

September 9, 2022

Dear RCS Families,

I would like to start first by saying a true and deep “thank you.” Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we tested out the new dismissal procedure. Thank you for your kindness in interacting with our faculty and staff who care so deeply about your child’s safety and happiness. Thank you to all of the middle school students who helped lead the younger students to their exits. Thank you to the teachers and staff who gave hours of their time each day this week reflecting on how dismissal went and retraining for attempted improvements the following day. Thank you to the parent and community volunteers who consulted with us over the summer and throughout this week. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who reached out with advice, concerns, and ideas as you watched us work through dismissal each day this week. Thank you for being not just a community but a true school family who loves deeply and passionately.

After much consideration, we believe that the current attempt at a Rolling Dismissal will not be the safest means of dismissing our students this year. This is due to many conditions including the accessibility of some sidewalks, the location of our parking lots, and the visibility needed to continue a safe Rolling Dismissal. Ultimately the decision comes down to the safety of the students which is our highest priority. While we know many families have found success in the Rolling Dismissal, the change in procedure was based on the belief that we could not fit our additional Pennsauken families into our parking lots on campus. Through your hard work and diligence this week, you proved that our back lot has a much higher capacity than we had previously believed. Thank you for your help in this!

Beginning on Monday, September 12, we will revert to an adapted version of last year’s dismissal procedure by utilizing the space out back in addition to the front two lots. The procedures are outlined in detail below. Please read through them carefully in preparation for Monday.

Any families interested in meeting to discuss our dismissal or transportation procedures, please feel welcome to join me at a **Family Forum about Transportation before the PK-5 Back to School Night on Thursday, September 15 at 6:00 pm.** I truly value the input and feedback from the RCS families, and I can’t wait to hear about more of your strong ideas.

Thank you again, and God bless,

Gerry Janansky
Principal

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven."

-- Matthew 5:16

UPDATED Dismissal Protocol 2022 - 2023

Bus Riders

- Unchanged: Bus riders will be called to the lobby after prayers. Once an RCS staff member has confirmed that all students are present, they will exit the building and walk along the sidewalk to their bus.

Preschool Half Day

- Unchanged: Pick up from the front of the building on full days. Follow Early Dismissal rules for half days listed below.

Preschool Early Dismissal

- Parents/Guardians should drive around the back of the school and park along the sidewalk. Please make sure to pull as far up on the sidewalk as you can to allow as many cars in as possible.
- Preschool teachers will exit the building from the back Intermediate Hallway door (see map below) and walk along the sidewalk towards the gym. Parents/Guardians should be standing at their parked cars, ready to assist their student in entering the vehicle and buckling safely. The preschool teachers will escort students along the sidewalk until all students have been brought to their car.
- Once all preschool students are safely in the cars and buckled, a staff member will direct the line to begin pulling out. For the safety of all involved, no vehicle may pull out of line or pass other cars. The children's safety is far more important than a few extra minutes!

First Dismissal

2:45 - All Preschool families and Non-Pennsauken/Cherry Hill K-8 Families

- Parents/Guardians should pull into the parking lot and line up in the formation they have already been doing. Families can choose to park in an area close to their child's assigned exit. (See map below)
- **NOTE: Families of Middle School students with no younger siblings must dismiss from the back parking lot.**
- Please make every effort to move up and allow as many cars in the lot as possible!
- Students will be escorted by one of their grade level teachers to the assigned exit door in the following order:
 - Kindergarten, First, Second and Middle School Students without younger siblings
 - Third, Fourth and Fifth
 - Middle School with younger siblings
 - *Preschool siblings will be picked up by the older sibling on the way out of the building
- Parents/Guardians should establish a plan with the students to determine the safest means of finding each other. For many students, this will mean parents/guardians walking up to the building to retrieve their students and bringing them back to their cars. Older students who are more responsible may walk to their car once they have visibly confirmed where their parent/guardian is. No student will be allowed to walk through the lot looking at cars. All parents/guardians must ensure students have a visible confirmation of where they are walking before leaving the sidewalk.

- Once all students are safely in their cars, RCS staff members will signal for cars to begin exiting the property. If you are planning to turn left onto King's Highway, please prepare to join the "left" lane of your exit route. Likewise, those planning to turn right onto King's Highway should prepare to join the "right" lane of your exit route. Please follow the directions of RCS staff members as they help you into these lanes and in exiting the property.

Second Dismissal

3:05 - All Pennsauken/Cherry Hill K-8 families, Walkers

This dismissal will follow the exact same process as the first dismissal with the addition of Walkers. The instructions have been included below for your convenience.

Walkers will be dismissed from the front of the school and should follow the same rules as car riders in regards to leaving the sidewalk. No students in grades PK - 4 will be permitted to leave without being accompanied by an approved parent/guardian. Students in grades 5 - 8 must receive written permission to be dismissed without a parent/guardian present. All previous rules about Walker requirements regarding permanent addresses will still apply.

Please Note: No Second Dismissal cars should enter school property before 3:00pm. *We are reverting to this method because it has been proven to work for our families, but this will only work again if all members of the community follow their assigned pick up times. Thank you for your understanding!*

- Parents/Guardians should pull into the parking lot and line up in the formation they have already been doing. Families can choose to park in an area close to their child's assigned exit. (See map below)
- **NOTE: Families of Middle School students with no younger siblings must dismiss from the back parking lot.**
- Please make every effort to move up and allow as many cars in the lot as possible!
- Students will be escorted by one of their grade level teachers to the assigned exit door in the following order:
 - Kindergarten, First, Second and Middle School Students without younger siblings
 - Third, Fourth and Fifth
 - Middle School with younger siblings
 - Walkers
- Parents/Guardians should establish a plan with the students to determine the safest means of finding each other. For many students, this will mean parents/guardians walking up to the building to retrieve their students and bringing them back to their cars. Older students who are more responsible may walk to their car once they have visibly confirmed where their parent/guardian is. No student will be allowed to walk through the lot looking at cars. All parents/guardians must ensure students have a visible confirmation of where they are walking before leaving the sidewalk.
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Student EXIT Map

Please note the doors students will be exiting at their dismissal. All families of Middle School students who do not have younger siblings at RCS should park in the back lot.

Key:

- **Preschool Early Dismissal cars and exits in green**
- **K-8 and Preschoolers with Siblings cars in white**
- **K-8 Exits in yellow**

