



# George Washington Middle School

Jesse Mazur, School Principal

April 18, 2016

Dear GW Families,

On May 15, 2015 we communicated a memo illustrating a new traffic pattern at GW to ensure the safety of all pedestrians, specifically our students. This is an important step to ensure the safety of the GW Community as well as the neighborhood. In recent days members of the community have brought to the attention of the ACPS Divisional Security Offices that students are being dropped off and picked up in the Glendale Avenue. This action compromises the safety of all.

To assist you in navigating through our parking lot you will find a GW map indicating appropriate drop off and pick up zones for students. Please note the identified traffic pattern and signage.

Starting today, as you pull into the George Washington drive way, please take note of out signs demonstrating a new pattern of traffic flow. Signs have been put up to assist you in navigating through our parking lot. The signs read: "Do Not Enter" in the 1st and 2nd aisles of parking aisles. We ask that you follow the "Parent Drop Off" signs that lead you to the back of the parking lot. The drop of area for pedestrians follows the back thoroughfare aisles of the parking lot. Parents please follow the traffic flow and exit the school through either the Glendale exit or the Main exit.



Continue on the back.



In addition be aware that we are regulated under the Code of Virginia specially the Chapter 8 - "Regulation of Traffic." Below is an extract of the codes that are going to be enforced effective today. An Extensive explanation of these codes can be found at <https://vacode.org/46.2/8/> and in our website <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/gw/>.

**46.2-888 - Stopping on highways; general rule.** No person shall stop a vehicle in such manner as to impede or render dangerous the use of the highway by others, except in the case of an emergency, an accident, or a mechanical breakdown. In the event of such an emergency, accident, or breakdown, the emergency flashing lights of such vehicle shall be turned on if the vehicle is equipped with such lights and such lights are in working order. If the driver is capable of safely doing so and the vehicle is movable, the driver may move the vehicle from the roadway to prevent obstructing the regular flow of traffic; provided, however, that the movement of the vehicle to prevent the obstruction of traffic shall not relieve the law-enforcement officer of his duty pursuant to § 46.2-373. A report of the vehicle's location shall be made to the nearest law-enforcement officer as soon as practicable, and the vehicle shall be moved from the roadway to the shoulder as soon as possible and removed from the shoulder without unnecessary delay. If the vehicle is not promptly removed, such removal may be ordered by a law-enforcement officer at the expense of the owner if the disabled vehicle creates a traffic hazard.

**46.2-889 - Location of parked vehicles.** No vehicle shall be stopped except close to and parallel to the right edge of the curb or roadway, except that a vehicle may be stopped close to and parallel to the left curb or edge of the roadway on one-way streets or may be parked at an angle where permitted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board or local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction.

**46.2-893 - Stopping on highways to discharge cargo or passengers; school buses.** No truck or bus, except a school bus, shall be stopped wholly or partially on the traveled portion of any highway outside of cities and towns for the purpose of taking on or discharging cargo or passengers unless the operator cannot leave the traveled portion of the highway with safety. A school bus may be stopped on the traveled portion of the highway when taking on or discharging school children, but these stops shall be made only at points where the bus can be clearly seen for a safe distance from both directions.

**46.2-1239 - Parking in certain locations; penalty.** No person shall park a vehicle or permit it to stand, whether attended or unattended, on a highway in front of a private driveway, within fifteen feet of a fire hydrant or the entrance to a fire station, within fifteen feet of the entrance to a plainly designated building housing rescue squad equipment or ambulances, or within twenty feet from the intersection of curb lines or, if none, then within fifteen feet of the intersection of property lines at any highway intersection.

**46.2-874 - Maximum speed limit in business and residence districts.** - The maximum speed shall be 25 miles per hour on highways in business or residence districts, except on interstate or other limited access highways with divided roadways or nonlimited access highways having four or more lanes and all state primary highways. The speed limit on all nonlimited access highways having four or more lanes and all state primary highways shall remain as indicated by signs posted prior to July 1, 2005, unless changed as provided by law.

**46.2-877 - Minimum speed limits.** - No person shall drive a motor vehicle at such a slow speed as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

Whenever the Commissioner of Highways or local authorities within their respective jurisdictions determine on the basis of a traffic engineering and traffic investigation that slow speeds on any part of a highway consistently impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, the Commissioner or such local authority may determine and declare a minimum speed limit to be set forth on signs posted on such highway below which no person shall drive a vehicle except when necessary for safe operation or in compliance with law.

**46.2-923 - How and where pedestrians to cross highways.** (J Walking). When crossing highways, pedestrians shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the orderly passage of vehicles. They shall cross, wherever possible, only at intersections or marked crosswalks. Where intersections contain no marked crosswalks, pedestrians shall not be guilty of negligence as a matter of law for crossing at any such intersection or between intersections when crossing by the most direct route.

The governing body of any town or city or the governing body of a county authorized by law to regulate traffic may by ordinance permit pedestrians to cross an intersection diagonally when all traffic entering the intersection has been halted by lights, other traffic control devices, or by a law-enforcement officer.