Crossing guards an asset to Pottstown

On Tuesday, we talked about Pottstown’s walking school bus program to Rupert School.

But most Pottstown students walk to school on their own.

Every day, in all kinds of weather, from freezing cold to pouring rain to balmy afternoons, 19 crossing guards watch over children at intersections all over town.

They are hired and supervised by the Pottstown Police Department and funded by the school district.

They are on duty for an hour in the morning and 45 minutes in the afternoon. Most of them live in Pottstown.

Many are parents or retirees. They are paid $19 per hour and well worth the expense. We are fortunate they are willing to break up their day to serve our children and our community.

Crossing guards do far more than stop traffic at intersections. They are friendly faces and a calming influence on our walkers. Many children bond with them over time.

They are “eyes on the street” that encourage good behavior. Most of them have cell phones for emergencies.

Crossing guards are great public relations ambassadors, demonstrating that Pottstown is a safe place to live and travel.

They are an excellent example of small things that provide big benefits, enhancing everyone’s quality of life.

You won’t find crossing guards in the car-dependent suburbs, where travelers are cooped up in little metal boxes and never interact with each other.

Crossing guards are a daily reminder that Pottstown is a great place to bring up children.

Commentary by Tom Hylton