

NEWS RELEASE



Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19 *Community of Excellent Schools*

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Parking Plan Modified at MHS

MASCOUTAH, IL. - With one phase of construction activity underway and bids for subsequent phases to be awarded in about three weeks, the area around Mascoutah High School is beginning to resemble a “work in progress” zone.

With anticipation of even more modifications of the landscape over the next two years as a new high school is built, district officials have adjusted the parking plan for the high school.

“It’s going to be a bit congested and perhaps not as convenient, but we believe we’ve established enough alternate parking locations to get us through school sessions and after-school events such as football games,” District 19 Superintendent Sam McGowen said. “The key is everyone being patient and staying aware of modified traffic patterns. We will get through this with minimal frustration for everyone.”

Some of the changes are obvious to passers-by. Temporary parking lots are now located on the front lawn of the high school and the old student parking lot in back of the high school is virtually gone – swallowed up as part of the footprint of the new high school building. Student parking is located at the 96-space area south of the soccer field and a new hard surface 143-space area north of the soccer and football field that is accessible through an access road that runs on the east side of the soccer field.

For students parking in the north lot referenced above, a new sidewalk and access point has been constructed behind the football field grandstand that allows students to safely and conveniently enter the school campus by the most direct route possible while avoiding construction debris and dirt and the traffic along the entrance drive. During football home games, spectators can use the north parking lot entrance to enter the football field as well.

“We’ve moved staff parking to the front lawn of the high school. We are asking visitors to the high school to park in the lot east of the Junior ROTC building on the front

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lawn, particularly in the a.m. and p.m. when buses are loading and unloading in the front drive of the high school,” McGowen said. “We will not allow parking in the driveway during this period of time, however, during times when parents need to visit the school between 7:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. they may park in front of the main entrance. However, the cars all need to be gone both before and after the times stated above to assure a safe loading area for students.

“Parents dropping their students in the morning should use the rear of the school, entering off County Road. Drive back toward the greenhouse and maintenance building. The high school staff has established a turning circle and parents can drop their student between the greenhouse and the vocational education wing. Students will enter through the west entrance located behind the school and parents can proceed back to County Road to exit the high school. We ask parents to use this upper level drop-off area instead of the soccer field parking area for dropping students. We especially don’t want cars mingling with students and buses on the front side of the school as the hazards are too great during crunch time.”

What’s left of the old student parking area behind the school can be used for after-school activities if it is not being used by contractors. For football games and school activities, the bulk of available parking will be the two lots south and north of the soccer field, though drivers need to know that no parking will be allowed on the access road between the soccer and football field. The faculty parking lot on the front of the high school is also available for sporting events and after-school event parking.

“I thank everyone for putting up with the expected inconveniences,” McGowen said. “We’ve given lots of thought to the parking plan. While it is not perfect for everyone, hopefully it provides adequate space to accommodate most of our parking needs the next two years.”

Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19, a “*Community of Excellent Schools*,” is a high-achieving district that serves as a beacon of excellence for other school districts in the region. The district encompasses 104-square miles in southwestern Illinois, including the city of Mascoutah, all of Scott Air Force Base, MidAmerica Airport and parts of the cities of Belleville and the villages of Shiloh and New Baden. The district’s mixture of rural, suburban and military communities provides a rich and diverse educational experience for its approximately 3,400 students.

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Contact:

Dr. Sam H. McGowen – 618-566-7414 – E-mail: mcgowens@mascoutah19.k12.il.us