



News from the Mayor's Office

City of Kansas City, Mo.

www.kcmo.org

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Mayor Funkhouser to Tour Center Elementary

Mayor to Walk Home from School with Local Family

Mayor Mark Funkhouser is stepping up to show the importance of his neighborhood-oriented Schools First initiative.

On Wednesday, April 7, the Mayor will tour Center Elementary School and walk home with a local family.

"These students are my constituents. Their parents are my constituents," said Mayor Funkhouser. "Having an improved relationship with their school is the right thing to do. Rebuilding the city's assets around this school to improve the neighborhood, and to do the same at all the other schools and neighborhoods in Kansas City, is the right thing to do."

The Mayor's office and city staff will be distributing maps of each school and the area surrounding them at the media conference. Those maps show the known city issues in a 50-square-block area.

"We will be encouraging neighborhood and school leaders to help us find the issues the city needs to address around their schools," said Mayor Funkhouser. "The maps will be available online, and we hope all concerned residents will visit www.kcmo.org/schoolsfirst to see the map of their school or their neighborhood."

Schools First is, first and foremost, about restoring and strengthening neighborhoods. Schools First focuses city funds on basic services for the area around the city's more than 230 schools, funding infrastructure improvements around those schools and making police protection in the area a priority. As those schools, and progressively the 50-block-area around them, grow into *islands of safety* for the neighborhood, new residents, business and a neighborhood renaissance will follow.

Center Elementary is located at 8401 Euclid Avenue. The tour will begin at 2:45 p.m. Media availability will be held at 3:15 p.m. The Mayor will walk home with a family at 3:30 p.m.

Members of the media are encouraged to tour the school and walk with the Mayor and the family. We ask that the media respect the privacy of the family and not show their address or home.

For more information contact Kendrick Blackwood in Mayor Funkhouser's office: 816-513-3513, kendrick_blackwood@kcmo.org.