St. Joseph Catholic School Dismissal Update

Safe Dismissal • Clear Plans • Strong Community

Thank you to the many families who shared thoughtful feedback following our dismissal pilot last spring. We are pleased that the changes resulted in a safer, calmer, and more organized end to the school day. As we prepare for 2026–2027, we are building on that success with a few refinements designed to strengthen safety, flexibility, and community.

Beginning this year, all students will gather in the gym for dismissal, where they will remain together and under staff supervision until released. Bringing students together in one location simplifies the dismissal process, provides consistent staff supervision, and maintains clear separation between pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

It also allows us to bring back something important to our St. Joseph community: ending our school day together in prayer. Following prayer, students will be released according to their dismissal plan:

- Drive-Up / Car Line: Students will be called from the gym when their vehicle reaches the designated pickup area.
- Approved Person Pickup / Walk-Up: Students will continue to be released from the east gym doors directly to their authorized adult.
- Extended Care: Students will transition according to established procedures.
- Independent Walker/Biker: Authorized students gather in the gym. A staff member will walk students to meet parents at the stop sign outside the Highland Drive gate.

More Flexibility for Families

Families will complete a 2026–27 Dismissal Plan identifying each student's regular dismissal method for each day of the week. This allows families the flexibility to choose what works best on different days—for example, Drive-Up on Monday, Walk-Up on Tuesday, and Extended Care on Wednesday. Occasional changes may still be made by notifying the school through the designated process by 2:30 p.m. Otherwise, students will follow the dismissal plan on file for that day.

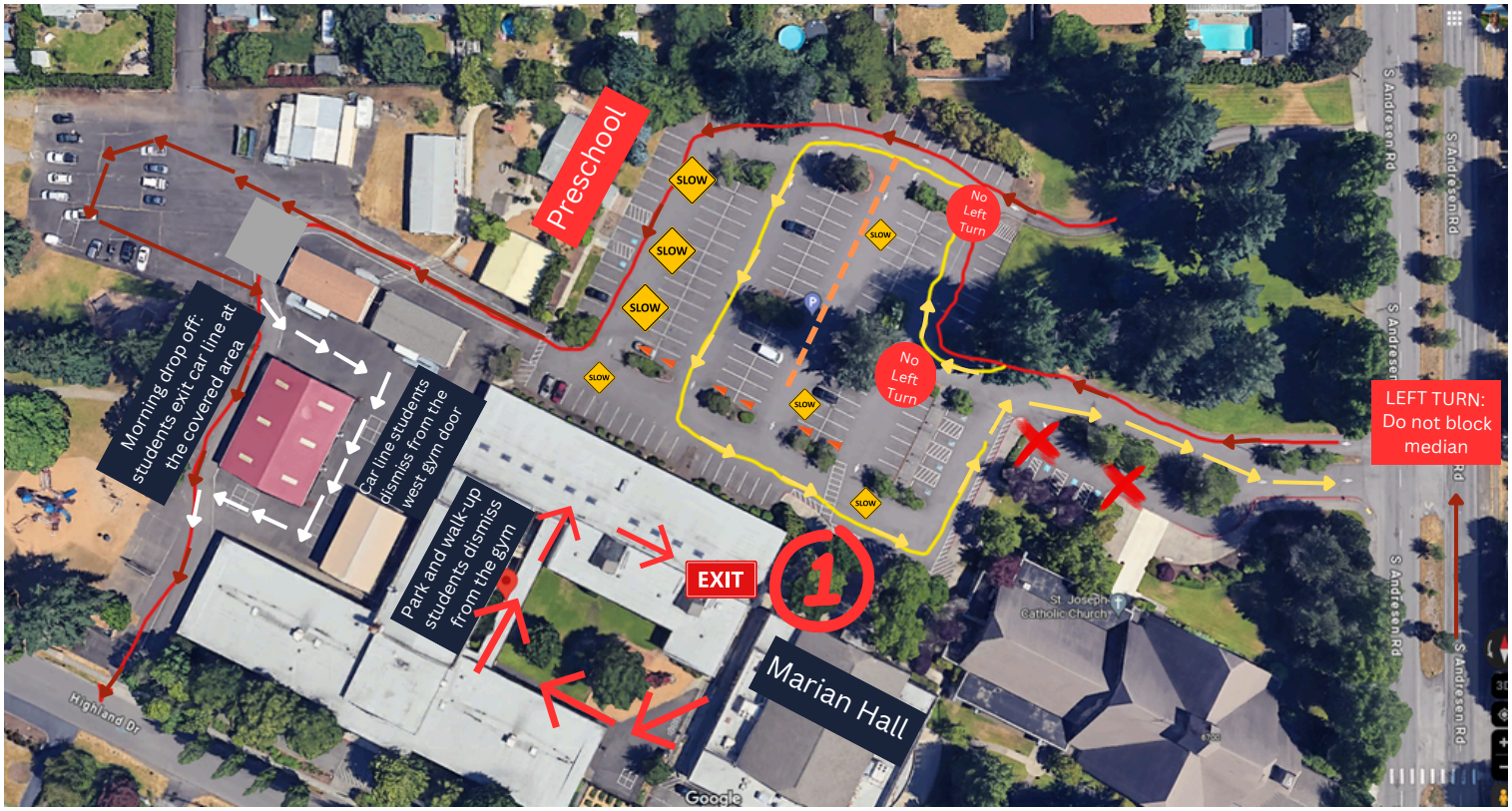
Safety and Community, Together

Our goal remains simple: every student is accounted for, supervised, and safely released each day. We ask families to partner with us by keeping dismissal plans current, communicating changes on time, and following designated traffic and pedestrian procedures.

We also want to create intentional opportunities for families to connect. This year, we will pilot First Friday Fellowship, opening the playground on the first Friday of each month from 3:30–4:15 p.m. Families are welcome to stay, visit, and play together. Children must remain under the direct supervision of their parent or guardian, and the playground will close at 4:15 p.m. for Extended Care.

Thank you for your continued feedback and partnership. We look forward to a dismissal process that keeps safety at the forefront while giving our students and families meaningful opportunities to end the day together in faith and community.

St. Joseph Catholic School
Drop-off & Dismissal Map



MORNING DROP-OFF & PARKING

- Kindergarten and 1st grade families may park and walk your child to the exterior doors.
- Stay to the inside/left lane, following YELLOW line; find parking down the row following ORANGE line
- Walkers - use empty parking spaces with cones as pedestrian walkway
- **Fourth and fifth grade** will drop at the curb in front of Marian Hall. Stay to the inside/left lane, following YELLOW lines on map. Fourth/fifth grade should pull to the forward cone, do not drop your student before the crosswalk
- All other morning drop-off, grades 2-8 will use the drive through drop-off procedures. Stay to the right as you enter, following the RED line straight and drop at the cones.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP & PARKING

- You may park in the church parking lot and walk to the east gym door
- Stay to the inside lane following YELLOW line, park down the row following ORANGE line
- Enter through the east gate **(1)**
- You may also drive through the car line to the dismissal area. Stay to the right, **NEW** - follow the RED line and **WHITE arrows** for west gym door dismissal.
- Pull to the forward cone to pick up your child
- No parking along fire lanes

NOTE: Preschool has drop-off and pick-up during the same time frame, be cautious of preschool families walking to and from the preschool buildings on west side of parking lot.

ST. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC SCHOOL