***Reminders for Morning Drop Off of Students and Afternoon Pick-Up to Ensure Safety for All Newton Students***

I want to remind everyone when dropping off students in the morning and/or when picking up students in the afternoon that the safety of all students is our top priority. I encourage you to follow these established guidelines to ensure that students are dropped off and picked up in a safe manner. Please do your part to keep kids safe. – Pat McBride, Superintendent

**Please be reminded of the following:**

1. The curbs in front of the school are marked in yellow and are considered fire lanes. This includes the East access lane off of Maple Street and the West access lane off of Long Street. Signs are posted. **Drivers will not be permitted to park in the fire lane.**

**Why**: This lane must be open to emergency vehicles at all times. We are adhering to state law.

1. There will be only one entrance before school for all students who are walking or being dropped off. **The high school/main office doors will be the only doors that all students not riding a bus may enter during drop off.** ***Note that due to Covid-19 both High School and Elementary doors will be opened.*** Junior High or High School students who are being picked up after school may exit through those same doors and also the Doors marked N2 (glass connector between buildings).

**Why:** Adults may not enter the building at the end of the school day until students are dismissed. We do not have the ability to monitor whether each and every adult is a parent, grandparent, or authorized caretaker. We respectfully request that all adults remain outside of the building until all students have been dismissed. In the event that you need to enter the building at the end of the day, but before students are dismissed, you will need to come to the front office and sign-in to ensure that school officials and our school resource officer is aware of who is entering our building. This protocol is followed to ensure the safety of our students at all times.

1. **Students and parents who enter or leave the front of the building must use the crosswalk in front of the high school entrance at all times**.

**Why:** Students or parents (pedestrians) entering a lane or lanes of vehicle traffic must legally cross those lanes using only the designated crosswalks so that motorist can be more fully aware of their presence and intent to cross their lane. Drivers expect pedestrians at crosswalks! They do not expect and may not be prepared to brake at other locations that aren’t marked. Pedestrians must be cautious and follow these guidelines. Pedestrians must use crosswalks. Please.

1. **All students being dropped off at the curb must exit on the curbside (right side of the vehicle) and in the curbside lane. Students will not be dropped off in the left lane.** If students being dropped off need more time, there will be approximately 40 parking spaces available in the first 3 rows of the East parking lot and the first row of West parking lot for parents/adults to park who wish to exit their car either in the afternoon or the morning. These parking spots will be available to those parents/adults who have children exiting from both sides of the vehicle or that need more time than just a few seconds to drop their student(s) at the curb on curbside only. Please do not use the parking lot as if it is a drop off zone similar to the curbside. Please use a parking spot when dropping off a student in the parking lot.

**Why:** Unsafe conditions have been increasing as parents/adults have been dropping off students in the passing lane and/or allowing students to exit the vehicle from the left side into traffic that is in the passing lane. These unsafe conditions are caused by cars parked or stopped in the drop off lane and taking too much time (several minutes rather than seconds) thus blocking the lane. Additionally, too many parents/adults want to drop off at the point closest to the door. Parents must realize that students can make it from other locations further away thus minimizing the backup. To compound the problem, cars are arriving as much as an hour early in the afternoon to get “prime” locations along the curb. There is really no need for this. No one will be permitted to park in the fire lane. This is being done to ensure student safety. The school and drivers must adhere to the law.

1. **Parents dropping off children will not be permitted to escort their child to their classroom.**

**Why:** Parents who accompany their child to the classroom would only compound the interruption. Teachers have carefully planned for the activities of the day and are focused on delivering the instruction in the time allotted.

**General rules for morning drop off and afternoon pick up procedures:**

**Drop Off in the morning:**

1. You may drop off student in the fire lane provided that it’s done in a safe manner but done so in a time efficient manner. Students should be ready to exit the car after the car is stopped and placed in park.
2. All students being dropped off in the morning will enter through the main doors. All other doors will be locked at all times.
3. Do not allow students to exit the car from the driver’s side (left side). It students need to exit from the left side, please use the parking lot to park your car and let students out.
4. Do not drop off in the passing lane or left lane.
5. Please drop students off in areas other than the closest spot to the door if another car or cars occupy that spot. Students are capable of walking a little farther than the closest spot.
6. Please watch for pedestrians at all times.
7. Please do not drop off students prior to 7:25 a.m. as there will be no supervision. This is for the safety of all students. However, please arrive before 7:50 a.m. Give yourself and your child as much time as possible. Do not rush!! That’s when accidents happen. Please be patient.
8. Please…. Please be patient. It is better to be late in dropping off a student than to risk injury to others or yourself by being unsafe.
9. All students entering the school from the parking lot is expected to use a designated crosswalk.

**Pick Up in the afternoon:**

1. **Please do not arrive more than a few minutes before the end of school.** There will be no need to arrive earlier to get a spot in the parking lot. There will be plenty of parking in either lot to have your child meet you or you may pick your child up at the curb once they exit the building.
2. If you want to meet your son or daughter by the main entrance you may do so. However, please do not enter the building unless you have business to conduct. If you do enter the building, please report into the main office. Again, this is for the safety of all students so that we know who is in the building.
3. If a student or parent needs to enter the building after departing or at the end of the day, the main doors will be unlocked after all students have departed.
4. All elementary students will be exiting the main doors each day.
5. All students being picked up by a parent will be expected to use the designated crosswalks.