Talking Points and Interview Guide

Core message

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day honors Ruby's courage and gives students an opportunity to listen to one another, reflect on her story and consider what they can do to make their schools and communities more welcoming.

Key points

- Ruby was six years old when she integrated William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in November 1960.
- The observance began with students in 2018 and grew to more than 800,000 participants nationwide in 2025.
- This is a national day of dialogue. Schools choose their local activities.
- Participation does not require physically walking to school.
- Students can explore courage, kindness, inclusion, bullying and racism in age-appropriate ways.
- Our school is participating through [ACTIVITY] on [DATE].
- We hope students will [SPECIFIC LOCAL GOAL].

Approved quote from Ruby Bridges

"When I was six years old, I learned that you are never too young to make a difference," Bridges said. "Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is not about how children get to school. It is about what they choose to stand for when they come together. I want every child to know that their voice, their courage and their choices can help build a better world."

Suggested answer to why your school is participating

We want our students to know Ruby's story and see that children can make a difference. Through [ACTIVITY], they'll have a chance to listen to one another and think about how they can put courage and kindness into practice here at [SCHOOL].

Adapt this answer to reflect your actual plans. It is suggested language for a local spokesperson, not an attributed quote.

Suggested answer to what happens after the day

We hope the conversations continue. Our students will [ACTUAL FOLLOW-UP ACTION, IF PLANNED]. Ruby's story gives us a way to connect a moment in history with the choices we make in our school today.

Student interview preparation

Invite students to speak in their own words. Possible prompts: What did you learn about Ruby? What does courage look like at your school? What is one way you can help someone feel included? Participation in an interview should be voluntary and follow school permission policies.

Accuracy reminders

Use only confirmed local numbers and activities. Do not announce a 2026 national participation total before it is verified. Do not imply Ruby will attend. Preserve her approved quote exactly. Use the full event name on first reference; use “the observance” or “the day” afterward.