

# **PARKING LOT SAFETY**

It has been brought to our attention by a number of parents that the traffic in the parking lot at arrival and dismissal times can be a potentially dangerous situation. Therefore, we would like to review some common courtesies which apply to all of us at regular pick-up time as well as pick-up time following after-school activities.

1. In order to insure the safety of your children during arrival and dismissal, **please suspend the use of cell phones while in the parking lot.**
2. **Do not park in the deceleration lane on Providence Road. Doing so is very dangerous.**
3. Please stay to the **far right** when entering the driveway from Providence Road and enter **very slowly**.
4. Please stay to the **far right** when leaving the parking lot (entering Providence Road) and exit **very slowly**.
5. Parents or other drivers of cars who arrive at Benchmark to pick up children prior to, or at 2:50 PM, are requested to park in the **gym** lot and walk over to the classroom building to pick up their children. Parents should go to the office window and tell the person announcing buses the names of the students they are picking up. A space in the bus line will be kept open between the two parking lots so parents can exit in the left lane after they have collected their children.
6. If you are picking up your child at 4:00 PM (whether at the school or gym) please drive your car around the gym parking lot and proceed to the school building. You **must** stay in the **right hand** lane from the time you enter the parking lot until you reach the front of the school. You should not pass other cars and then attempt to get back into the right-hand lane. If you are in the left-hand lane in front of the school, your child will not be permitted to walk between cars to get into your car. You will need to go all the way around again and get into the right-hand lane. If you have picked up at the gym and wish to exit, carefully drive to the left of the cars waiting at the school and exit onto Providence Road.
7. Please remember to leave an opening in the line of cars in order that parents picking up at the gym can pass through.
8. When you drop off in the morning or pick up after school, please encourage your children to move as quickly as possible so as not to hold up the line of traffic. **Never** leave your car parked in front of the school -- this will surely hold up buses that need to stay on a very tight schedule.
9. **No one is ever permitted to use the lane between the school and the gym to enter or exit Benchmark property. This is not school property and can be very dangerous.**

## **Policy Regarding Pets in Cars**

**Pets/animals are not permitted on Benchmark School property unless contained in a crate/cage.**

**Our Policy States:** *For the safety of students, staff, parents/guardians, and visitors, animals of any kind are banned from Benchmark School property except those needed by science teachers or that are service dogs/animals. This ban includes animals running free, leashed, in cars at drop-off and pick-up (unless in a crate or cage), and in all buildings and classrooms. Strict adherence to this policy is mandatory.*

Thank you for your cooperation with all of the above. We hope that by adhering to the above policies, arrival and dismissal will be more efficient and the parking lot will be a much safer place for all involved.