

Bethesda Christian Academy

Traffic Safety Plan

In an attempt to keep the students, staff and families of Bethesda Christian Academy as safe as possible, the following traffic procedures have been established:

Morning Arrival:

1. Students in grades kindergarten through two are required to be escorted into the building each morning by an adult. Parents/guardians are asked to park their cars in the parking lot and walk their children to their particular classroom. This procedure ensures that young students arrive to their designated location in a safe and timely manner. This procedure also encourages parent and teacher communication since the teacher will see the parent each morning.
2. Students in grades three through five may be dropped off at the main front entrance of the academy building (under the brick walkway). Parents are asked to never drop students off in the main parking lot area—allowing children to walk through the parking lot, but use the fire lane to ensure that each child is delivered to the front of the academy building in the safest manner possible. A staff representative will be stationed at the front entrance to greet the student and encourage them to walk directly to class or before school care.
3. Students in grades six through eight should be dropped off at the main front entrance of the academy building (under the brick walkway), if arriving before 7:45 am. The student should report directly to before school care, located in room 114-D. Students in grades six through eight who arrive to school between 7:45 and 7:55 should be dropped off at the crosswalk located between the two middle school modular units. It takes approx. 30 to 50 seconds for a middle school student to unload. All other cars should wait in line for that car to unload and begin to exit the parking lot. Cars should never go around an unloading car.
4. Before school care will be monitored by teacher assistants beginning at 7:25 and ending at 7:45.
5. Any student arriving to school after 7:55 should report to the academy office to obtain a tardy slip before entering their homeroom class.

6. A BCA staff representative is stationed at the back and front entrance of the school to greet parents and students and to assist any parent or student who may need help. The BCA staff representative will also help encourage parents to not park in the designated fire lanes.

7. Parents should not seek to turn left when leaving the BCA parking lot by way of South Miami Blvd. The road is extremely congested and turning left between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00 am could be dangerous.

Afternoon Dismissal:

1. Students in grades K-4 are dismissed from school at 3:00. Students are escorted to the school lobby to prepare for car pick-up or to go to after school care.

2. Students in grades 5-8 are dismissed from school at 3:00. Students are sent to the school lobby to prepare for car pick-up or to go to after school care or sports practice.

3. All parents are asked to use the car line to pick up their children. Students are placed in the car by various teachers who are on duty. Parents are asked to create two lines of traffic and to advance through car line as instructed. Parents will create a car line by using the main fire lane and continuing to the far row of parking spaces located directly beside the outdoor classroom. The middle row in the parking lot will be left open for vehicles to exit the parking lot. Parents may exit by way of South Miami Blvd. or by way of Ellis Road. Parents are encouraged to stay in the car line and to refrain from parking and walking into the building to pick up their children. Each family is issued a car line sign (during Open House) that should be prominently displayed in the right side dashboard window of the family car. This tells the BCA staff who is to be placed in each car.

4. If the parent or guardian, picking up the child, is going to be someone without a car line tag—the parent should notify the office to inform them of the name of the person who will be picking up their child that day. The BCA staff representative will ask the driver his or her name and will ask the student to identify the individual driving the vehicle.

5. Parents should not seek to turn left when leaving the BCA parking lot by way of South Miami Blvd. The road is extremely congested and turning left between the hours of 2:45 pm and 3:30 pm could be dangerous.