

Parking Lot Safety Concerns at St. Philip's

All of us here at St. Philip's are concerned about the safety of our children. It seems almost weekly we are hearing about some kind of tragedy involving school children. I do not need to list those incidents here, we are all too familiar with them. We at St. Philip's have always worked hard to ensure the safety of the children when they are in our school building. We are continually working in conjunction with the Addison Police and Fire Department, the county of DuPage, and the State of Illinois to ensure the health and safety of our children.

Having said all of that, there is one area of our school that is sorely lacking in safety and unfortunately is a potential tragedy in the making. That is the conduct in the parking lot for dismissal and arrival. We as a staff are doing our utmost to keep the children safe while they are at school, however, you as parents need to take responsibility for your conduct while in the parking lot. We are having way too many close calls. Only you as parents can help avoid something tragic from happening. You are the ones behind the wheel!

I thank those parents who are already taking this responsibility very seriously. We really need all of our families on board with this. If we work together as a united Catholic community, we can solve this problem and make St. Philip's an even safer place to be.

Here are important guidelines to follow:

At Anytime...(Parked car – whether car is turned off or idling, attended or unattended)

Do Not Park in the Handicapped Spots without a placard – St. Philip has staff members and parishioners who are disabled and have the legal right to park in these spots. There is never a reason for parking in these spots, even if it is for a few minutes.

Do Not Park in any area that has a yellow striped curb (for example; by the islands and in the circle) – These areas are designated by the Fire Department as Fire Lanes and need to be kept clear at all times.

Do Not Talk on the phone in a moving vehicle in the parking lot – By Law, School Zones are no Cell Phone Zones. Anything that can distract you while driving in the parking lot can lead to an accident.

When using the circle drop off in the morning...

Drop Off on Curbside Only – Not doing so puts the children into the driving lane and in harm's way from other vehicles.

Do Not park in the circle, exit your vehicle to let a child out - This puts you the driver into the driving lane, and it can also cause a major back up. If you must exit your car to let your child/children out, do NOT drop them off in the circle drive. Park in the parking lot and walk your child/children to the entrance doors.

At Dismissal...

Do not back out of a spot when students are present - This can't be emphasized enough. A suggestion is that you if arrive before the students are dismissed, you can pull forward in the parking stall, or back into the parking stall so that you are able to pull forward when leaving. Backing out when children are still in the lot in the process of dismissal, can make it difficult to see children. This can lead to accidents.

This is something that the parents need to take responsibility for. We do our very best while your children are in school, now you need to do your very best when it comes to the parking lot. If you care about the safety of your children, and the children of our school, everyone of you who use that lot need to follow these guidelines. You also need to make sure that anyone who is picking up your children, (Aunt, Uncle, Grandparents, etc) are also aware of these guidelines.

Preschool Pick-Up

These guidelines also apply for the pick-up of Preschoolers, even though the afternoon groups are let out a few minutes earlier than the rest of the school.

Thank you for your support of the safety of our students,

Mr. Reisenbuechler