

Car Rider Arrival and Dismissal Video script

Hello, Odenton Elementary families. My name is Ms. Bradford, and this is a short video about our arrival and dismissal procedures for students arriving by car. Our number one priority is safety so please listen carefully to a few dos and don'ts for arrival and dismissal.

First, it is best to approach Odenton Elementary from the direction of Oakton Rd., coming down the hill toward the school. Please line up in the shoulder area on Odenton Rd with your turn signal on so that other drivers are aware that you are waiting to turn into the driveway. Before you enter our driveway, please make sure that you can pull in all the way past the crosswalk to avoid blocking the entrance. Our school buses cannot turn safely into the driveway if other vehicles are in the entrance area. Once you are in the driveway, please use only the left lane to allow staff and buses to get through on the right. We ask drivers who arrive before 7:25 to wait in the driveway, outside the main parking lot, until a staff member gives a signal for you to turn into the parking lot. This will ensure that all of our staff are able to park their cars before arrival begins. Once you enter the parking lot, there will be only one line of cars moving through the lot. The left lane of the parking lot will be blocked to protect the safety of students who exit their cars on the left side.

To keep traffic moving smoothly in the morning, we ask that students be ready to exit the vehicle with all of their belongings as soon as the staff member comes to get them. Please note that instruction begins promptly at 8:00. Staff conducting arrival duties have teaching responsibilities in the building at that time, so if you arrive at 8:00 or later you will need to park your car and accompany your student into the building to sign them in.

Now, a few very important safety don'ts:

Drivers, please do not exit your car in the drop-off line. A staff member will come to your car and let your child out when it is safe to do so, and we will walk them up to the crosswalk. If you do need to exit your vehicle, please park your car in a parking space.

It is essential for student safety that all students cross the driveway at the crosswalk leading into the main entrance of the school. Please do not ever let your child exit the car and cross at a lower point in the driveway. We have buses arriving at different times in the morning and having a student cross at another point on the driveway is very dangerous. Also, please do not use the main driveway to drop off your student at the front door of the school during arrival time as this creates another unsafe situation for your student and others. If you are not able to wait in the car drop off line, you can park at either Saint Joseph's or Nichols Bethel churches and walk your child to the building. Important guidelines for using the church parking lots can be found on our web site.

The procedure for dismissal is mostly the same with a couple of key differences. Drivers will again be asked to wait in the driveway until 2:15, when a staff member will give the signal to enter the parking lot. This allows staff who need to leave early to safely exit the parking lot. At 2:15, drivers can pull into the parking lot, up to the white lines by the donation bin at the top of the lot, and at this time we use both lanes of the parking lot. Students identified as regular car riders will be given a sign with their name on it. Please display this sign to help us deliver your student to you as quickly as possible.

And of course, there are a few important don'ts:

Please do not exit your vehicle to retrieve your child. There must be a driver behind the wheel of each vehicle in line, and a staff member must escort each child to their vehicle. Also, do not change lanes in the pick-up line, unless you are directed to do so by a staff member. Making an unauthorized lane change creates an extremely dangerous situation for students and staff walking between vehicles during dismissal.

I hope this has been helpful. Please contact us with any questions about arrival and dismissal procedures, and we look forward to seeing you soon.