

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Brookwood Elementary Host “Walk to School Day” Event
Community celebrates new facility, pedestrian and
cycling safety features and partnerships**

(OLATHE, KS – September 30, 2019) On Wednesday, October 2, 2019, Brookwood Elementary students will join the more than 250,000 children across the United States who 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 Brookwood Elementary School (**3411 W 103rd St, Leawood, KS 66206**) is timely because during the school’s construction, several updates were made to make it safer and easier to walk or bike to school. The new building features multiple bike racks, new crossings, a school zone, and a pedestrian-activated light. The City of Leawood and Brookwood joined efforts to make this a walkable school and community. Parent advocates joined school staff, district personnel, and staff from the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment’s (JCDHE) LiveWell and Safe Kids initiatives, and City of Leawood to promote and celebrate these improvements. The new Brookwood facility opened in the spring of 2019.

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.

“We have had many successful partnerships with the Shawnee Mission School District, and look forward to additional collaborations in the future” said Jill Raiford, JCDHE Health Educator.

Celebration Information:

Location: Brookwood Elementary – 3411 W. 103rd St, Leawood, KS 66206

Date and time: Wednesday, October 2, 7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

- Johnson County Safe Kids and FedEx Express and Fed Ex Ground, sponsors of “Safe Kids Walk This Way” will give tours of a FedEx vehicle and will teach safe pedestrian/bike behaviors around traffic and large vehicles.
- The Brookwood Elementary School band will perform at this event.
- Representatives from most partner organizations will be available for the media and to greet students and families as they bike and walk to school.

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