

Dear Families,

Parents and caregivers who drive children to school play an important role in enhancing safety near our school. Whether you drive your child to school regularly or occasionally, please review these safety guidelines and laws.

It is safer for everyone when the school separates cars from the school buses. Our school's car drop off/pick up location is

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In addition to following our school's drop off and pick up procedures, drivers should always:

- Slow down in the neighborhood surrounding the school, even when “running late.” Watch for children walking, bicycling (both on the road and the sidewalk), or waiting at bus stops.
- Avoid double parking or stopping on crosswalks to let children out of the car. Double parking will block visibility for other children and other motorists. Visibility is further reduced during the rain and snow seasons when condensation or ice forms on car windows.
- Avoid loading or unloading children at locations across the street from the school. This forces children to unnecessarily cross busy streets—often mid-block rather than at a crosswalk. Mid-block crossings are dangerous.
- Obey all school patrol flags. It is illegal to drive through school patrol flags.
- Drive responsibly. Do not make u-turns. Do not pull over to the “wrong” side of the street.
- Prepare to stop for a school bus when **yellow overhead lights** are flashing. Drive with caution when you see yellow hazard warning lights are flashing on a moving or stopped bus.
- Stop for a school bus with its **red overhead lights** flashing, regardless of the direction from which the driver is approaching. Drivers must not proceed until the school bus resumes motion and the red lights stop flashing, or until signaled by the school bus driver to proceed. This is the law.
- Consider parking away from the school and walking with your child to and from school. Walking a few blocks takes less time than you might think, and less congestion near school enhances safety.
- Obey all parking restrictions. Following parking laws keeps intersections clear, making crossing safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles. Minneapolis unsigned parking restrictions are provided on the back of this sheet.

Thank you, families, for your attention to the safety of children in the journey to and from school.

Sincerely,

## City of Minneapolis Unsigned Street Parking Restrictions

Many parking ordinances have traffic signs indicating that curbside stopping or parking is prohibited or restricted. However, some ordinances do not require signs to be posted. These ordinances address safety issues common throughout the city. To sign all of these locations is not practical. Vehicles parked in violation of these ordinances create a hazard for the safe passage of other vehicles and/or pedestrians. The most common of these parking ordinances include:

### Corner clearance

**Too close to a stop sign or Traffic Signal** - vehicles are not allowed to park within 30 feet of the approach side of a stop sign or traffic signal unless otherwise indicated by a parking meter or traffic sign.

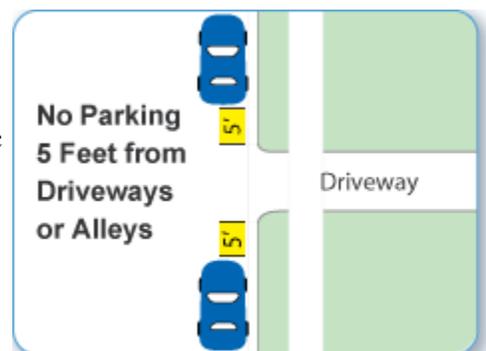
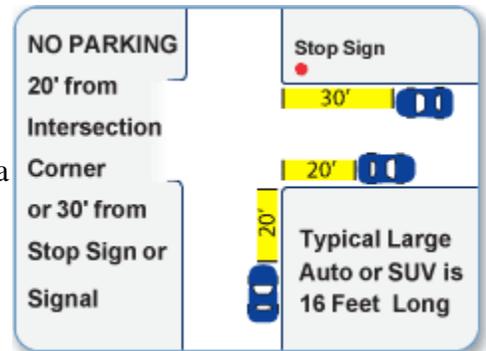
**Blocked driveway** - vehicles are not allowed to park within 5 feet of a private road, driveway, or alley.

**Blocked fire hydrant** - vehicles are not allowed to stop, stand or park within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or traffic control agent.

**Railroad Crossing** – vehicles are not allowed to park within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad crossing.

**On a sidewalk** - vehicles are not allowed to stop on sidewalks, sidewalk crossings or boulevards.

These ordinances discourage motorists from leaving their vehicles in a manner that would pose a safety threat or inconvenience to other drivers or pedestrians.



This letter adapted resources from:

[http://apps.saferoutesinfo.org/lawenforcement/resources/driving\\_tips.cfm](http://apps.saferoutesinfo.org/lawenforcement/resources/driving_tips.cfm)

[http://www.minneapolismn.gov/parking/parking\\_unsigned-parking-restrictions](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/parking/parking_unsigned-parking-restrictions)