

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

August 30, 2016

Dear Parents,

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:

Faculty Parking Lots - Parent use of both faculty parking lots in the front of the school is prohibited with the exception of cars using valid handicapped plates or placards in the designated spaces. **Drop-off, pick-up, driving through, or walking through the faculty parking lots is also prohibited.**

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 has resulted in a number of “near miss” situations. Cars entering the driveway may wait for children only in the “red zone.”

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.

Clinton Avenue

Clinton Avenue is closed to traffic during school hours in order to be used as a pedestrian walkway. You are prohibited from parking at the top of Clinton or making a U-turn at the top of Clinton. Children are not expecting to encounter cars and they shouldn't be there.

Red Zone:

- 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, including kindergarten pick-up and drop-off. 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. **Please consider being a red zone volunteer!**

Neighboring Streets

Please consider how challenging it can be for our residential neighbors during times of arrival and dismissal. As a rule of thumb, please 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

Suggestions:

- 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.
- Adults need to model safe and responsible behavior for children. Much of what children learn is “caught rather than taught.”
- 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
Principal

Please sign and return this portion of the letter to the teacher of your youngest child by September 16 to indicate that you have read the parking and red zone 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.