

Gause School Safety Issue Parking Lot and Neighborhood Streets

The Washougal School District provides safe and reliable transportation for students who live outside of a safe walking distance. However, many of our students and their parents prefer to either walk home or get picked up after school each day. This is fine, but recently driver behavior both on our neighborhood streets and in our parking lot has caused some safety concerns for both drivers and all pedestrians. Because it has become a concern, I have asked the Washougal Police Department to periodically monitor, correct driver behavior where needed, and provide the school with any safety changes we could make.

First and foremost, all drivers and pedestrians need to be aware and watch out for one another. Secondly, all drivers must park in designated parking lot spaces, park legally on our neighborhood streets, and not park in areas that are clearly marked by a colored curb, or have a posted 'No Parking' sign. This also includes no double parking in our parking lot. Double parking causes a problem for the bus drivers who then cannot get their buses into the parking lot.

My first priority is to make sure all Gause students are safe at school and especially as they transition from school to home. Our parents and our community members want the same thing. With that in mind, drivers must follow and obey all relevant traffic rules and pedestrians must do the same. If the drivers keep this in mind and always make a concentrated effort to watch out for pedestrians, then we will continue to be able to provide a safe transition from school to home.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping the Washougal School District keep all of its students and our community's children safe. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Rex Larson at 954-3701.