Dear WH Families:

As we work together to keep our children safe, it’s important to communicate.  That’s why I am writing to alert you to something alarming that happened Thursday, Sept. 9 after school.

A little girl riding her bike home from Warren Hills Elementary was approached by a white man in an orange/red minivan.  He told her to “get in the car”. The little girl (without hesitation) rode her bike to her home. The little girl was escorted back to Warren Hills by her mom, where the assistant principal called district security and the police.  The Liberty Police Department is adding additional patrols in the area over the next few days.

This is a good reminder that we must teach our children about “stranger danger,” soI am including some safety tips for you to share with your child.

**SAFETY TIPS:**

* Role-play with your children how someone might approach them to offer candy, ask for help, or see if they'd like to come and meet their new puppy.  Then teach your children to say a firm “no” and to walk away.
* Remind children that strangers look like normal people, not monsters.
* Tell children not to approach a motor vehicle for someone asking directions, and tell them that adults do not need directions from children.
* Create a code word to use with your children, so they will know when a message is from you.
* If someone follows your child, the child should scream loudly and run away.  If someone is attempting to grab your child, the child should fall to the ground and start kicking and screaming. The child should make as much noise as possible to attract attention.
* Tell your children to tell you if someone has asked them to keep a secret from you.
* Children have very good instincts. They should trust that feeling that tells them if something is safe or not.

In Liberty Public Schools, safety is our number-one priority.  If you ever have questions about our safety procedures or want to share your concerns, please feel free to call me at 816-736-5630



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