

SCHOOL NEWS

Marley Park Elementary School • The Maverick Lone Star Monthly
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MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

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Dear Marley Park Community,

It's hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the end of the first quarter. It seems like yesterday that school was just starting.

We would like to take this newsletter opportunity to reflect on a subject that is near and dear to our hearts: safety. We take great pride in doing everything possible to keep not only students safe, but staff and parents as well. It is critical for us to mention some safety precautions to you:

To assist parents and students with safety in the school parking lots, safety procedures in the parking lot and drop off are in place. Additionally, parents and students should follow these guidelines:

- Always proceed with caution and regulate your speed in the parking lot and drop off.
- Follow the direction of school personnel while dropping off or picking up students.
- Students should enter and exit vehicles on the curbside. Please do not have students walk around vehicles to enter a car or while exiting.
- Parents and students are to cross the drop off lane in the designated crosswalk in front of the entrance gate. At no time should students or parents weave between cars while crossing the drop off lane.
- Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the fire lane.

We would also like to take this opportunity to ask parents that wish to park and pick up students to park either in the Marley Park parking lot to the west of the school, or the community parking lot north of the school. Please do not park in the bike lane or side streets. This creates a hazard where students are crossing in front of the teacher parking lot at dismissal time. We have increased our diligence with safety. Our teachers are at the curbside to redirect parents and students to use our crosswalks. Please do not walk between cars or block the crosswalk.

We make a concerted effort to be visible at the start of the day, as well as at dismissal. One thing we know, even with all our teachers on duty, we can't be everywhere. We need all members of our school community to be conscientious and diligent. By doing this, we can continue to foster a climate of respect, responsibility, and community.

Cindy Mady
Cindy Mady
Principal

Stephen Nevers
Stephen Nevers
Assistant Principal



"HOME OF THE MAVERICKS"

The Dysart Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs or activities. For information regarding discrimination grievance or complaint procedures contact the assistant superintendent for human resources at (623) 876-7000.

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Marley Park has established fire drill evacuation and lockdown procedures to prepare and protect our students and staff in the event of an emergency. These procedures follow guidelines set by both the Fire Department and the School District. Fire drills are practiced monthly during the school year and lockdowns are conducted quarterly.

LOCK DOWN DRILLS

Each school year, Marley Park Elementary conducts four lockdown drills. Students and staff will be made aware of our first exercise of the year, and when announced, we encourage you to discuss it with your children. A lockdown drill simulates an event where it would become necessary for students to be protected from an outside threat. In many ways, it is the complete opposite of a fire drill, where the threat to students is inside the building.

During a lockdown, students will generally sit on the classroom floor, lights will be turned off, windows will be covered, and classroom instruction will cease. Classroom doors will be locked. The goal is to make the children and staff members "disappear" from the campus to ensure their safety. Ideally, the drill will last approximately ten to fifteen minutes.

Please note that all interior and exterior doors will be locked and no one will be allowed to enter or exit the

building. During our drill, please understand that we will not be allowing entrance, even to parents. We ask that you wait patiently until the completion of the drill, realizing that the process is intended for the protection of the children.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills are conducted once a month. If you arrive at school during a fire drill, please wait near your car, or on the sidewalk adjacent to Sweetwater Avenue. Do not park your car in the fire lane. If you are on campus during a fire drill, please follow the directions of staff members and exit the building with students and staff.



WALKING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

- ⇒ Start early enough so as to arrive 5 to 10 minutes before the tardy bell rings, without rushing.
- ⇒ Walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, use the left side, facing oncoming traffic.
- ⇒ Never run between parked cars.
- ⇒ Look in all directions before crossing the street.
- ⇒ **All traffic laws must be observed. This includes crossing streets at marked crosswalks.**
- ⇒ Never accept a ride or gift from a stranger.
- ⇒ Do not go to a friend's house after school. Go directly home after school.

- ⇒ Obey all instructions/directions of the crossing guards.
- ⇒ Once students arrive at school, they are not permitted to leave prior dismissal, without being checked out by a parent/guardian in the front office.

BICYCLE RIDERS

- ⇒ It is highly recommended that all bicycle riders wear helmets.
- ⇒ Ride bicycles on the sidewalks to and from school.
- ⇒ Bicycles are never to be ridden on school grounds.
- ⇒ Cross only at marked crosswalks. Ride single, never double. Observe all traffic rules.
- ⇒ Use a chain and padlock on the bike so it won't be stolen while at school. Be careful not to lose the key because a bike brought to school is the sole responsibility of the owner. A good suggestion is to get a bicycle license and to write a description of the bike. **The school cannot be responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged bicycles.**
- ⇒ Bike riders should go directly to the bike compound, park their bikes, lock them up, and then go directly to the classroom.

As always, Marley Park Elementary is committed to the safety of its students and staff and we appreciate your understanding and support. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

BUS LOOP SAFETY



The DPS minimum standards for school bus operations states that it is not permitted to allow any other vehicles to operate in the bus

loops at the schools while loading or unloading passengers.

R17-9-104 (10) reads:

During the time of loading or unloading of passengers at a designated school bus loading area at a school, the loading area is restricted to school buses, passengers, and school employees assisting in the loading or unloading of passengers.

School buses are defined specifically in the DPS minimum standards. School buses can only be yellow in color and used to transport students from home to school. At this time in order to comply with all applicable laws we are being asked to ensure that all parents and day care providers use the parent pickup and drop off areas only.

