



ASCENSION
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
www.ascension-school.com

August 12, 2011

Rick C. Tanksley, Chief of Police
Oak Park Police Department
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Thomas Barwin, Village Manager
Village of Oak Park
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Village President David Pope
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, IL 60302

Chief Tanksley, President Pope, and Mr. Barwin:

Ascension School remains disappointed that the Village of Oak Park's will not provide crossing guards on the area school walking routes. We had hoped that the Village would recognize the need to provide for the safety of our area school children. At its August 8 meeting, the Ascension School Board re-affirmed its decision that Ascension cannot pay for crossing guards. The Board reviewed its previously approved budget for 2011-2012, which did not provide for this expenditure.

The Board is committed to supporting our School's mission to provide an excellent, faith and values-based education for the families who choose Ascension School. The Board, our Pastor and the School administration believe that our energies and resources should be directed toward our mission. Further, the Ascension community believes that public safety of area children is the responsibility of the Village of Oak Park.

A copy of this letter will be provided to our Ascension school families. Please let us know which corners will have crossing guards provided by Oak Park. Also, please confirm that the Village will not provide guards at Harrison and East; Garfield and East and Van Buren and Oak Park.

These difficult economic times challenge all of us. Ascension's priority remains its educational mission. There have been many challenges in our 99 year history. We have faith and hope that we will continue to overcome them. However, Ascension believes that the safety of our children on their way to school on village sidewalks crossing village streets remains the responsibility of the Village.

Sincerely,
Mary Jo Burns, Principal

cc: Ascension School Parents
Ascension School Board
Sr. Rosemary Hickmann,
Office of Catholic Schools

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Love + Kindness + Respect