

***** IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION *****

November 21, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Any individual who has been present at the school during drop-off and pick-up times can attest that managing the flow of hundreds of children and dozens of vehicles is no small task. Cars, buses, and pedestrians all converge at the school, creating a number of unique safety challenges that we must address by working together.

In comparison to the size of its student body, Hillcrest welcomes an uncommonly large fleet of buses to the school each day. We understand the risk these large vehicles pose to our students and have designated a location directly in front of the school as a bus zone. We ask that parents refrain from using this bus-only zone or its adjoining parking area as a place to drop-off their children. Adherence to this request will eliminate children's exposure to unnecessary risks in and around the bus area.

We ask parents that drive their children to school to use our designated student drop-off and pick-up area located in the northern-most section of our parking lot near the basketball courts. Here, painted lines direct the traffic flow into a loop that extends along the front lawn of the school, allowing students to safely enter and exit vehicles. We recognize this area can become congested and so ask that children and their parents work together to complete the loading and unloading process as quickly and safely as possible.

Understandably, some of our students require direct assistance to enter and exit the school. In such instances, we invite parents to park their vehicles in any of our available stalls and to escort their children safely through the parking lot and into the school.

In my time as Hillcrest's principal, I have received several requests calling for a redesign of our drop-off area. I would like our patrons to know that I share your concerns and have continued the efforts of my predecessor, Principal Johnson, to issue formal requests for a newly constructed drop-off area. To complete a project of this scale, we will require the support of the district in the areas of financing, design, and construction. This is no small feat, but I am determined to keep this process moving forward. In the meantime, our students' safety can be best achieved as we work together and follow the safety procedures previously outlined.

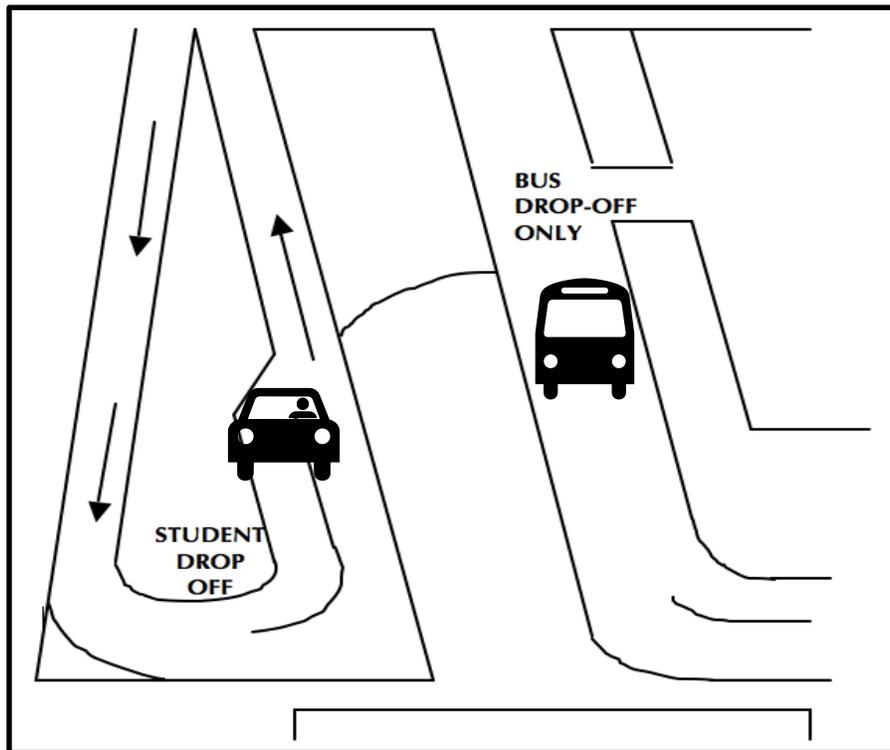
In closing, I would like to review the appropriate times for students to arrive at school. Under most circumstances, students should arrive at school between 8:50-9:00am, as this is the time that outside supervision is first provided during the school day. Students that eat breakfast at the school may arrive starting at 8:35am, but should proceed directly to the gym where inside supervision is provided. Students that have been invited to participate in our before-school Double Dosing program should arrive at 8:05am and proceed directly to their classrooms. With the exception of Double Dosing, no child should be dropped off before 8:35am, as no supervision—inside or out—is provided before this time.

Thank you for your help in holding to these safety procedures. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Zach Eagar
Principal

BUS AND DROP-OFF AREAS



Safety tips . . . for children being dropped-off and picked-up by car:

- When school is out, proceed directly to the pick-up area and be on the lookout for your parents.
- Wait for your parent's car to come to a complete stop in the drop-off area before attempting to load or unload. Never run across the parking lot to reach a car on the other side.
- Always be on the lookout for other cars.

Safety tips . . . for children who ride the bus:

- When you get off, take five giant steps away from the bus. This will help make you visible to the driver.
- Always cross in front of the bus, and make sure you maintain eye contact with the driver.
- Never bend down next to the bus or try to retrieve anything that has fallen near or under the bus.

Safety tips . . . for parents:

- Encourage your child to follow all drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- Always use the designated drop-off and pick-up zone.
- Watch for children. Keep in mind they may be hidden in your blind spot.
- Be clear with your child that it is best to wait to load or unload until your car has come to a stop in the designated drop-off area. Assure them that their safety is far more important than saving a few extra seconds.
- During pick-up, please be considerate of others in line. If you are in the pick-up zone but your child is not ready, consider looping back around to make room for others who are behind you.