

There was a partial ceiling collapse at Webster School in August which resulted in the relocation of that school for at least September through December. The City School District has chosen Holy Family School as the site for the relocated school. As a result, City staff have been meeting with School District to develop a plan that will allow the school to operate while causing as minimal an impact on the neighborhood as possible. Here are the elements of the plan:

STAFF PARKING: The School requires between 60 and 70 parking spaces for staff. There is no parking available at the School as the Church needs its parking lot for Church functions that may occur at the same time school is in session (funerals, etc.) As a result, we have agreed to reserve 33 existing spaces on Mayflower Avenue between Clove Road and Webster Avenue on the south side of the street for School staff between the hours of 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The School District has indicated that these spaces will be assigned to personnel who agree to car pool on a priority basis. Additionally, the School District will be operating a shuttle bus from Webster School to Holy Family to transport the overflow staff. This will likely result in some inconvenience to residents of the area as these spaces are often in use. However, the houses in this area do have driveways so there is alternative parking available. We will monitor this situation and make adjustments accordingly if required.

BUS DROP OFF AND PICK UP: The bus drop off and pick up area will be on Mayflower Avenue in front of the Church. As a result, we will restrict parking at three (3) existing spaces in this area from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

PARENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP: There will be two separate areas for parent drop off and pick up. Younger students (Grades K-2) will be dropped off on Clove Road between Mayflower Avenue and the end of the School playground area. This will require restricting parking at three (3) existing parking spaces between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM. Older students (Grades 3-5) will be dropped off on Mount Joy Place between Mayflower Avenue and the School entrance. This will require restricting parking at ten (10) existing parking spaces between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM and 2:30 and 3:30 PM.

POLICE PRESENCE: Currently, the City and School District share the cost of one police officer in the morning at Webster School. For the duration of the time at Holy Family, there will be two officers present in both the morning and the afternoon. The cost of these additional police officers will be covered by the City School District. These officers will be stationed appropriately to ensure that the drop off and pick up of students as well as traffic flow in this busy area occurs as smoothly as possible. Additionally, the Traffic Supervising Officer will be at the school in the morning and afternoon for the first two to three weeks of operation to monitor and recommend any changes to the plan that may be required.

COMMUNICATION: Both the City and the School District will be providing multiple levels of communication to make both parents and residents aware of the plan. Both organizations will send out robo calls in advance of school opening next Wednesday. The City will send a robo call this Thursday and next Tuesday. Additionally we will post an announcement on both our web site and our government access channel providing basic information and directing people to the School District web site where detailed information will be available. A direct link from the City web site to the School District web site will be established. A joint press release will also be issued later this week. Informational emails will be sent to neighborhood association presidents. Some residents have indicated that they might like to have an informational meeting prior to the opening of school. I have advised them that if such a meeting is scheduled, appropriate City officials will be in attendance to provide any information we can. I would assume School District officials will also attend this meeting, if it is scheduled.

Under the City Code, the Police Commissioner has the right to make the temporary parking changes for a 30-day period. I have advised him to do so. Official City Council action will be required to make the changes and as a result, legislation will be presented to City Council for consideration at the September meeting of City Council. If you require any additional information, please let me know.