

Comer Elementary School

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Christine Register
Principal

Jodi Cronic
Assistant Principal

Friday, February 5, 2010

Dear Parents,

As many of you are aware, there is a huge safety concern for our students, families, and the citizens of Comer with the traffic during school dismissal. Yesterday, there was a joint meeting with representatives of the Department of Transportation, Madison County Commission, City of Comer, Comer Police, Madison County Central Office, and the school. The group agreed that having traffic back up on Highway 98 is a serious safety concern.

Therefore, as a result of the meeting and your expressed concerns as well, steps are being taken to relieve the traffic that is backing up on Highway 98 between 2:40pm and 3:05pm. **The first step the group agreed upon in the meeting is that effective Monday, February 8, 2010 no cars will be allowed to wait on Highway 98 before dismissal time at 2:55pm.** Once the pick-up line is full on school property, cars will not be able to wait on the highway. This generally occurs between 2:30 and 2:40pm.

We will make every effort to accommodate as many cars as possible in the school parking lot by not allowing anyone to park in the area right inside the gate thereby allowing an extra ten or so cars to wait inside. **Cars will not be allowed to wait on the bus side of the parking lot.** This would only create another safety issue. Typically, we are able to move approximately 110 cars through our afternoon dismissal in under 20 minutes.

Late transportation changes do hold up dismissal. Please make sure that any change to your child's way home is communicated to the office by 2:15pm. This is a safety concern as well. Typically by 3:05pm there is not a wait to pick up students in the car rider line. **Therefore, if you typically arrive between 2:30 and 2:50 to wait in the line of traffic, you can help this situation by moving your arrival time to between 2:55 – 3:05.** We will keep our car rider lines moving until 3:25 to accommodate your willingness to arrive later. Students not picked up by 3:25 will be sent to ASP and appropriate charges will apply.

Additionally, the Department of Transportation and the Madison County School system are working on further steps that may include opening a waiting area near the power poles by the playground and/or some other entrance to the car rider line. The planning, engineering, and construction of this waiting area will take some time so the timeline of when it will be available is unknown at this time.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I know you want to work with us to help keep all of our families safe. If you have any concerns, feel free to call Comer Mayor David McMickle at City Hall (706-783-4552), Dr. Mitch McGhee, Superintendent (706-795-2191), or myself here at school.

Sincerely,

Christine Register