



Big Flats News

October 2025

*At Big Flats Elementary,
we will SOAR together
as we explore our "wonders"
in a fun and engaging
community, where we will
inspire each other to achieve
anything!*

Elementary Lunches (K-6)

School Food Services prices for the 2025-2026 school year will be:

Breakfast: Free

Lunch: Free

School Hours

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:

8:35 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Office Hours

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Office Phone Numbers

(607) 739-6373

Fax: (607) 795-2555



Drill Notifications:

As you are aware, throughout the school year Big Flats Elementary will practice important emergency response procedures for our school including fire, evacuation, lockdown, and emergency dismissal drills. Families will receive notice within one week prior to drills. Please be advised we will continue practicing our mandated drills.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to thank you all for your continued patience and grace as our dismissal team adapts to and implements the new procedures. Following the recent changes, we have decided to make one minor adjustment to our 2nd and 3rd grade loading zones. This change is not expected to impact your routine, but the updated map is attached for your reference. We are so appreciative of your support as we make these adjustments!

If you dropped off your child(ren) this morning, you likely noticed that we have removed the cones for morning arrival. As you approach the end of the gas house on the left of the north parking lot, we are asking everyone to merge at that point to form a single-file drop-off lane. Officer Allen will be assisting as needed. There are no other changes to our morning drop-off procedures.

To keep both our Pre-K and Kindergarten through 4th Grade dismissals moving smoothly, please remember to have your family name tent displayed clearly on the driver's side dashboard. This allows our staff to quickly identify your family.

- Our Pre-K dismissal runs from 2:25 PM to 2:40 PM.
- K-4 parents/guardians, PLEASE do not arrive prior to 2:45 PM, as this significantly complicates our Pre-K dismissal process.
- For our K-4 parents/guardians, our main dismissal begins at 3:20 PM and concludes at 3:35 PM. If you arrive after 3:35 PM, please park in the main lot and walk to the main entrance. Please remember that our main office closes daily at 3:45 PM.

Words cannot express my continued appreciation for all you do as we collectively adjust to these new procedures.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Scaptura

Elizabeth M. Scaptura
Principal, Big Flats Elementary



Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

Explore

Empower

Excel

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

- **Changes in Going Home Routine/Bus Notes**

Please remember to write a 'blue note' with your child's change in dismissal plans if he/she will not be following their normal routine. Blue notes should also be written to explain your child's tardiness, absence, or plan to leave early. This is extremely important for the safety of our students. All dismissal changes should be submitted no later than 10:00.

- **Half Days for Elementary Schools**

There will be no lunch and no Kid's World provided on half days at elementary schools. Please send a blue note on these days with dismissal plans for your student if he/she usually attends Kid's World.

- **Please Always Park in the Parking Lot**

When visiting the school, either with a late student/early pick up, dropping something off, attending a meeting, etc., please always park in the parking lot and not the bus lane. All visitors must report to the office, and the office will further assist you.

- **Snow Days Impact our Schedule**

When a snow day occurs and all schools in the District are closed, it changes our four-day schedule. The next day that school is in session is the cycle day that the snow day would have been.

Big Flats continues to implement the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) model with our school community. PBIS is an evidence-based framework that supports students' behavioral, academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs. Not only does PBIS improve competence in the areas mentioned above, but also provides a shared vision for a positive school social culture for staff and students. As the school year progresses, we hope you might hear your child(ren) share with you our Big Flats Core 4 to SOAR, a collaboration of expectations created by students and staff to foster a positive school climate for all.

These four expectations serve as a foundation for positive and proactive support to empower and make students and staff feel safe, valued, and welcome. We appreciate your continued support in helping us soar together!

The Big Flats Core 4 to SOAR



School and Emergency Closings

School closings/delays due to inclement weather will be announced via various media outlets such as WNKI, WPGI, Magic FM, and WELM radio stations, and WENY, WETM, and Time Warner Cable News on TV. **You may also opt in to our text messaging services through SchoolMessenger by texting Yes to 67587.** In the event of an emergency during the school day, all students will be taken by bus to the address previously identified by parents on the "Emergency Go Home" form that was completed at the beginning of the school year. As a reminder, this location **MUST** be on one of the Big Flats Elementary bus routes.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

To provide schools and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests challenge all students in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Please visit the site at <https://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>. If you are interested in viewing this site but do not have access to the Internet, please call the school office so that we can make arrangements for you to see this guide.

3rd and 4th grade Computer Based ELA—April 28, 2026 and April 29, 2026 3rd and 4th grade Computer Based Math—May 5, 2026 and May 6, 2026

Mark Your Calendars

Oct 3

4th Grade Beginner Strings
Night; IS Cafeteria; 6pm

Oct 7

Principal Chat; 5:30pm
PTO Meeting; 6pm

Oct 9

Fall Picture Day

Oct 10

NO SCHOOL

Conference Day

Oct 13

NO SCHOOL

Indigenous People's Day

Oct 15

Unity Day- *Wear Orange*

Oct 16

Early Release DRILL
BOE Meeting; BFE Gym 6 PM

Oct 17

Career Day

October 31

Halloween Parade TBD



Your Right to Know

Parents and guardians of students in Title I schools have the right to request important information about their child's education, including:

- The professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who support instruction.
- Notification if your child has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet state certification or licensure requirements.
- Information about your child's academic achievement and growth on state assessments, if applicable and available.

To request any of this information, families should contact their school's principal. We are committed to keeping families informed and supporting student success.



Guidelines for Classroom Parties

Before bringing treats for birthdays and such, please check with your child's teacher for approval and to see if any students in the class have any food allergies, such as peanuts, chocolate, red dye, etc. All treats must be store bought. **No flowers or balloons may be sent or brought to students. Please do not bring frozen items as there is limited freezer space and access.**

Picture Day

Remember to dress your best
for Fall picture day on
October 9th!



Health Office Request

We are in need of both girl's and boy's 4T, 5T, 6, 6X, and 10/12 gently used clothing.

You can send or drop-off donated clothing at your convenience. If your child has been sent home wearing clothing from the health office, please return it to the nurse. Additionally, any disposable bags would be appreciated as well!



UNITY DAY
kindness • acceptance • inclusion

Unity Day

Unity Day is Wednesday, October 15. Wear and share **ORANGE** to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying. This event is to prevent childhood bullying and promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.

Title I Annual Notifications – What Families Need to Know

As a Title I school, we are committed to keeping families informed about policies and procedures that support student success and family engagement. Each year, we share important information to help families take an active role in their child's learning through Title I and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Click the links below to learn more about the following Title I-related documents and resources:

[1900: Parental and Family Engagement](#)

[1900-E.1: Parental Involvement, Title I - School Level Exhibit](#)

[1900-R: Title I Parental Involvement Regulation](#)

[ESSA-Funded Programs Complaint Procedures](#)

Learn Up-To-Date Information About Our Schools and the District

Facebook: The district and each of our seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see our information in your news feed.

Twitter: Follow us on Twitter at [@HhdsSchools](#) to read our tweets.

Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at [@escaptural](#)

Instagram: The district's page—[hhdsschools](#)

Visit our district website at: www.horseheadsdistrict.com.

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com

**SAFE
SCHOOLS
LINE**

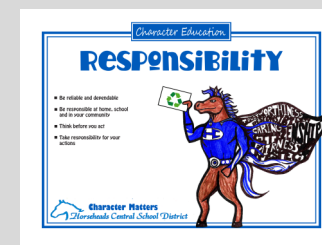
795-2044 or
1-800-305-4984

Report a concern, rumor, bullying incident, or any safety issue anonymously and confidentially, 24 hours a day.

October—The month of:

Responsibility

- *Plan ahead*
- *Be diligent*
- *Persevere*
- *Do your best*
- *Do what you are supposed to do*
- *Think before you act*
- *Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes*
- *Set a good example for others*



Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Scaptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Scaptura at (607)-739-6373. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x4211, or cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com.

Non-Discrimination Notification

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601. This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.



October 2025

Big Flats
Elementary School

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 4th Grade Beginner Strings Night IS Café; 6PM	4
5	6 CSE Mtgs	7 Principal Chat; 5:30pm PTO Mtg; 6pm	8	9 Fall Picture Day	10 NO SCHOOL Conference Day	11
12	13 NO SCHOOL HAPPY INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY	14	15 Unity Day! Wear Orange	16 Early Release DRILL BOE Mtg; BFE Gym 6pm	17 Career Day! CSE Mtgs	18
19	20	21 504 Mtgs	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Happy Halloween Halloween Parade; TBD	

Character Trait of the Month
Responsibility

- Plan ahead
- Be diligent
- Persevere
- Set a good example for others
- Do what you are supposed to do
- Do your best
- Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes
- Think before you act



Fight Flu

at Home and School

Influenza (flu), spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it altogether.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Make sure people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, are also vaccinated.
- The vaccine is especially important for young children and people of all ages with certain health conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung conditions. The flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems.
- Young children and those with certain medical conditions, like asthma, diabetes, and heart or lung disease, are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu.
- If your child gets flu symptoms, call their health care provider and ask if antiviral treatment is right for them.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

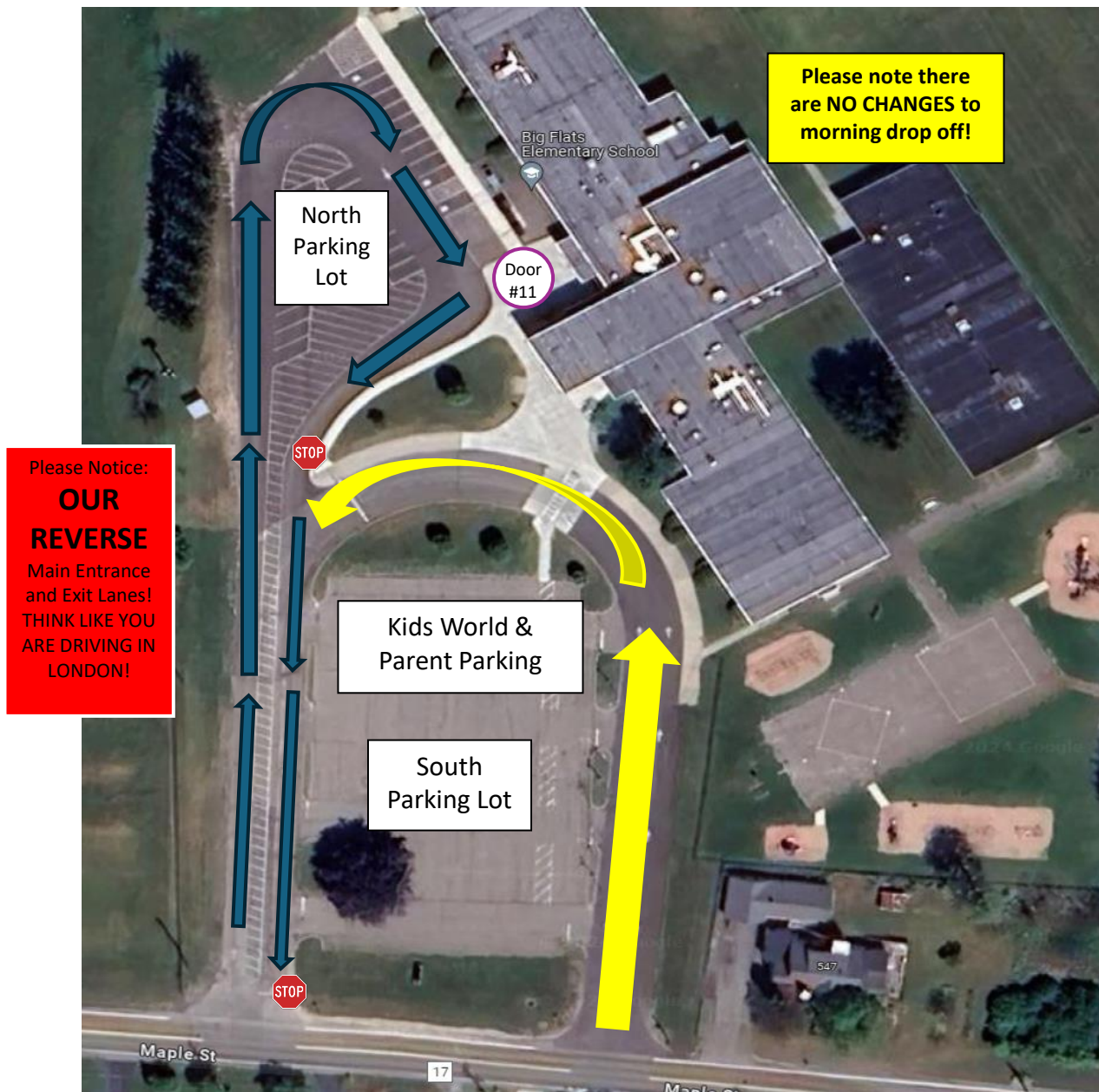
Don't spread flu!

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

health.ny.gov/flu



Department
of Health



Kindergarten – 4th Grade Drop Off TIME 8:20-8:34

- Follow BLUE markings on the map above for direction of travel on our school campus. When entering the school campus please use the FAR LEFT LANE and proceed to the back parking lot. ALL vehicles must drop their students off in the drop-off line. **YELLOW IS FOR BUSES ONLY!**
- 8-10 cars should be prepared to unload at one time with the support of Big Flats staff members.
- Please pull ALL THE WAY up to the STOP SIGN to let your child out of your vehicle.
- Please be sure that your children are seated behind the DRIVER so that your child(ren) may exit the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk. If a child must be on the passenger side, the child MUST be able to exit behind the driver seat and NOT out into the parking lot. They will then enter the school using the cafeteria or loading dock entrance. Door #11.
- **PLEASE KEEP ALL CHILDREN SEAT BELTED UNTIL YOU ARRIVE AT THE DROP OFF LOCATION.**
- Please practice with your child how to unbuckle themselves so that we may keep the drop-off line moving. The fewer adults getting out to assist their child, the faster the line will move.
- Please **DO NOT PASS on the right side** to ensure the safety of all pedestrians.

Students must be inside the building by 8:35am.

If arriving after 8:34 you must park and walk your child to the main entrance (with a blue note).

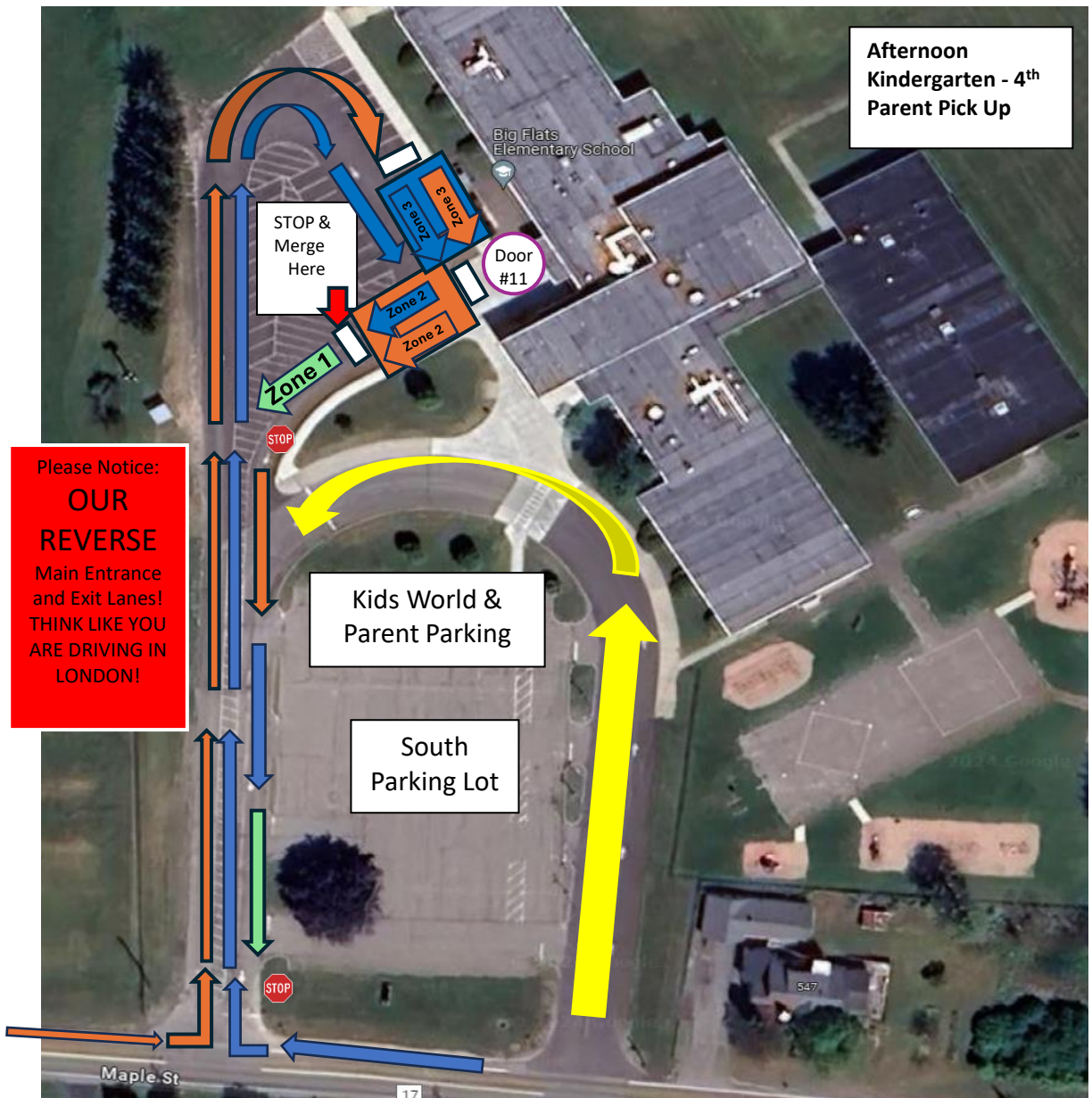


Pre-Kindergarten Drop Off Time: 9:00-9:10 *PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE PRIOR TO 8:40 *

- Follow BLUE markings on the map above for direction of travel in the parking lot. When entering the school campus please use the FAR LEFT LANE and proceed to the back parking lot. ALL vehicles must drop their students off in the drop-off line. **YELLOW IS FOR BUSES ONLY!**
- 6-8 cars should be prepared to unload at one time with the support of Big Flats staff members.
 - Please pull ALL THE WAY up to the STOP SIGN to let your child out of your vehicle.
 - Please be sure that your children are seated behind the DRIVER so that your child(ren) may exit the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk. If a child must be on the passenger side, the child MUST be able to exit behind the driver seat and NOT out into the parking lot. They will then enter the school using the loading dock entrance. Door #11.
 - **PLEASE KEEP ALL CHILDREN SEAT BELTED UNTIL YOU ARRIVE AT THE DROP OFF LOCATION.**
 - Please practice with your child how to unbuckle themselves so that we may keep the drop-off line moving. The fewer adults getting out to assist their child, the faster the line will move.
 - Please **DO NOT PASS** on the right side to ensure the safety of all pedestrians. Please exit in single file.

If arriving after 9:10am you must park and walk your child to the main entrance.

Afternoon
Kindergarten - 4th
Parent Pick Up



Pre-Kindergarten Pickup Time: 2:30-2:40

- Follow entrance markings on the map above for direction of travel on our school campus. When entering the school campus please use the FAR TWO LEFT LANES and proceed to the back parking lot. ALL vehicles must pick up their students in the pick-up line. **YELLOW IS FOR BUSES ONLY!**
 - 4-6 cars should be prepared to load at one time with the support of a Big Flats staff member.
 - As the Big Flats Staff member approaches your vehicle, please be sure that your vehicle is in park and the doors are unlocked. Please be sure to have your school issued name tent visible at all times.
 - A staff member will bring your child(ren) to your car.
 - Once you have safely secured your child in your vehicle, please keep your vehicle in park until directed to exit the campus proceeding in the FAR LEFT LANE to exit the school campus.
 - Please **STAY IN LINE. Merge when directed to do so and DO NOT PASS** to ensure the safety of all pedestrians.
- If arriving after 2:40pm, you will need to park and come to the main entrance to sign out your child.

**DO NOT BLOCK THE ENTRANCE/EXIT NOR OUR NEIGHBORS DRIVEWAYS!
BE PREPARED TO PULL OFF MAPLE STREET TO ALLOW EMERGENCY VEHICLES TO PASS!**