

Walker Arrival and Dismissal FAQ

What does “walker” mean?

Walkers are students who leave school property on foot or by bike. Last school year, more than 70 Placentino students were dismissed as walkers. The large majority of these students were picked up by car in the Placentino parking lot. Walker dismissal must be reserved for students who are truly walking/riding a bike off the elementary campus so that we can maintain a safe and efficient traffic pattern. Families should utilize the car pick-up procedure if they wish to pick up their student by car.

Do I need to give the school written permission for my child to be a walker?

Yes. In the **Returning Student Form** (found in the Family Portal), there is a section where you can grant permission for students in grades 1–5 to be dismissed as walkers. Without this permission, your student will not be allowed to be a walker. Kindergarten students do not need written permission, as they must be picked up by a parent/guardian/adult.

What time can my walker enter the school at arrival?

Students can enter the building at 7:25 AM.

Can I walk my child into the school at arrival?

Adults walking students can walk their child to the outside of door #3. After you leave, a staff member will assist your child in getting to their designated location. Due to safety and security purposes, we ask that all adults remain outside of the school at arrival.

Where will my child exit the school at dismissal?

Walkers in grades 1–5 will be escorted by a staff member through the Placentino front doors. Siblings in those grade levels will be able to walk out together.

Walkers in Kindergarten will exit through door #3. A parent/guardian/approved adult must show the student’s QR code and the student will be dismissed to them.

What time will walkers exit the school at dismissal?

Walkers in grades 1-5 will be escorted out of the school once the buses are dismissed. This will occur between 2:20 and 2:25.

Kindergarten Walker dismissal will begin at approximately 2:15.

I have both a Kindergarten student and a student in grades 1-5, and want to walk home with both. How do I facilitate this?

Walkers in grades 1-5 will be escorted by a staff member past door #3 (the location for kindergarten walker pickup). Parents/guardians can have their older student join them in line while they await their kindergarten student to exit the building.

If my child rides their bike to school, how will they get it at dismissal?

The grades 1-5 walker line will be escorted past the bike rack, where students can stop to collect their bikes. They will then walk their bike off the elementary campus before riding.

Parents/Guardians/Adults picking up kindergarten walkers can either retrieve the bike prior to getting their kindergartner or after.

Students are asked to walk their bikes until they are off campus, and then they may ride.

What staff are supervising the walker line, and for how long?

Staff will escort grades 1-5 walkers to the corner of Woodland St and Damigella field. They will assist any student who needs to cross Woodland St to the rail trail. Once students leave school grounds, supervision is the responsibility of families.

Where are there crossing guards?

There will be crossing guards at Church/Woodland and Blair Square. A school staff member will act as a crossing guard to assist students from the elementary campus to the rail trail. We encourage ALL students to utilize the rail trail to avoid additional street crossings. Please be sure to review the route you would like your child to take to and from school.

What walking paths are available, and can students use the rail trail?

Families should review safe walking routes with their children. Many students use the nearby rail trail as part of their walk. Please discuss expectations for safe walking practices with your child before school begins. Please utilize this helpful website to learn more about the [Holliston Rail trail](#).

What if I don't want my child walking alone?

If you have concerns about your child walking independently, we recommend having an adult meet them at the corner of Woodland St/Damigella Field (this is the exit from the elementary complex). Families also have the option to pick up their students as a car pick up.

Can I wait for my grades 1–5 walker at the front door of the school?

We ask that parents/guardians/adults who plan to walk home with their grades 1–5 students wait at the corner of Woodland Street and Damigella Field (by the stop sign across from Holliston Oil). This helps us avoid congestion and crowding at the front doors, especially since car pick-up dismissal is happening at the same time.

Can my child wait at the front door until I arrive?

No — walkers are expected to exit utilizing the process described above and begin walking home. If you plan to meet your child, please be at the meeting spot and ready at dismissal time (See image below. This is across from Holliston Oil)



What happens if it's raining or snowing at dismissal?

Walker dismissal will continue as normal, even in inclement weather. Please plan ahead by sending your child with the appropriate clothing and gear. If you are changing your student's dismissal plans after your child has already started school:

- **At Placentino:** Families must send an email to pesattendance@holliston.k12.ma.us AND their classroom teacher by 11:00 AM. If you email AFTER 11:00 AM, we can not guarantee the email will be received. After this time, please call the main office.
- **At Miller:** Families must send an email to Millerschooloffice@holliston.k12.ma.us AND their classroom teacher by 1:00 PM. After 1:00 PM, please call the main office.

Please be mindful of notifying the school ASAP of dismissal, as it may not be possible to do so at the end of the day/once dismissal is in progress.

Updated FAQ (August 24)

If my child shares with the staff member supervising that they usually have an adult walk them home and they are not present, will they leave them?

No. We will wait a responsible amount of time with the student and then walk them back to the school. Please understand that it is your responsibility to be at the meeting spot at dismissal time. If an unexpected emergency occurs, please call the school to notify them.

[Video of Grs 1-5 Walker Procedure](#)

