

Rensselaer Central Elementary Schools

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RCPS UPDATES AND TRAFFIC CHANGES

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to the 2018-2019 school year! Over the quiet months of June and July, we have been working on ways to make RCPS a safer and more efficient learning environment. I believe we have been successful; but there are changes that require explanation for our year to run smoothly.

Here are the updates, which will affect the daily workings at RCPS...

1. Doors will open in the morning beginning at 7:30 am. Parents and family members, as well as busses, can begin dropping students off at 7:30 am. Supervision will be provided for students in the gymnasium.

WHY?—Opening the doors earlier will eliminate the need for parents to wait for the doors to open at 7:45 am. Parents can arrive at the school and drop their children off without having to wait for the school to open.

2. Cars will drop off and pick up students using the back (WEST) parking lot. Busses will drop off and pick up students using the main entrance (NORTH) parking lot. Please see the attached papers for full details on the new traffic patterns.

WHY?—It has become increasing more evident that the traffic pattern at RCPS is not efficient. We want to ensure our students and families are safe when dropping off and picking up their children. Making this change should resolve many of the crowding issues we have at drop off and pick up times.

3. There will no longer be adults opening car doors at morning arrival or afternoon dismissal times. In the morning, an adult will meet and greet students outside the building; however, there will no longer be multiple people standing outside to open car doors. In the afternoon, adults will be present to release students to their parents but will no longer open car doors to put children in their cars.

WHY?—The car lot is more controlled and safer for students exiting their vehicles at the curb in the morning. In the afternoon, students will be released directly to parents.

4. At afternoon dismissal, parents will need to park and come to the back (WEST) entrance to collect their children. Ample parking will be available along the curb and in designated parking spots. School officials will meet parents at the gymnasium doors and release students to them.

WHY?—Our children's safety matters. Due to the car lot change, it is ultimately safer for the children to be walked to their car by their parent. Furthermore, they will be able to stay inside the building during inclement weather.

It will no doubt take some time to get used to these changes! Please be patient...with your children, with school staff, and with one another. Once this new routine becomes a habit, it will hum like a well-oiled machine. It certainly has been a wonderful summer; but I have missed seeing everyone! Can't wait to see you on August 9th!!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Norris
Principal

SUCCESS STARTS HERE!

Relationships ✦ Respect ✦ Positivity ✦ Accountability