



**Ackerman Middle School**

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Principal:  
Joel R. Sebastian

Assistant Principal:  
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Valerie Martin

March 18, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

One of my primary responsibilities as the Principal of Ackerman Middle School is to ensure the safety of the students in Canby. The purpose of this letter is to communicate a potentially dangerous situation that occurred yesterday afternoon. An Ackerman student was walking in town on Highway 99 when a car pulled over and offered the student a ride. The student appropriately ignored the offer and entered the nearest business. The student communicated with their parent and the family has filed a police report.

I'm very proud and thankful for the action taken by the student and the family.

As we approach spring and the impending warmer weather, our children will find themselves out of doors more often and the potential of interacting with strangers increases. Please take this opportunity to reinforce your family's expectations regarding safety.

In order to reinforce these important safety messages I have taken the following steps:

1. The Ackerman administration has communicated with the Canby Police Department regarding this incident.
2. We have talked to the whole student body about the importance of safety on the way to school and on the way home from school.
3. We have posted this letter on our parent list serve and sent a copy home with every student in attendance today.
4. We have communicated with the other Principals in the Canby School District.

Over the last eight years I have been an administrator at Ackerman Middle School. In that time this is the third report of this nature that I am aware of. Canby is a very safe community, but safety is always a primary concern. Please follow up with your children and reinforce the importance of safety and communication.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me here at school.

Sincerely,

Joel Sebastian  
Principal