

## Did you know...

...RideWise's Safe Routes to School program will be teaching our **Safety Town** pedestrian education course at Whiton School?

Safe walking and biking are essential life skills which have declined as the number of students who walk or bike to school has dropped from almost 50% to 12% in the last 40 years. Not every student has the ability to walk to school, particularly in Branchburg where homes aren't always close to schools and many neighborhoods don't have sidewalks. Every child does walk somewhere every day:

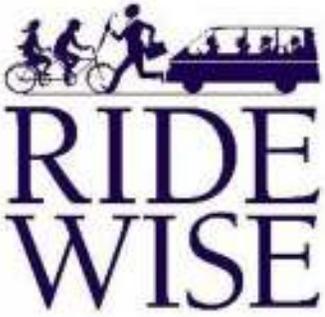
- To see friends or family in their neighborhood,
- From the car to practically everywhere they go—schools, sports practices, restaurants, parks, etc.
- Across one of the most dangerous environments in our community— busy parking lots with distracted drivers focused on parking spots, not on pedestrians.

Safety Town is a hands-on, interactive learning tool where students understand the dangers associated with streets. We teach students where and how to safely walk along and cross streets. We also focus on things specific to Whiton School such as stressing the importance of using crosswalks at the school and never walking between parked buses and cars.

Hopefully, you notice some new skills in your children as a result of our class —

- Look **LEFT-RIGHT** and **LEFT** again before crossing streets,
- Cross streets at crosswalks, or if there isn't one, cross at a corner. Drivers expect to see people in crosswalks, they don't expect them to run out from between parked cars or see them crossing streets mid-block.
- No distracted walking — no listening to music or texting so we can focus on getting to destinations safely.

If you would like to know more about our program, please contact us at [Gerry@ridewise.org](mailto:Gerry@ridewise.org).



RideWise TMA

360 Grove Street

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

[www.ridewise.org](http://www.ridewise.org)

908-704-1011

