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**NOTICE:** This is an archived item from the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Police Services Office website. Keep in mind that the law changes frequently with legislative changes and each new court decision handed down at both the state and federal level. Police procedures are modified to satisfy those changes. This article may be out of date with current practices.

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## Doors, Driveways & Drop-offs

*By Officer Nick Pasquarosa*

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, home of the Dolphins and over 1,200 students, faculty and support staff, is without argument the busiest place in town. Every day over a dozen busses and hundreds of cars deposit students here to begin each day's odyssey of learning. Some people find the morning traffic to be challenging. Several steps have been taken to make the dropoff process safer and more convenient through the 2006-2007 school year.

### Traffic Pattern

The driveway in front of the high school is one way, starting at the south driveway nearest the football field. The one way ends before the exit at the north driveway. Drivers should be aware that the north driveway accommodates two way traffic to provide staff parking and deliveries at the north end of the building. Parents should not use the north driveway as a drop-off route. The area directly in front of the main entrance is also a one way now and moves in a clockwise manner.

### Staff & Student Parking Lot

The rear parking is reserved for staff and student parking and bus loading and unloading. The lot has been separated into reserved staff parking nearest the building and a large area for student parking. The parking lot is usually near capacity leaving no room for drop-off or pick-up traffic. Student parking permits have been discontinued and are no longer required. While the temporary modular classrooms have been removed and the parking lot has been returned to its original capacity there are not always enough spaces, particularly as spring approaches when more students obtain drivers' licenses and begin to drive to school and use the parking lot. This means that parking spaces are available on a first come first served basis. Students are not permitted to park in any other location on campus. Other parking areas around the building are reserved for staff or visitors. Everyone is expected to use a marked space and observe posted parking regulations.

### Drop-offs & Pick-ups

All drop-offs and pick-ups are done at the front of the building before, during and at the end of the school day. Drop-offs at the north end of the building (nearest the elementary school) are prohibited. Drivers should drive all the way to the end of the drop-off area at the front of the building when delivering their passengers. Most mornings someone is there to assist you. Stay close to the curb or adjacent parking area, when the line of traffic stops, allow your passengers to exit the vehicle. As many as ten cars can unload at a

time.

Here are some ways you can help keep things moving in the drop off area:

- Drive all the way to the end of the drop off area. There is usually someone standing there. Stopping directly in front of the door delays the people behind you unnecessarily and prevents unloading the maximum number of vehicles. It doesn't really save that many steps for your passenger and creates a "drive-up window" dynamic leading to one drop-off at a time.
- Avoid leaving large gaps between your car and the vehicle in front of you.
- Pack your passenger's gear in such a way that it is easy to gather and ready to carry from the vehicle.
- Have that conversation on the way to school. Waiting until you stop in the drop-off area to start a conversation with your passenger will create delays for those behind you.
- Check your mirrors and make sure your full attention is on your driving before you pull away. Activity in the drop-off area is occasionally hectic as people learn the pattern or drop off for the first time.

For safety's sake we ask you to pull all the way over to the right curb and not to drop your passenger in the middle of the road. Do not unload your passenger at the left curb. Doing this will require your passenger to cross the bulk of the drop off traffic. This is an unsafe practice and creates an unnecessary hazard.

Turning into the main entrance circle for drop-off or pick-up is prohibited. This is to facilitate parking for parents with early morning appointments with school officials and arriving employees. It is also a primary emergency vehicle access and as such must remain clear and passable at all times. Please note that this area is now a **one way**. The pattern flows in a clockwise manner.

Remember, on days of inclement weather you need to leave home a little earlier. Bad weather can create a dramatic increase in the number of parents dropping off students; the worse the weather the more cars at the drop-off.

## **Doors**

While D-Y has many exterior doors, steps have been taken to increase safety and security by limiting means of accessing the building by unauthorized persons. Doors for students to enter the building in the morning are the main entrance in the front and the doors in the bus port area in the rear. All other doors are for employee access only. After 7:22 (the start of the school day) all exterior doors will be locked. The main lobby will be open for students arriving late, including those parking in the student lot, and visitors.

We hope this information will help smooth your morning commute. By following these guidelines you will be helping to keep D-Y High School safe and secure. If you have any questions you should contact Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School or the D-Y Police Services Office.

Have a crime free school year.