Big Changes for Parking Lot Safety – Dave Wallace, JMS Principal

Over the past two years I have had consistent feedback from families and staff with concerns for student safety on the road in front of JMS and on the south side of our building, specifically during the end of day pick-up period. We have a situation in which students are regularly crossing traffic unsafely to reach their rides. Despite our best efforts, this pattern continues and has resulted in an unsafe situation that concerns me dearly.

After much planning and consultation with the Jefferson Police Department and the Jefferson City Engineer, we have decided to switch sides for the automobile and bus pick-up & drop-off. **Beginning this upcoming school year buses will pick-up and drop-off students on the south side of the building. Families will pick-up and drop-off their student(s) on the north side of the building.**

In order to help this transition we are informing families and the community about the switch. We will be increasing our signage and parking lot painting for clearer instructions. We will also be adding an additional door "buzzer" on the north side of the building. Families will be welcome to park on either side of the building and buzz in, but we will request that no one uses the south lot during bus loading and unloading periods.

As part of the change the city engineer and police recommend that we allow families to turn left or right out of the north lot. They are also planning to enforce more stringently the no parking rule on the street in front of the school. This too will be marked with parking lot paint and road signs.

We have been lucky that no one has gotten hurt in our parking lot during pick-up, and certainly there is no guarantee that this will prevent an accident. However, with the added capacity in our school lot coupled with support from families as we require students to access their ride only in the pick-up lane, I believe we will have a safer situation for all our kids.

NORTH PARKING LOT

This lane will be for
PICK-UP
DROP-OFF
ONLY

All students must remain on sidewalks, and load in the PICK-UP & DROP-OFF LANE ONLY.

Drivers should pull forward as the line moves, and can pull into the drive thru lane once they have picked up their child(ren).

This lane will be for
DRIVE THRU
5 MPH

SOUTH PARKING LOT

No Parking
7:15-3:30

This lane will be for
BUSES ONLY

All students will stay on sidewalks while walking, and load buses from the sidewalk only.
No cars should be entering, leaving or parking in the south lot during pick-up and drop-off times.