

THE RIDGE SCHOOL
RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
325 WEST RIDGEWOOD AVENUE
RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450
201-670-2740

September 4, 2018

Dear Parents,

Please read this entirely letter carefully!

Over the years, we have created parking rules and regulations at Ridge School in order to create a safe environment for the children. While these rules and regulations result in some inconvenience for adults, they also mean greater safety for your children. Inform anyone who picks up or drops off your children of these rules.

General Rules:

Neighboring Streets

Please consider how challenging it can be for our residential neighbors during times of arrival and dismissal. Please follow the Golden Rule and observe the following:

- Park at least 5 feet from driveways
- Park at least 25 feet from any crosswalk
- Park at least 50 feet from a Stop sign
- Be respectful to them and their property.

Clinton Avenue

By town ordinance, **Clinton Avenue is closed to traffic from 8:00 – 9:00AM and 2:30 – 3:45PM.** This allows children to walk safely on Clinton during arrival and dismissal times BUT NOT DURING LUNCH. You are prohibited from parking at the top of Clinton or making a U-turn at the top of Clinton. Please alert your child that sometimes residents of Clinton Avenue will drive up or down the street, even during arrival or dismissal times.

Red Zone

Ridge School has a double red zone to bring traffic off of Ridgewood Avenue more quickly. We have a crossing guard who is stationed in the driveway by the red zone. Labeled cones will direct you to the appropriate area.

- **ONLY** if your youngest child is in **fourth or fifth grade** may you use a separate dropoff/pickup area located in the **faculty parking lot**. The crossing guard will cross fourth and fifth graders across the driveway safely to the parking lot. **The crossing guard WILL NOT cross students in Grades K-3.**
- If your youngest child is in Grades K-3, you will use the red zone the same way we have in the past. The red painted area on the driveway directly in front of school is for drop off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon only. The entire red painted area should be used for dropping off and picking up. There is no standing (waiting) or parking in the “Red Zone” during school hours (8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.). You should instruct your child to wait at the red zone benches if you will be picking him/her up.

- There is no parking in the red zone throughout the school day. **Do not leave your car unattended, even for a minute.** If you must walk your child into school, you will need to legally park elsewhere.
- **Parent volunteers** will again be assisting with traffic flow in the red zone. Please watch for their directions and **treat them respectfully**. They are there for the safety of your children.

Faculty Parking Lots – Parking in the lots during school hours is for school staff only.

Parking- Some parking spots are available for parents and guests on the entrance side of the driveway. That is the only area where legal parking is allowed for parents on school grounds during school hours. Some parking is allowed on West Ridgewood Ave and surrounding side streets as well.

Fire Lane - No stopping is permitted in the fire lane. Encouraging children to walk between cars to enter a car waiting in the fire lane is dangerous!

Driveway to the Back of School - No driving or parking is allowed in this area. It is off limits at all times (even weekends) except to official vehicles.

Bus-Loading Zone - Parking in the bus-loading zone (on the exit side of the driveway) is prohibited from 8:15 – 9:15am and 2:30 – 3:15pm.

Suggestions:

- Adults need to model safe and responsible behavior for children. Much of what children learn is “caught rather than taught.”
- The Ridgewood elementary schools were built as neighborhood schools so children could walk to school. Whenever possible, have children walk to and from school. Arrange neighborhood-walking groups.
- Carpool whenever possible.
- The children are supervised in front of the school from 3:00 until 3:15 p.m. If you have an older child, it may be helpful to arrange a slightly later pick-up time to avoid the 3:00 p.m. rush.
- It may be helpful to park on the street and have your child walk to an agreed-upon meeting location.
- Parents sometimes feel the need to join the red zone line as early as 2:30. This seems to create a sense of urgency for more people to join the line early. Please consider coming to school closer to 3:00. By 3:15 every day, the red zone is basically empty and Ridgewood Avenue is back to normal.

In conclusion, please understand that these provisions are taken to ensure the safety of all students. It is not worth bypassing the rules in the interest of time or convenience at the risk of hurting a child. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


 Jean Schoenlank, Ed. D.
 Principal

Please sign and return this portion of the letter to the teacher of your youngest child by September 14 to indicate that you have read the red zone and general rules and shared them with any caregivers who may be dropping off and/or picking up your child(ren).

Parent name: _____

Parent signature: _____

Date: _____

I am willing to volunteer in the red zone.