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**Trailwood Elementary Hosts “Walk to School Day” Celebration,  
recognizes new crosswalk and community partnerships**

Johnson County, Kan. (Oct. 8, 2018) – Trailwood Elementary students will join more than 250,000 children across the United States on Oct. 10 to participate in the annual Walk to School Day event. Walk to School Day raises awareness about pedestrian safety, encourages adults to create safe environments, and boosts the amount of physical activity children incorporate into their day.

Wednesday’s celebration at Trailwood Elementary, 5101 W. 95th St., Overland Park, Kan., is timely because the cities where Trailwood families live—Overland Park and Prairie Village—recently partnered to create a safer pedestrian environment. The cities restriped the crosswalk at 95th Street and Roe Avenue, installed a school zone to slow traffic and hired a crossing guard at this busy intersection. More than 100 school children must navigate the intersection to walk or bike to school.

Parent advocates joined school staff, district personnel and staff from the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment’s LiveWell and SafeKids initiatives to ask for these improvements. Trailwood parent Kim Whitman walks with her 4th and 5th grade children every day and says, “The environment is now conducive, enjoyable, and safe for walking and biking; you can tell because people are using it!”

Whitman says, and research supports, that there are benefits to walking and biking to school beyond physical activity: “I think it prepares the kids for the day. A nice, calm walk clears the mind. And my son rides his bike now. The independence to do so has been huge for his confidence. As a mom, I feel like I can give him this independence because I know he’ll be safe with the crossing guard.”

(more)

Encouraging healthy transportation alternatives such as biking and walking to school is among the Shawnee Mission School District Sustainability priorities. The district collaborates with its municipal and county partners to encourage street and public safety improvements in the areas surrounding schools. Shawnee Mission worked with partners to implement improvements benefitting both public and private schools in the City of Roeland Park.

**Celebration Information:**

Trailwood Elementary School, 5101 W. 95th St., Overland Park, Kan.  
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Johnson County SafeKids Coalition and FedEx (sponsor of “Safe Kids Walk This Way”) will give tours of FedEx vehicles and will teach safe pedestrian/bike behaviors around traffic and large vehicles. Live entertainment and the Indian Woods mascot will greet students and families as they arrive.

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