. We have developed this school walk route to encourage walking and safe pedestrian behaviors.

This school walk route map shows the recommended route for your child to use walking to and from school each day. Mark the route from your neighborhood to the school with a colored pen or crayon.

The walk route plan has been developed based on traffic patterns and traffic controls such as crosswalks, stop signs, traffic lights, and safety patrol posts. The route limits the number of street crossings children will make and seeks to group children together to increase their visibility and safety. Therefore, the route may not be the shortest way to school, but it is important that children follow the route, even if they have to walk a little farther to do so.

Please help your child become familiar with this route by walking it together. Teach your child to cross the street only at the locations indicated on the map and to follow these safety rules:

- Do not cross the street without supervision if you're younger than 10 years old.
- Stop at the edges of driveways, alleys and curbs or edges of the street where no curb exists and look left right, and left again for vehicles before crossing the street.
- Walk; don't run, across the street.
- Cross at intersections, using traffic signals and crosswalks whenever possible.
- Walk on the sidewalks and trails when they are available, or if it is safe and you must walk on the side of the road, walk on the edge, facing traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Make sure drivers see you before crossing in front of them. Always attempt to make eye contact.
- Do not play in driveways, streets or by the side of the road.
- Wear highly visible clothing or reflectors when walking in the dark and use a flashlight.
- Cross at least 10 feet in front of a school bus or other large vehicle. Always attempt to make eye contact.
- Don't walk while texting or e-mailing
- Be aware of your surroundings, avoid wearing hoods or hats that restrict vision, wearing earphones and listening to loud music.

Safety patrol members will be posted before and after school at the crosswalks as indicated on the map. Remember to tell your child to follow the patrol member's instructions.

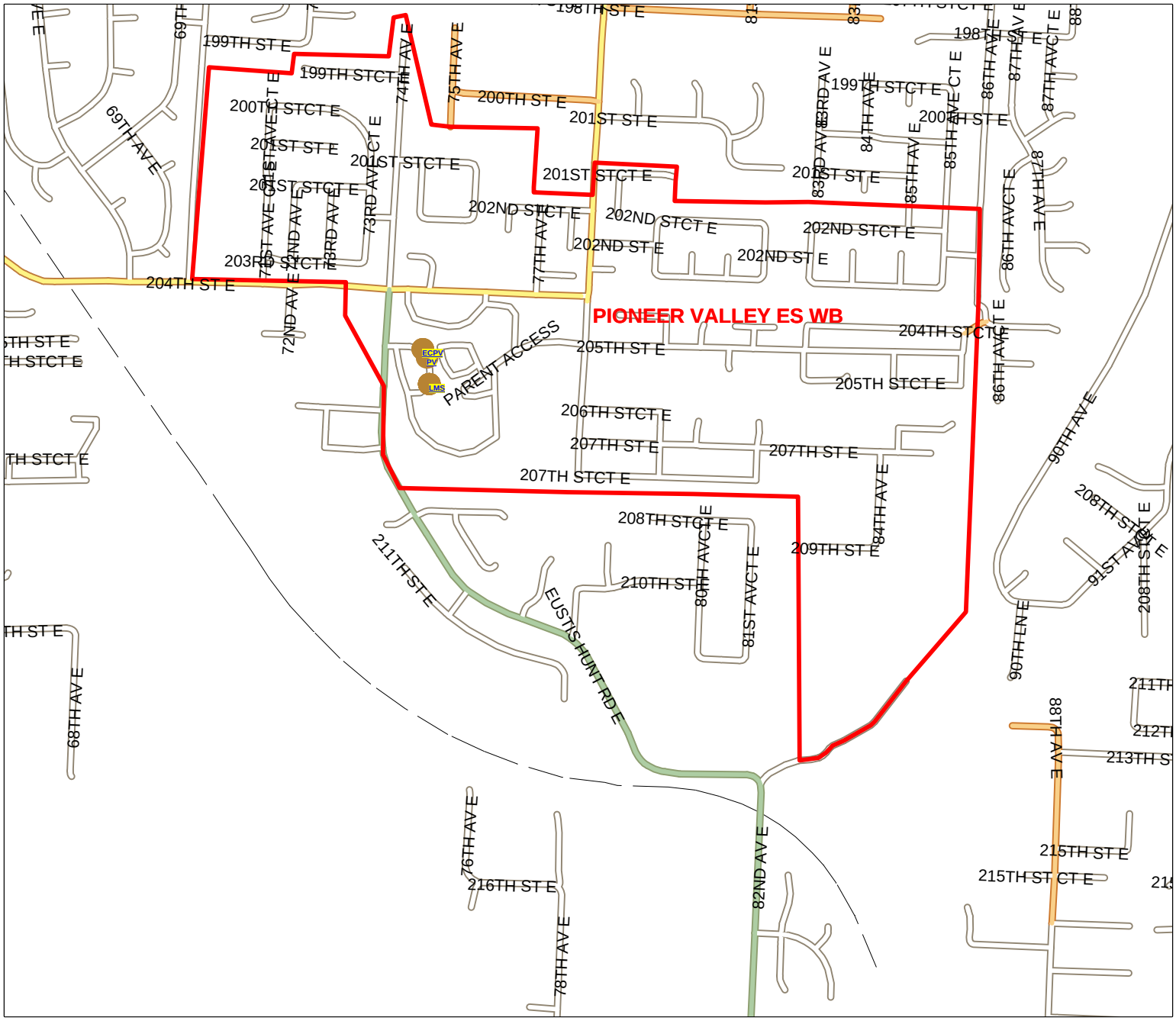
This route will be reviewed yearly and may change as conditions along the route change. Please contact (contact person's name for your school) if you have any concerns regarding the walk route. Together we can work to make your child's walk to school an enjoyable part of his or her day.

Sincerely,

Your Principal

Return to your child's teacher:

I have received the school walk route map and discussed it with my child. I understand that this route does not ensure nor guarantee the safety of my child while walking to and from school, but is provided as a recommended walking route based on a review of traffic and road conditions in the area.

Parent or guardian signature Date: _____

Bethel School District 403
District Map