



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

January 8, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to enlist your help in improving the traffic conditions during morning arrival and dismissal times at our schools. I believe that we are all devoted to all of our children, and that we can make the critical decision to work together in our responsibility to keep them safe during these times of the day. As hard as it is for me to have to illuminate the fact that many of the inherent safety concerns presented are caused by those individuals engaged in picking up and dropping off our students, it is critical that we include the strategy of a collective commitment to curtailing these behaviors as part of our plan to increase the safety of our children.

Nowadays, families are leading very busy lives and we find ourselves rushing from one place to the next to meet our daily responsibilities. Therefore, it's important to say that it is not our position that families are putting students at risk purposely. Below is a list of the critical behaviors that I have both observed and have been reported to me, putting our students in danger.

- Speeding in school zones and on school campuses
- Double parking
- Parking in no parking zones
- Calling or motioning students to walk between cars and across parking lots into traffic
- Crossing outside of designated crosswalks

Please be assured that our district is engaged in much work to assist in making these times of the day safe and accessible for students and parents. Examples of some efforts include the consideration of different start times, innovative approaches to use of our parking lots, valet service, life-like signs inviting the use of crosswalks, and working with local legislators. However, if we don't collectively agree and act accordingly that our students' safety should come before all else, these efforts will continue to be challenged by the unsafe actions listed above.

There is no one among us that ever wants to see harm come to any of our children. I implore you to consider this each day and develop your own individual and group strategies to help us with this ongoing problem.

Our children are our hearts. Please help us protect them.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Constance D. Evelyn