

## Parking Lot

Safety in and around our parking lot is something we need to monitor vigilantly. The majority of our families need to drive their kids to and from school, so patience and caution should be front of mind. Here are some key things to take note of (see below). Please read carefully, as not all of these things will necessarily seem all that important, and certain things you might not even be aware of. However, as someone who stands in the parking lot and observes traffic patterns over time, and who knows how things flow around the school during the day, the reminders listed below are all important.

1. Our buses stagger in before school between 7:35 am and 8:10 am. After school, they will be parked in the bus lane as early as 1:45 pm, ready for the students at dismissal time.
  - a. We also have three daycare vans that transport many of our students. Two parking stalls at the far end of the lot have been designated as daycare spots (for pick-up at the end of the day). Please respect the signage.
2. The most significant thing we need your support with is remembering to *never park and leave your vehicle unless you are in a designated parking stall*. If your child needs help getting out of the vehicle, you need to find a parking stall. The bus lane and the through-lane must remain clear at all times, even if it doesn't appear to be a busy time.
3. If you are just dropping off, please pull all of the way forward to the cross-walk marked at the far end of the parking lot. Students should use the sidewalk and/or walk within the painted yellow lines. *Do not cut through the parked cars (adults, too!)*.
  - a. It is also very important to never stop to pick-up or drop off around the main entrance. *Equally important, do not use this area to make a u-turn.*
4. The bus lane can only be used by other vehicles if directed by staff. Typically, the only time this will occur is in the morning when traffic is backing up in both directions on Banford, and we need to create space for cars to be able to exit the lot. Even if it looks clear, or it's the middle of the day, do not use the bus loop.
  - a. Our Maintenance crews visit throughout the day and they need unimpeded access through the bus lane.
  - b. Our students also routinely walk to and from the portables along the edge of the bus lane. Let's be sure to leave them a healthy buffer.
5. Make note of the traffic cones placed along the roadside. Our buses require a fair bit of space to make the swing out of the parking lot onto Banford Road.
6. Do not block access for our neighbours to their driveways. Please also be mindful of the hedge across from the front of the school as it has been damaged over the years by doors and side mirrors. Small vehicles only, please.

7. Do not back into the parking spaces across the front of the school or along the sidewalk during peak times. *While it makes leaving more challenging for you, it is considerably less confusing to everyone else than the maneuver required to reverse stall park.*
  - a. If you are arriving outside our peak times, and you can clearly see there is no traffic in either direction, it is quite okay to reverse stall park.
  - b. At times, the bumpers of larger vehicles hang over the sidewalk, making it more challenging for folks to walk safely. Please be mindful.
8. Coordinating pick-up at the end of the day is tricky as it can be very difficult to find parking. Please discuss your plan with your child. We have supervisors on hand after dismissal, so consider staggering your arrival time. The buses and the bulk of cars are usually gone by 2:25 pm, and access improves greatly.
9. Please turn off your vehicle when parked. Your cooperation in minimizing exhaust fumes is greatly appreciated.

I am sure there are more than a few of these points you might find inconvenient and/or unnecessary. Understand that my priority is the safety of everyone who visits our site. Calm, predictable, and slow are the order of the day. Consistency is also important. If everyone cooperates, everyone will be safe.

We will have supervisors in and around the parking lot before and after school each day. Please respect the direction they provide. Thanks for your patience and understanding.