



# Keep It Safe Out the Door Video Facts

## Kids Teaching Kids

ODOT recruited high school students from around the state to create a safety song and video to help students walk and bike to school more safely. This first-of-its-kind, hip hop-style educational video intertwines dancing with safety demonstrations.

## Watch It with Friends or in Class!

Learning the rules for walking and biking safely to school has never been easier or more appealing!



[Hear Our Safety Song](#)

[Safe Out the Door Behind the Scenes Video](#)

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**Abigail** is a senior from Scioto County. She is a cheerleader, a member of show choir, PAAC theatre and dances. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their support.

**Aleesha** is a senior and is seventeen years old. She is a four-year member of the Lebanon Singers Show Choir. She danced for eleven years on Cunningham Dance Studio's dance team, and has been performing since she was three. She has been involved in many musicals at Lebanon High School, including Grease, Annie and Footloose. She has shown horses for the past five years as a member of 4H. She plans on going Pre- Med in college next year, with many hopes and dreams for the future.

**Allison** is from Medina County and was a proud member of the show choir. She will study Organizational Communication and wants to be an event planner. In her spare time, she is a cashier at Heinen's Grocery Store, enjoys watching movies, and spending time with her friends and family. Allison has been dancing for 11 years and was psyched to be in the first ever ODOT Safe Routes to School Music Video. Thanks to Nick for giving her the opportunity to be a performer for the video. Hope you all enjoy!!!

**Brian** is a senior and has performed in 3 musicals under the direction of Mitchell. These include: Grease as Johnny Casino, West Side Story as Action, and Chicago as Billy Flynn. He is a member of the Lebanon High School show choir and bowling team. Brian would like to thank his parents and Tommy for their love and support.

**Briana** is a senior and lives in Franklin County. She has been dancing since she was 5 years old. Briana has been in many musicals including Oklahoma, Little Shop of Horrors and FAME. She has studied in New York with many Broadway choreographers as well as at Broadway Bound Dance Centre, Mitchell Aaron Productions and TripleForce Performing Arts Center. She hopes everyone enjoys the video!

**Courtney** is 18 and is from Logan County. She will be attending classes at OSU in the fall. She was involved with show choir and cheerleading. Courtney would like to thank Ms. Kathy for everything over the years!  
Deja is 15-years-old and is a sophomore in the Warren County area. She is involved in cheerleading, track, and is a member of the show choir. Deja has performed in The Wiz, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and Grease under the direction of Mitchell Finke.

**Drew** is a 17-year-old high school senior. He is from Wood County and is involved with Quiz Bowl, Band, Soccer, Baseball and the show choir "Varsity Singers." He has performed in Little Shop of Horrors, Lagooned and played the role of Williard in Footloose.

**Elissa** is 14 and is a freshman from Warren County. She has been dancing since she was 5 and this will be her 6th year competing at DanceKids Studio. She is very excited and grateful to have this opportunity to be part of the ODOT Safety Music video.

**Ellie** is 15 and is a sophomore. She participates in her school show choir and mixed voice choir, Cantare. She also sings at the University of Cincinnati in the Cincinnati Children's Bel-Canto Choir. Ellie takes dance at Dance Kids Studio, and takes voice lessons with Kim Jacobson. She has performed in "Carmen" with the Cincinnati Opera, "The Wiz" with Lebanon Jr. High School, and "West Side Story" and "Chicago" with Dance Kids Studio under the direction of Mitchell Finke.

**Erica** is currently a junior and is 17. She has been a part of dance for 14 years and has played an active role in her dance competition team at Cynergy Dance Academy where she has participated in the Power Pak program and performed at Disney World. She is also highly involved in her high school, participating in show choir, theatre, swimming, cheerleading and student council. She had a great experience and would like to thank everyone for this wonderful opportunity.

**Hannah** is a senior from the Scioto County area and is a member of National Honor Society, Ohio Model United Nations, Mock Trial, PAAC Childrens Theatre, swim team and tennis. She is very excited to perform with everyone in the ODOT video production.

**Troy** is from Butler County and has played the role of Riff in West Side Story. Professionally, he performed in LaComedia's Christmas Spectacular and Cinderella. Within the last year, he performed in Chicago and West Side Story under the direction of Mitchell Finke. He is a competition singer/dancer with DKS. Along with his sister he attended the New York Film Academy Camp in Orlando. He is a member of his school's Acappella choir and show choir.

**Isabella** is a 15-year-old sophomore from Cuyahoga County. He has been dancing for 12 years, taking classes in Jazz, Hip-Hop, Contemporary, Ballet and Tap. Since she was in 8th grade, she has been in her school's choirs. She is a second-year member of her high school's Show Choir group, Music Express, where she was named Outstanding Performer. Isabella is honored to participate in the ODOT Safety Music Video. It has been a great experience for her. She encourages all students to study hard in school and make sure your safety comes first.

**Jade** is in the 10th grade and lives in Warren County. She has been dancing since she was 3 and this is her sixth year competing for DanceKids Studio in Lebanon. She was a Rockette in the Lebanon High School production of Annie and danced in a workshop production of West Side Story. Jade has traveled to New York City to study at Broadway Dance Center with several choreographers and teachers. Jade has also performed in Cincinnati Taps at the Aronoff. She is very excited and grateful to have this opportunity to be part of the ODOT Safety Music video.

**Jennavieve** is a 7th grader and is from Montgomery County. She is a member of the Dance Ensemble at SCPA and competes with Midwest Elite Dance Center. She has been seen on stage as Clara in the Nutcracker for two years and was a munchkin and a poppy in the Wizard of Oz. She currently holds the title Miss Dance Power U.S.A, and has been named Jr. Miss StageOne, Pre-Teen Miss Nexstar and Talent on Parade's Top Entertainer.

**Jordan** is 14 years old and lives in Franklin County. She has danced at Broadway Bound Dance Centre in New Albany since she was 3. She has performed in: Once On This Island, Guys and Dolls, King and I, Music Man, Beauty and the Beast and Annie. She also played the role of "Jordan" in the Easton Towne Centers Holiday Tree Lighting event. Jordan enjoys skiing and hanging out with her friends.

**Jordan** is from Scioto County and is excited to be a part of this awesome project! He has participated in plays and drama events for around 10 years and hopes to further expand his experience with theatre in the future.

**Julia** has been dancing since age 3. She danced in a pre-professional ballet company and is in her second year of the Harmony Gold Show Choir and her first year of the Chamber and Liturgical Choir at Walsh Jesuit high school. She also has been singing in various choirs since kindergarten. Julia is extremely excited to be in the ODOT Safe Routes To School Music Video. Julia is 14 and lives in Franklin County. She has danced at Broadway Bound Dance Center for several years and also plays soccer and runs track. Julia would like to thank her family and friends for their support. She hopes you all enjoy the video.

**Kamron** lives in Warren County and is 14 years old. He dances at Off Broadway Dance Academy/Z Company. Kamron is excited to start high school and perform!

**Lauren** is 18 and from the Licking County area. She has been dancing for 15 years and is a former gymnast. She coaches gymnastics and teaches dance. Lauren first worked with Mitchell when she was 8 in the musical theatre group called Kids of Broadway! Enjoy the video!

**Mackenzie** is 13-years-old and an 8th grader. She takes dance at DanceKids Studio. She enjoys watching Dance Moms and going to the mall with her friends. She studied dance this summer at Broadway Dance Center in New York City. Mackenzie is 13-years-old and is in the 8th grade. She has been dancing since the age of 3 at Dancekids Studio in Lebanon. Mackenzie has performed in the musicals Annie and Sweeney. She has taken several classes and workshops in New York including with the Broadway cast of West Side Story.

**Maggie** is a sophomore from Medina County. She started dancing at the age of five with a focus on ballet and tap. During middle school, Maggie was also a member of her school's cheerleading squad. This is her second year with Walsh Jesuit Harmony Gold Show Choir. She enjoys all theater and musicals and was in her high school's production of Singing In The Rain. She has been involved in student government for 4 years. When not performing, Maggie enjoys traveling, being with her friends, family and volunteering for Zane's Foundation.

**Marisa** is a freshman in the Warren County area where she is a member of the dance team. She has been dancing since she was 3 and dances competitively at Dancekids Studio In Lebanon. Marisa had the opportunity to dance with the Chen dancers from New York City and was a Rockette in the Lebanon High School's production of Annie and danced in a West Side Story workshop. She also performed at the Aronoff Center in Cincinnati.

**Melissa** is a junior and is so honored to be in this ODOT music video. She has been a member of Walsh's Harmony Gold Show Choir since her freshman year. Melissa has appeared in Walsh's Centerstage Theater productions: A Christmas Carol, The Wizard of OZ and Singing in the Rain. She has been taking vocal lessons with Brenda Cuffari in Strongsville and has taken dance lessons since she was 3 years old. Melissa hopes you "keep it safe, out the door!"

**Natalie**, age 16, is an 11th grader. She has danced at Broadway Bound Dance Centre since the age of seven, where she is currently serving her second year as Team Captain. Natalie is active in her high school choir and musicals, most recently starring as Tammy in the New Albany High School Production of Hairspray. Natalie recently completed her second dance showcase at Disney World in Orlando, FL, and has participated in numerous local dance events, including performances in the Holiday Spectacular with the New Albany Symphony Orchestra.

**Nick** is from Cuyahoga County and is currently taking college courses in Human Resources. He has been dancing for over 10 years. He currently choreographs Walsh Jesuit Harmony Gold and Brush High School Soundsation Show Choirs. Nick works as a full-time manager for Teavana and is also a current member of the Baldwin Wallace College Men's Chorus. Nick was very excited when he was asked to be part in the making of the first ever ODOT Safe Route to School Music Video. Just remember; "Keep it safe out the door!"

**Noah** is 15 and a sophomore who lives in Scioto County. He participates in band, advanced choir and Thespian Club. He has also been in several musicals at Portsmouth Little Theatre, Portsmouth Area Children's Theatre and at his school.

**Olivia** is 15-years-old and is a sophomore in the Clinton County area. This will be her ninth year dancing at Dance Kids Studio in Lebanon. She has participated in the musicals Chicago as Kitty and West Side Story as Anybodys, both under the direction of Mitchell Finke. She was a part of the Ohio Department of Education's DECA Thriller flashmob. She is also part of the Girls Chamber Choir at Kings High School and participates in their plays and musicals.

**Olivia** is 16 and a junior in the Franklin County area. Her dance education, with Chrissy Danflous and Nikki Tuller, has taken place at Broadway Bound Dance Centre for the past 9 years. She has performed in Mt. Vernon Performing Arts' "Annie" as well as New Albany High School's production of Hairspray. Olivia likes to travel for fun, and enjoys attending local and distant dance workshops.

**Pallavi** is from Summit County and has had years of experience with dance having started performing at age 5. She participates in drama club and is an assistant dance captain for the show choir at her school. Besides dance, her other hobbies include swimming, traveling, and reading. She plans on attending college and then medical school to fulfill her dream of becoming a doctor. She enjoyed working with everyone involved with the ODOT safety video, and she would like to thank the people who drove to rehearsals with her.

**Ravan** is from Hocking County and is attending Kent State University. She has been involved with dance, drama and music for 15 years. In high school she was the soccer captain, involved in cross county, thespian society (president) and the Homecoming Queen.

**Savannah** is 16 and a sophomore in the Medina County area. She is involved in show choir and has also spent time singing in the recording studio. In addition to singing and dancing, Savannah plays the piano and guitar. She was very excited to work with ODOT in making the school safety video.

**Siren** is 17 and a senior in Warren County. He is a member of his school's show choir, the Lebanon Singers, and enjoys playing music on his guitar and dancing. He has also performed in many musicals over the years including Grease and Annie.

**Slade** is a 15-year-old and is from Hardin County. In his busy schedule, he plays baseball, basketball, and is a member of the school show choir "Varsity Singers." Slade was so excited to be a part of the ODOT Safe Routes to School video. He would like to thank Mitchell and Sean for their leadership.

**Taylor** will be a freshman in the Butler County area. She has performed in West Side Story as an 8th grader. Additionally, she has performed in the Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, Jungle Book and Nutcracker. Professionally, she has performed in Cinderella at LaComedia Dinner Theatre. Last winter, she performed in Mitchell's production of West Side Story and Chicago this spring. She is a member of the DKS competition team. This summer, Taylor trained through the New York Film Academy Camp in Orlando. At school, she is in Acappella choir and show choir.

**Tre** is 18 and lives in Franklin County. He was a member of the Show Choir and Drama Club. Tre participated in the Ohio Department of Education's DECA Thriller flash mob. He will be attending The Ohio State University in the fall.

**Troy** is from Butler County and has played the role of Riff in West Side Story. Professionally, he performed in LaComedia's Christmas Spectacular and Cinderella. Within the last year, he performed in Chicago and West Side Story under the direction of Mitchell Finke.

**Victoria** is currently a senior and was elated to be a part of the ODOT Music Video. She loves performing in the Walsh Jesuit Harmony Gold Show Choir and has been in 8 school productions. Victoria also enjoys speaking out about issues that are important, especially school safety! She would like to thank her parents for their support and for God, because with Him anything is possible. She hopes you enjoy the video!!!

Zach is an 18-year-old senior living in Licking County area. Has been involved in Competitive All-Star Cheerleading, soccer, basketball, track and swimming. Zach plans to go to college and study drama and acting. He would like to thank Mitchell and Sean for their amazing leadership.

## THE DIRECTORS

**Mitchell A. Finke (Director/Choreographer)** is a freelance event planner, director and choreographer. He is from Gahanna and currently lives in Cincinnati. He got his degree from Ohio Dominican University and started his career as the Business Development Coordinator at COTA. He is currently the State Advisor/Leadership Coordinator for Ohio DECA and has produced events for Easton, Nationwide, Limited Inc, Macys, COTA, GSW, DECA, ODOT and more. Mitchell has performed professionally in A Chorus Line (Mike), 42nd Street (Andy Lee), Chicago (Fred Casely), Grease (Doody) and Peter Pan (Peter Pan). He was the on-air host of Fox Kids Club and managed and performed at Six Flags. He started performing at the age of 5 at Pinnell Dance Center and has directed/choreographed over 100 musicals for regional theatres, colleges and high schools in Ohio, New York, Michigan, Iowa and beyond. In addition, he has served as Artistic Director and Choreographer for over 50 show choirs all over the US.

Currently he is a director/choreographer for DKS in Lebanon. Enjoy the video!

**Sean Hurley (Music Arranger/Director)** was born in Maryland but grew up in Dayton, Ohio and currently lives in Brookville (Montgomery County). Sean began his vocal performance career at the age of 9 with the Dayton Boys Choir followed by piano, trumpet and French horn lessons. He earned his Bachelors of Music in Music Education from Miami University and has toured the world including Beijing, Shanghai, Dalian and Canada. Currently, Sean is the choir director at Brookville Local Schools as well as a Link Crew Adviser. Sean directs six ensembles, which range from 5th grade to high school. He has worked with many show choirs such as Lebanon Singers, West Virginia's Red Hot, Beaver Creek Friends and is currently the director of Brookville's Shades of Blue Show Choir. He is also a member of the Ohio Music Educators Association and the American Choral Directors Association. Sean has served on production crews such as Grease, Annie, Footloose, Hairspray, Chicago, and West Side Story.