

Countryside Update

Construction/Access/Drop-Off & Pick-Up

8-30-23

As we start another school year, I am writing to share specific details about our ongoing construction, building access reminders and updated information about our new drop-off/pick-up arrangements. The existing building is done with summer work and ready for us to welcome students back for a great year. The safety protocols/routines, communications and signage that were in place last year will again help us all navigate our school through this exciting time.

We continue to partner with our construction managers – Kraus-Anderson – to plan for how we will coexist at Countryside with the ongoing construction of the new spaces. We have discussed how the timing of construction processes will be coordinated to not hamper our student arrivals and departures, interrupt student learning, as well as how we ensure the safety of students and staff throughout the school day. We have a strong plan in place and I am confident we will have a successful year together.

Thank you in advance for taking time to review the following important details.

Big Details!

- **Door 1A** - Our main entrance will again be Door 1A. All parents/visitors should use this door as their main entry and exit from the building.
- **This is a secured entrance, with the same security configuration as last year, with the addition of the RAPTOR system** – see below.
- Student arrivals/departures will be Door 2 and Door 6 – always under staff supervision.
- Check out the details and video link below to **Updated Drop-Off/Pick-Up Plans!**

Updated Pick-Up/Drop-Off Plans

This year we will have **2 drop-off and pick-up areas**. Please watch this important video that will outline the updated vehicle drop-off and pick-up protocols for this school year. Some of the changes are significant and noted below:

- Due to changes in the property configuration, **there will not be any drop-off or pick-up on Tracy Ave. or Benton Ave.**
- The north lot will now serve as a visitor parking lot and one-way vehicle drop-off and pick-up zone
- Vehicles must stay “in line” until the vehicles in front of them pull ahead
- The east lot will now be used exclusively as the “bus loop” and staff parking; there will be a gate separating the bus and visitor areas
- Students entering the property must use available sidewalks/crosswalks
- Students walking north on Tracy will cross at the Tracy/Benton intersection with the assistance of crossing guards

- There will be no crossing over to the school property at Countryside Road due to bus traffic
- To relieve congestion, we ask that if your student has access to a bus, please have them ride it daily.

[Countryside Pick-Up and Drop-Off Plans 23-24](#)

Exterior Planning:

- **Fencing**
 - Fencing encloses any construction area, ensuring the safety of students, staff and visitors during the construction process.
 - One area includes the school property south of the building, as well as the upper playground and field.
 - This area will serve as a construction zone and parking for construction workers/vehicles, with all vehicles entering through the gate at Tracy and Countryside Road.
 - Also, fencing is in place on the north side (near our former and future main entrance).
- **Playground Access**
 - Our upper playground is within the construction zone for now and will not be accessible until construction is complete mid-year.
 - We will use the lower playground and fields for recess/breaks/outdoor PE classes.
 - Additional equipment has been ordered to facilitate fun and engaging activities on the lower fields.
- **Sidewalk/Crossing Access at Countryside Road**
 - The construction fencing includes the crossing and the sidewalk coming from Countryside Road. Students will stay on the sidewalk on the East side of Tracy – always with staff supervision – and will cross at Benton and Tracy.
 - Staff will direct students through crosswalks and along sidewalks.
 - Students will enter Door 2 or Door 6 from this area.
- **Staff and Construction Parking only on Tracy and Benton Avenues – No Student Drop-Off or Pick-Up**
 - The stairs on Tracy Avenue have been removed.
 - Construction and staff parking is designated for Tracy Avenue.
 - Do not plan to do drop-off or pick-up on Tracy or Benton
- **Don't Forget - Drop-Off/Pick-Up on Arbour Avenue is an Option**
 - Check out the details and video link!
 - [Countryside Pick-Up and Drop-Off Plans 23-24](#)

Interior Planning:

- **Door Access**
 - Door 3 (near kindergarten) is an emergency exit, and will be used for bus arrival and dismissal when supervised by staff.
 - Doors 2 and 6 are the primary entrances/exits for students.
- **Safety Procedures/Planning**
 - Emergency exit plans are in place to accommodate the number of students and the flow of students from each portion of the building.

New Visitor Management System - Raptor

The district recently announced that we will begin using the [Raptor Visitor Management System](#) in all of our schools at the start of the school year. The Raptor system will better allow us to screen visitors, contractors, and volunteers in our schools and provide an added layer of security for our students and staff.

When visiting any of Edina Public School's buildings, visitors will be asked to present a State-issued photo identification such as a Driver's License, which can either be scanned or manually entered into the Raptor system. If a visitor for any reason does not have a State-issued photo identification, the school staff member can use alternate forms of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. An ID with a full name and date of birth is preferred. Safety and security are top priorities in our school. Thank you for your cooperation in this important effort.