



Dear CCS District Families:

Beginning Monday, 2/8/21, all westbound traffic on Walnut Street along the block in front of the CCS Elementary School will be closed during the hours of 7:30-8:00am. If you plan on dropping your child off at the school, please plan on only dropping off on the school-side sidewalk.

The reasoning behind this change is for the ultimate safety of your children. The westbound traffic has been creating backup when busses pull out of the circle and when vehicles drop off students at school. The Village Police are working with us to ensure a smooth and safe traffic pattern.

If you are someone who does drop your child off, it is **imperative** to understand our reasoning for making the drop off changes this year as well as comply with our requests.

- **Reasoning:** In years past, parents would drop off children in the parking lot and cars wrapped around the outside, inside, and rows. It was unsafe for our students to be let out and walk through the parking lot to the school. It also disallowed staff to get into the lot and park. Another issue was the fact that there is only one area for ingress and egress, which created another huge issue of backup. These are all reasons why the parking lot cannot be used at this time.
- **Requests: Drop off begins at 7:30am and is expected to be completed by 8:00am.** By 7:55, our students are entering our classrooms to get ready for the day. Instruction begins at 8:05. We ask that you plan accordingly to have your student(s) dropped off by 8:00am so that they are not missing instruction and have a smooth transition to the day's beginning.
- **Please do the following to help our process run efficiently and safely:**
 - Have your child ready to go with their backpack, belongings, mask, and form.
 - Let your child out of the vehicle on the school side of the road, onto the sidewalk. It can be extremely dangerous to let your child out roadside, and there have been a couple instances that have caused concern.
 - Be cognizant of the other traffic around you as you pull out into the road.
 - Do not attempt to pull into the parking lot or the bus circle.
 - There will be cones to represent where to stay behind at the bus circle entrance and exit. If a car is too far into this area, it makes it difficult for a bus to get around.
 - Drop-off can begin on the sidewalk before the parking lot and continue up to the stop sign.

We also are requiring the use of **blue EZ passes**. Originally, we said you could also use the app. However we would prefer the **blue sheets be** used to avoid congestion at the door. It takes time to look up each child using the app, and this can create an issue for socially distancing, which we are trying to avoid at all costs.

We are very excited to have our students back, and your help and support of our processes will create a collaborative and consistent way for us to achieve this goal! As always, I'm here if you have any questions. Enjoy your weekend!

With respect,

Tracy Durkee
Elementary Principal
Cooperstown Central Schools