



Good Foundations Academy

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August 23, 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy, yet exciting, start to the school year. I just wanted to reach out to the parents to give you a few things to keep in mind as the school year really gets rolling.

Morning Drop-Off - The vast majority of adults dropping off students are doing a great job! Students can enter the building as early as 7:40 a.m.. We begin morning "Meet and Greet" at 8 a.m.. Please allow some time for drop off. Most parents report that they only have to wait in line about 10 minutes. Typically, we get about 490 students out of cars and into the building safely in about 20 minutes. That isn't bad!

Please avoid multi-tasking too much when you are dropping off, or picking up your students. We know all of you want to keep our kids safe. Also, please remember that GFA is a Character Based school. This month, we are focusing on "Self Control." Please help us model what we want our kids to learn. 😊

During morning drop off, when we wave you forward, please pull as far forward as you can before you stop the vehicle to let the kids out. I know it might seem like we are being a little bossy, but if everyone pulls as far forward as they can before they stop to let the kids out, we can unload twice as many students in the same amount of time. This means we can quickly and safely get the students into the school. We know that many of you are willing to stop for anyone waiting at the parking lot crosswalk. We will always have someone supervising the crosswalk to ensure the safety of anyone waiting to cross. If we wave you forward, please rest assured that we have asked the people waiting by the crosswalk to wait a few extra seconds. This allows the whole process to flow more smoothly.

Afternoon Carpool Pick-Up - Things have been running pretty smoothly. Don't be afraid to double park along the sides as you wait for your student. Please keep to the right and avoid getting out of your car. This allows for an open lane on the left for people who are trying to exit the parking lot. Of course, double parking does require some courtesy for those who are ready to exit, but most people have been great about allowing other vehicles to leave.

If you have instructed your students to walk off campus, we ask that they still exit to the back parking lot. This allows the teachers to make sure that everyone makes it out of the building in a supervised and orderly manner. If they are meeting a sibling who attends GFA, we can arrange a meeting place in the back close to the back door. If they are meeting a sibling who does not attend GFA, that sibling can meet them right outside of the back door. If you have questions, please let us know.

We also have had reports that Riverdale Police are starting to ticket the cars parked on the West side of 1150 West. They have informed us that they are trying to prevent too much congestion on that road.

Field Trips - During the month of September, we are trying something new. We are chartering busses to go on some field trips. If your child is going on a field trip, and if we are using busses, please remember that we still need parents to chaperone once the students get to their destination. This may mean that the parents will meet the bus at the destination to chaperone a group of students. We may allow a parent to transport their own child to a field trip, but we must be sure that every child has an assigned chaperone before we will leave on the field trip. If we can't ensure this, the field trip will be cancelled. Chartering busses for field trips has a number of advantages, but we want to make sure we keep our kids supervised and safe.

Dress Code - Some of our newer parents may still be a little unsure of uniform standards. Those guidelines can be found on our webpage and at the front desk. While we need to uphold the dress code policy, we don't want to embarrass anyone in the process. If you are struggling financially to afford your student's clothing, we may have some resources available to help out. Just check with the front office for more information.

Please remember that in our School Uniform Policy it states, "Hair must be clean, well-groomed, and not distracting to the learning environment. Hair color must appear natural." So, please avoid the neon colors folks!

Also, we want to remind those parents who are struggling financially that applications for free or reduced school lunch are available online at our website or at the front desk. If you are not sure whether or not you qualify, we strongly encourage you to at least fill out the application. Far more people qualify for free or reduced school lunch than apply for it. All applications are kept strictly confidential.

I apologize for the length of this letter. Hopefully, my letters will be shorter in the future. We look forward to a great school year and seeing you soon!

Sincerely,
Dave Dau
Executive Director
Good Foundations Academy