



Tomorrow's News Today

News From the Tomorrow River School District

From Michael Toelle, District Administrator

August 2017

SCHOOL SAFETY

As a school district, one of our biggest concerns is always the safety of students, parents, and any visitors. The district continuously takes part in fire inspections completed by our local firemen, implements suggestions from our insurance company, and addresses concerns brought up by students, staff, and community members. One issue, which has been a topic of discussion for the last two years, is that of students being dropped off in the morning in a small blacktop area located 30 feet from the cafeteria doors. The area was not intended or designed to be a "drop off" area, which makes using it in this way hazardous. Since the blacktop area connects to the bus loop, there have been numerous occasions when, after students were dropped off, the driver tried to turn to circle back out and was nearly hit by a bus. The bus drivers have done an excellent job of watching for cars pulling out, but eventually an accident is bound to occur.

When the front bus loop was vacated and made into the parent drop off loop, the intention was for all parents to drop their students off in the loop. In an effort to enforce and encourage all parents to drop off in front, we have held discussions with several who have continued to use the restricted area near the new cafeteria. However, the problem has not been remedied, thus the need for the school to take an additional step. At the start of the 2017-2018 school year, cones and rope will be put up in order to eliminate the ability for parents to pull into the restricted area. We're hoping the cones can be removed before the start of winter, but that depends on cooperation from parents. Please abide by the new guideline and drop off all students in the parent drop off loop on the North East side of the building, Your cooperation on this issue and your understanding that safety is at stake is appreciated.

Another area which the Building and Safety Committee will be watching closely this year is the overall movement and safety in the main parking lot. From 7:30 – 8:00 AM and again from 3:10 – 3:20 PM, the lot is full of activity. Student drivers frequently bring their younger siblings to school, and once parked, will allow them to walk to their respective buildings. Students of all ages are walking through the lot while cars are pulling in to park. Occasionally, drivers aren't as observant as they should be or are distracted by friends, creating the risk of an accident. Our goal is to educate the student walkers and also to make sure all drivers are aware of the student walkers and are driving safely at all times. Our parking lot isn't any different than any other business parking lot, but since we have the opportunity to educate the students and drivers, we want to continue to do our part in making our lot safe.

I have several goals to accomplish this year and increasing the safety of our overall school grounds will always be on the top of the list. If you have any questions or concerns from now until school starts, please don't hesitate to call, stop by, or send an e-mail to me at mtoelle@amherst.k12.wi.us. Have a great remainder of the summer!