

Northstar Independent Student Dismissal: Drive, Walk, Bike, or Take Rideshare Home

Driving Privilege

High school students who have good behavior and are in good academic standing with "C" or better grades in all subject areas and who have a valid driver's license are allowed to drive automobiles to school with administration and their family's permission. Student drivers & families must complete a Student Driver Authorization Form prior to driving to school. Students are not allowed to go to their cars during the school day. It is also prohibited to give other students rides without written permission (for each occasion) from the student's family and the driver's family. Northstar reserves the right to revoke student driving privileges.

Walk, Bike or Take Rideshare

There are no laws around age or distance of walking to school. Likewise, there are no laws around age of using rideshare services. Individual companies have their own age restrictions for unaccompanied riders. This policy is intended to cover use of commercial rideshare (Uber/Lyft) and specialized transportation services for individuals with disabilities.

Parents are obligated to ensure their student(s) get to school and attend regularly, but this in itself does not prevent independent travel. Particularly in light of the students we serve, as a school, we have a duty of care for the safety and well-being of our students.. Therefore this policy is to help advise parents in the decisions they make for their children in relation to safety to and from school. We also have a legal mandate to alert relevant authorities should we believe a child's welfare is at risk.

Only students who are in middle school, upper school, or Career Center may walk or bike to and from school. Only students in upper school or Career Center may use Rideshare apps.

In deciding whether your student is ready to walk/bike to school or use Rideshare apps, you should assess any risks associated with the route to school and assess your student's confidence. There are many ways you can prepare your student to make an independent journey. One way is to follow them a few times on their journey, so you know how safe and sensible they are. It is also strongly advised that students who are walking or using Rideshare without an adult, have a cell phone or other means of communication that they are able to use if they need help. All cell phones must be turned in at the front desk (K-12 Academy) or to the teacher (Career Center) upon arrival at school, per our current policy.

Consider the following for walking or biking:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight to school or straight home, using the agreed safe route?
2. Are there roads to cross on the route and how busy/safe are those roads?
3. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend or group of friends?

4. Are they road safety aware?
5. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
6. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
7. Do they understand about keeping themselves safe and not making any dangerous choices, either by themselves or with a group of friends?

Consider the following for using Rideshare:

1. Who will control the rideshare app: the student or the parent/guardian/adult ally?
2. If the student controls the rideshare app, does the parent/guardian/adult ally have a way to track their location?
3. Does the student know how to safely identify the vehicle and driver? (check for your name, check the license plate, check the driver and car photos, check for the rideshare company sticker)
4. Does your student know what to do if they feel unsure about their ride or unsafe during the ride? (don't get in the car, call 911 in an emergency).

If you decide that your student is ready for this responsibility, please complete the form(s) below.

How to complete the forms:

1. Circle yes or no for each statement (please note that if you circle 'no' for any of the statements, consider if your student is ready to walk/bike to or from school or use Rideshare apps.
2. Read the information and if you agree please sign and date if you want your child **to walk/bike to and/or from school alone or use Rideshare apps.**
3. Please return these forms to school prior to any independent travel.
4. If at any time you need to change the arrangements, please ensure you let us know in writing.

As part of keeping your student safe and the school being able to support our families in the case of an emergency, we do request that parents provide us with a copy of the walking/biking route or the names of which Rideshare companies your student will use. .

You will receive a letter/email from school to confirm that we have received your permission form for your child to either walk/bike to or from school alone.

STUDENT DRIVER AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please read carefully, as student parking is a privilege and may be revoked for failure to abide by expectations. Parking privileges can be revoked at any time if the student is in violation of the guidelines and/or school administration deems the privilege to be rescinded.

As shared in the Student-Family Handbook, students are expected to maintain good behavior (e.g. maintain good attendance and no tardies, follow school wide behavior support, etc), and good academic standing.

Students are expected to arrive at school on time. Excessive tardiness or absences may result in loss of parking privileges.

Students who drive must travel with their class on school outings and may not drive to community-based work sites.

Students are prohibited from giving other students rides without written permission (for each occasion) from the student's parents and the driver's parents. Students may not give other students rides when shuttling between campuses.

For student drivers under age 18, a parent/guardian note is required for each occasion of an early dismissal (eg. doctor's appointment) before leaving. A parent/guardian note is required upon arrival for each tardy.

All drivers are expected to follow all directional signs in the parking lot. This includes one-way, do not enter, and other signs. Speeding/reckless driving, failure to obey street signs, and loitering are violations of parking expectations, and may result in loss of parking privileges.

All students must be licensed and covered by insurance. The school is not responsible for drivers, automobiles or their contents. Loitering in the parking lot before and after school is prohibited. Students who park at school should enter the building when they arrive, and exit the building and parking lot, safely and promptly, at the end of the school day. Please wait until the dismissal line is complete before leaving. If traveling between campuses, students should follow current procedures and are expected to arrive on time. Students are not allowed to go to their cars during the school day. Any weapons, drugs, tobacco, marijuana, alcohol, or the like of any kind in the vehicle are prohibited. If found, the student will be referred for disciplinary action. Students parking in the school parking lot and designated areas are assumed to have knowledge of any such materials in their vehicle, per State Law.

Students are required to abide by the code of conduct as outlined in the Northstar Academy Student Family Handbook while in parking areas.

Student Name:

Driver's License #:

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name:

Primary Vehicle Make
& Model:

Primary Vehicle Color:

Primary Vehicle License Plate State & #:

Secondary Vehicle
Make & Model:

Secondary Vehicle Color:

Secondary Vehicle License Plate State & #:

By signing below, you agree to abide by the above expectations:

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Northstar

Permission to walk/bike to and/or from school alone

Student's name: _____ Grade Level: ____

The route to school is within safe walking distance yes no

I consider the route to school to be a safe route yes no

I have provided school with a map of my child's route to and from school yes no

My student does not need to cross any busy/main roads yes no

I have taught my student to cross safely yes no

My student is aware of the potential dangers, including weather, regarding roads/traffic and how to avoid dangers and stay safe yes no

My student understands and follows pedestrian crossing signs yes no

My student understands stranger danger yes no

My student knows what to do if they need help and in an emergency yes no

My student will have a cell phone that is charged and knows how to access entry to our home yes no

My student will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone yes no

I acknowledge that there will be other risks yes no

When walking home, my student will go straight home or to another location. Please list here: _____ yes no

Permission slip to WALK or BIKE to/from school:

Please check relevant boxes

- I have read and understand this policy on safeguarding my student walking/biking to school.
- I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my student gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with the school.
- I fully understand that if my student attends an extracurricular activity, they should always be collected by an adult.
- I have provided a map of the route to/from school.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Adult Student Signature _____ Date _____

Northstar

Considerations for the Use of Rideshare Services

Student's name: _____

Grade Level: ____

My student knows how to check the identity of a rideshare driver	yes	no
I have provided the name of the rideshare company(ies) to school	yes	no
I have a way to track my student's location/route.	yes	no
My student understands 'stranger danger'	yes	no
My student knows what to do if they need help	yes	no
My student knows what to do in an emergency	yes	no
My student will have a cell phone that is charged and knows how to access entry to our home	yes	no
They will have my number, the school number and an emergency contact on their phone	yes	no
I acknowledge that there will be other risks	yes	no
If using commercial rideshare, payment information is preloaded into the phone (Northstar staff cannot assist with entering credit card information).	yes	no

Permission Slip to use Rideshare Apps: Please return to Northstar

(parent/guardian signature required for students who are not their own guardian):

Please check relevant boxes

- I have read and understand this policy on safeguarding my student using rideshare.
- I fully understand that it is my responsibility to ensure my student gets to and from school safely including getting to school on time. If circumstances change then I will communicate this with the school..
- I have provided the name of approved rideshare companies to school.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Adult Student Signature _____ Date _____