

Good afternoon, Eisenhower Families,

What a thrill to see so many of you at last night's Meet the Teacher event!

The purpose of this message is two-fold: to inform you of several medical-related procedures and to articulate a plan for Arrival and Dismissal. Regarding both of these topics, let me say up front that safety is our number one priority. The following plans were developed with all children's and families' safety in mind.

First, if your child takes meds at school, please remember to bring the medication, as well as an updated Medical Authorization form to our school nurse Amanda. We are required to have a new authorization form each year. Regarding peanuts, tree nuts, and other kinds of nuts, because of our current situation in which lunches will be served and eaten in classrooms, Eisenhower will be a **nut-free** school this year. Once we are situated in our renovated facilities on Lafayette next year, this policy may be reexamined. If you have any health or medical-related questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to school nurse Amanda (aclevenger@jsd117.org)

Second, let's talk about Arrival and Dismissal.

The following are true for both Arrival and Dismissal:

- From Hoagland Blvd., you will turn right (headed north) into the lane in front of the mods.
- You will drop off or pick up your child in the zone in front of our school--and there will be staff members there to indicate exactly where.
- Please pull up as far north as you can.
- Exit the lane with a right turn headed toward Park Street where you will take a left.
- At no time, will Eisenhower traffic intermingle with Jacksonville Middle School traffic.
- Busses and daycare vans will have the right of way--this means, in order for us to keep the flow of traffic moving for these vehicles that visit multiple schools, entrance into the lane will be prioritized for busses and daycares.
- In addition to Eisenhower staff, expect to see helpers from both the Jacksonville Police Department and volunteers from the Citizens Police Academy.
- Please take a moment to review both the Traffic Flow map and aerial view attached to the top of the Eisenhower homepage as well as attached to this message.

The following pertains to Arrival:

- Doors open to students at 7:30 a.m. STEP, Kindergarten, and First enter up the silver ramp through the left and Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth enter through the right.
- There is one lane of traffic for morning arrival.
- We realize that some students will need assistance getting out of vehicles. Should this be the case for your child, we will have *only a few spots available* for families to pull into just to the south of the silver ramp. In order to keep the flow of traffic going, it would be ideal if drivers could stay in line and quickly exit the vehicle to assist with seatbelts and car seats, without having to park.

- Otherwise, adults/drivers should not exit the vehicle. Please understand that we cannot pause for photos tomorrow morning before school.

The following pertains to Dismissal:

- Dismissal times are staggered as follows: STEP students 1:55 p.m., bus/daycare 2:15 p.m., and all other students at 2:20 p.m.
- Your child's teacher will escort the class out to the assigned grade level number (stuck in the grassy ground) and remain with the class until each child is accounted for.
- There will be two lanes of traffic for dismissal. Please follow the guidance of our staff.
- Within the zone, both lanes of traffic will carefully load students. When all students in the entire zone are loaded, Lane 1, followed by Lane 2, will dismiss. The zone will refill with cars and the process will repeat.
- Soon we will have car tags--one per family--that will indicate the child or childrens' last name(s). We ask that these hang on your mirror so our staff can clearly see whose vehicle has arrived. Using our bullhorn, the name of the family will be called and the child or children will be dismissed to the vehicle.
- There will be no parking or exiting of vehicles permitted during dismissal.

As I stated, safety for all is our number one priority. Because of our commitment to safety, the processes that I have outlined above will indeed take time to practice and iron out. I must ask for your patience, grace, and understanding. My hope is that by two weeks' time, we might have a system in place that is smoothly ironed out.

I am grateful for your partnership, and as always I welcome your feedback. Please feel free to call the office at 217.245.5107 or email me directly at [tchipman@jsd117.org](mailto:tchipman@jsd117.org)

Here's to a wonderful school year ahead!

*Skylert to be sent 8/15/23 3:30pm*