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## More than 100 kids stroll into the new school year with the the Walking School Bus

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By Candace Murphy, FOX10 News Reporter [CONNECT](#)

FAIRHOPE, AL (WALA) - More than 100 kids at Fairhope Elementary School started their first day a little differently than those who waited for the bus or got dropped off in the carpool line.

Just after 7 a.m., parents bring their children behind Fairhope Public Library where they're checked in for the [Walking School Bus](#) program. The kids are free to play around outside on a grassy lot before lining up for their stroll to class.

Third grader Vivian gave the signal with a loud, "1,2,3, smart kids smart walks, let's roll!" and more than 100 students and parents made their half-mile trek to Fairhope Elementary School.

"From the standpoint of the kids, they arrive at school ready to go. From the standpoint of the parents, they're engaged. They're more engaged with their schools. They have a wonderful experience walking to school with them. Or they can drop them off early and they get to their work early," said Charlene Lee, Director of the Walking School Bus Program.

Lee said the walk to school gets the kids energized and ready to learn. It also helps bring the community together with parents walking their little ones if they choose to.

It's the only Walking School Bus program in Alabama and it's the fourth year Fairhope Elementary is continuing the walk.

Fox10 News reporter Candace Murphy walked the half mile with the kids and parents. She spoke to some children starting kindergarten and others who are excited to get back in the classroom. She'll have their reaction on FOX10 News at 5 p.m.

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