

Traffic Hazards in Front of Eastern Technical High School

Vehicles Making U Turns in Front of School and Crosswalk Use

I am writing to ask the parents of students attending Eastern Technical High School to help me correct a problem that contributes to the traffic congestion in front of the school at morning arrival and afternoon dismissal. This problem could also potentially result in a bodily injury accident taking place in front of the school.

The problem I am speaking of involves cars making u turns in front of the school or making a "left turn" into Spencer Terrace then continuing to make a u turn in the intersection of Spencer Terrace and Mace Ave. These actions contribute to the traffic congestion in front of school, create an unsafe environment, and could also result in an accident.

I understand that sometimes people feel they need to drop off or pick up their students as quickly as possible, however there are safer and more considerate ways of doing this. The actions of making a u turn on Mace Ave, or turning into Spencer Terrace then making a u turn, is unsafe and inconsiderate to the other parents picking up their children, to myself and the faculty members directing traffic, and to our neighbors in the community. At dismissal time, these actions cause traffic to back up on south bound Mace Ave. as vehicles have to wait for northbound traffic to clear before crossing into Spencer Terrace. This results in traffic backing up onto Rossville Blvd.

I am asking that in the future, **everyone refrain from making either a u turn in front of the school or a left turn into Spencer Terrace at morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.** I know this will not be a popular choice, but perhaps by planning ahead and arriving a few minutes early, everyone could orient their vehicle in the direction they need to go without contributing to the dangerous situation in front of school. I'm also asking assistance in making this request work. If you are in front of school picking up your student and you see someone performing the aforementioned turns, jot down their tag number and give me a call at the school or e mail that information to me at jcomegna@bcps.org. I will personally give them a call and ask for their help in keeping the students of Eastern Tech. safe.

I would also like to ask that those of you who park across the street from school at dismissal and have your children cross the street without using the crosswalk refrain from that action in the future. Crossing without the aid of the crosswalk is dangerous. Additionally, when students run across the street at the same time I am releasing the buses or vehicles from our parking lot, they cause that traffic to stop contributing to the congestion already present in front of the school. Please have your children use the crosswalk at the main entrance where I am stationed every day. I will cross them safely and it should not add more than a minute or two to their departure.

The safest way to drop off or pick up your students is to use the arrival and departure procedures that are recommended by the school. I have included copies of both with this letter in case any of you are not familiar with them.

I'll thank all of you in advance for assisting me in this endeavor. I would hate to have to take enforcement action on our families here at Eastern Tech. If anyone has any questions, I am available during the school day at 410-887-0190 or you can e mail me at jcomegna@bcps.org.

Thank you,

Officer Joe Comegna