

August 7, 2009

Dear BSTMS Families:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. Our staff has been hard at work this summer preparing for a great year. We can't wait to have our students back on campus.

As you know, our school building is in getting an "extreme makeover." When the project is complete next school year, we will have a wonderful new space for our students. But as anyone who has lived through a home renovation can attest, getting there can cause some inconveniences. Please accept our apologies in advance for the disruptions that will happen during this process. But we know the end product will definitely be worth it!

During renovation, our morning and afternoon traffic flow procedures will have to be adjusted from our usual patterns. Many of our regular traffic areas, such as bus access to the rear loading area, will not be available for the duration of our renovation project. In collaboration with district transportation and safety management officials, district Law Enforcement officials, and the administration at Bryan Station Senior High School, we have designed what we feel is a safe, effective pattern for both campuses. Here are our morning and afternoon traffic flow guidelines:

Morning

All buses will arrive using the high school entrance. Buses will stop to unload at the crosswalk located beside the school marquee. Students will exit the bus and enter the building using the front entrance or as renovation progresses, the gym entrance. All traffic flow from the high school will be **one-way: coming from the high school, then exiting out Wickland Drive**. Parents dropping off students are to enter campus from Wickland Drive, continue to the front of the building and then exit via Wickland Drive. (This is basically the same pattern we have always used for parent drop-offs, so this should not be too much of a change.) If a parent has dropped off a sibling at the high school and enters our campus from the high school, they will be waved through to the front to make the drop-off, and will then exit **via Wickland Drive, not back through the high school entrance**. Once our school day has begun, we will lock the gate between the middle school campus and the high school. The gate will remain closed until 3 p.m., when it will be reopened to accommodate dismissal traffic from the high school.

Afternoon

Our biggest change for afternoon dismissal is that we will dismiss a portion of our **bus riders first**. This is a reversal from our usual routine, but this will work best to accommodate the traffic from both campuses. Buses will line up in front of our building, and by dismissal time, we should have between six

and eight of our buses ready to load. As more buses arrive, they will line up, one behind the other, filling up the high school entrance. Parents and caregivers driving to pick up students will be asked to wait on campus at **Bryan Station High School**. Drivers should arrive **after 3:50 p.m.** and wait in the parking lot near the high school gym and football area.

At 3:55 p.m., we'll dismiss students who ride the buses in front of the building, get them loaded, and dismiss them via **Wickland Drive**. Once this group is gone, we will then begin releasing walkers and car riders, moving cars from the high school "waiting area" on to our campus for pick-up. We anticipate loading 10 to 12 vehicles at a time. Once the students have been picked up, vehicles will exit via **Wickland Drive**, leaving the high school entrance open for the remainder of our buses, which typically arrive 8 to 10 minutes after the first group.

In order to get all the high school buses, student drivers, and parent pick-up vehicles safely off the high school campus, coupled with the fact that during renovation we cannot permit vehicles to park in front of the building, we must ask that all middle school parents wait in the Bryan Station High School campus "waiting area" and not enter the high school campus until 3:50 pm. Permitting earlier arrivals would add more vehicles to an already congested area, and slow down the high school dismissal process. Waiting areas for middle school parents will be established on the high school campus, and following the departure of the first group of buses, groups of 10 to 12 vehicles at a time will be released to move to the middle school campus to pick up their students and exit **via Wickland Drive**.

We will use this traffic pattern during the first phase of the renovation project, which is expected to last until early November. As we move into Phase II of construction, we will make any adjustments that may become necessary.

We understand that a change in routine like this is going to cause some confusion and delays at the start of school. It typically takes six to eight school days before the buses get into their routine arrival times, so we ask you to bear with us, as in those first few days, things may get very hectic. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we move through renovation and deal with the necessary traffic pattern changes. A year from now, this will be a distant memory and our students will have the benefit of a beautiful renovated school with state-of-the-art learning features. Thank you in advance for your patience, cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

Jim Thomas

Principal

