



# RICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Home of the Ravens

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### Traffic Tips for the 2019-2020 School Year

We are looking forward to a great start to the school year. One major stressor for those who choose to drive their students to school is the heavy traffic flow around the school. Here are some tips that will be good to review before the first day of school.

#### 1. Relax:

- a. Our students' safety is our number one concern. Please use patience when dropping off your child. This means stay in the traffic flow pattern (stay to the left in the back driveway in the mornings), wait for your turn to drop off your child, don't rush through the school driveways, make sure your child is ready to exit your car, and be careful.

#### 2. Improvise:

- a. In the mornings, we open the building doors to our students each day at 7:50 a.m., and even earlier on bad weather days. You can always drop your child off at school earlier which will allow them plenty of time to visit with friends and also to get to their classes with plenty of time to spare.
- b. In the afternoons, pick your child up around 3:45. This allows your child to get to their lockers, visit with friends, and leave the building in time to meet you in the carpool lane. Along with these benefits, it also allows the heavier traffic to clear out.
- c. **Plan a meeting place for your child, especially the first week of school.**

#### 3. Consideration:

- a. Be considerate of those drivers who use the carpool lane. When a spot opens up in front of you, please move forward in order to help the flow continue. There are some drivers who block the carpool lane on Russell Creek, Gifford, and the back lane by parking and waiting for their children to come to them. We ask that if you want to wait for your child, please do so at another location. This would help relieve the stress levels of other drivers.

#### 4. Exercise:

- a. Encourage your child to walk or ride their bike to school with their friends. Along with the promotion of healthy and social living, this will definitely help decrease the traffic flow around the school. We are fortunate to have a new path that goes under Independence at Russell Creek which we encourage students to use instead of waiting at the crosswalk.
- b. If you are dropping your child off in the carpool lane, have them walk the extra distance to the front door or cafeteria door by having them exit your vehicle when the traffic flow allows for it.

**High traffic hours are from 8:10-8:25 a.m. and again from 3:30-3:45p.m.**

If you witness unsafe driving behaviors, please contact the City of Plano using one of the following methods: <https://forms.plano.gov/police/ser.htm> or 972-941-5483.

Please keep in mind two key phrases, Plan Ahead and Be Patient. Our children are our most precious and valuable resources.

We again appreciate your support during this process.

*"Rice Middle School is an accepting, nurturing, safe community where students are given the freedom to learn and grow as responsible individuals."*