

New Steck Drop-Off and Pick-Up Plans

Dear Steck Parents/Caregivers,

Information shared below is for all who drive student(s) to school and/or pick them up in a vehicle. Dangerous traffic situations have occurred prompting us, with the support of our Collaborative School Committee (CSC), to reach out to Denver Public Schools, the Denver Police Department and the City and County of Denver for guidance in creating a new plan for drop-off and pick-up. Our plan is designed with the safety of students as our #1 priority. Denver Police Department and Denver Public Schools Safety will assist school personnel and parent volunteers in implementing this plan. *See the plan below and the background information that follows.*



There will be a brief informational meeting, Thursday, August 16, at 4:15pm. in the Auditorium held during the Back to School BBQ (4-6pm). We are asking everyone to attend.

With this comprehensive assessment, Steck will be implementing an action plan for school year 2018-19 with components such as, but not limited to, the following:

Steck will establish, communicate, implement and enforce a strict clockwise, right-side of vehicle drop-off/pick-up pattern with parent support.

The plan will reinforce that the northbound Albion frontage area, between 4th and 5th is **specifically for "Kiss and Go"** drop-off and pick-up only and is intended to keep traffic flowing. Pauses in K&G should always be **less than two minutes**. There will be no parking permitted on northbound Albion frontage area, between 4th and 5th from 7:45am – 8:15am and 2:45pm – 3:15pm to allow traffic to flow and ensure safe student drop-off.

Parents needing to **park for over four minutes**, will drop-off/pick-up in approved, signed areas on East 4th and 5th Avenues and neighborhood side streets. Parents will encourage street crossing at intersections only and **always have children enter/exit on sidewalk**

sides.

Parking to enter the school grounds employee parking will not be allowed on the east side of Albion from 7:45am-8:15am and 2:45pm – 3:15pm. *This includes drop-off for Discovery Link and school breakfast.*

Reminder of prohibited traffic actions. There should be no:

Parking or blocking, even in idle, of any resident's driveway or city alley.

U-turns, 3-point turns and utilizing private driveways to turn around on all streets within the perimeter of school property

Across-the-street drop-offs/pick-ups that cause children to cross the street.

Opposite direction crossing (driving to the reverse side traffic) for drop-off and pick-up.

Steck, Denver Public Schools, Denver Police and the City and County of Denver have collaborated to create this plan and each entity recognizes the minimal effort needed by the community to create a significantly safer environment for our pedestrians around school property. We are grateful to you, our safety conscious parents, for helping us recognize these important safety concerns and for your participation in making our school community a safer place for all!

Purpose of Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Assessment:

This traffic and pedestrian safety assessment follows a comprehensive January 2018 assessment led by DPS Safety, in collaboration with City/County of Denver transportation representatives. In May, DPS Transportation Executive Director Nicole Portee tasked DPS Safety and Training Manager Paul Brown to conduct a follow-up assessment based on Denver City Council and Steck parent interest and concerns.

Assessment Process:

Conducted a visual survey of traffic/behaviors for Thursday afternoon release and Friday morning drop-off. There was no obvious friction or hostility from parents, as previously reported informally, but there were several disturbing and dangerous behaviors/actions from those picking-up or dropping-off students.

Assessed school-related signage for all access and primary streets. Signage appeared appropriate and satisfactory with two exceptions. A school sign was obscured by trees on East 5th Avenue, the first turning east off Colorado, with the second being west-bound half way between Bellaire and Ash. The two trees should be significantly cut back to ensure timely visibility of school signs. **Corrections are safety critical.**

Each of the three streets surrounding Steck (East 4th Avenue, Albion and East 5th Avenue) are two-way streets, with numerous opportunities for students to exit vehicles from the right-hand side. The right-hand exit method is the safest option as students are exiting the vehicle immediately onto a sidewalk adjacent to the school, precluding street crossing.

Special attention was given to the two busses, which pick-up and drop-off on East 5th Avenue. Mr. Brown spoke with DPS bus drivers for pick-up and drop-off, respectively, and they had no safety concerns/issues. They believe the current drop-off/pick-up spot is good, if not optimum. **There is no need to change bus locations or times.**

Steck Welcome Letter 2018-2019

Dear Steck Community,

Welcome to the 2018-19 School year!

We are looking forward to another successful school year for all!

We have recently created some new structures/schedules to help us meet all students' needs in most effective ways! In addition to our monthly late start, students will have the opportunity for deeper, focused instruction during the day in our MELD block (math and English language development) and more choice in selecting a "special" every Wednesday that is of interest to them. We are calling this "Wonderful Wednesdays". Our specials team has designed units of study that are different from the usual course of study in their classes. Students have already selected their choices and will be able to connect with other students and activities that will enrich their learning. There will also be a nine-week strand that will include social/emotional learning with Emily Ward, our school psychologist.

We have new safety procedures in place for an improved drop/off and pick/up process that precedes this letter. It is important that we have 100% participation for the safety of all students. If another family member or caregiver transports your child(ren) to and from school, make sure they also have the information.

As always, I urge parents/guardians/caregivers/extended family to be thinking about how they might contribute to our school culture through membership in PTSA, CSC (Collaborative School Committee) and volunteering in classrooms and PTSA. Volunteering can also be accomplished with at-home projects if you are unavailable during the school day.

We are pleased to again partner with Denver Public Schools to bring Discovery Link After School Enrichment to Steck. Charise Barela is the director and she will be sending out information very soon about before/after care and enrichment opportunities.

Soon on our website, (<http://steck.dpsk12.org/>), we will post our Parent/Student Guidebook which outlines just about everything you'd ever want or need to know about the school's operating procedures. We have also customized the school calendar for Steck's unique events and that will also be made available on the website. Please refer to both resources throughout the year to answer questions you may have.

We have been fortunate to have a couple of much needed changes made to the building this summer, funded by bond and PTSA funds:

- New furnishings for five classrooms (will be late August delivery)
- Approved plans for an outdoor classroom pavilion to be constructed Aug/Sept this year
- Updated technology in classrooms whose equipment was failing

Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members. You can find their pictures and bios on our website:

Grade 2 - Kat Wallach - Literacy

Grade 5 - math/science - Kelsey Schuessler

(Laura Miller is taking a full year child care leave)

Learning Specialist (Special Education teacher) - Samantha Daniel

Special Education Para-Educator - Lindsay Rooney

Para-Educator, part-time - TBD

Dates to note on your calendars are:

- **Thursday, August 9** - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. - Registration for those who did not do online verification, via Parent Portal
- **Wednesday, August 15** - 3-4:30 PM ECE/Kindergarten Play-date
- **Wednesday, August 15** - 4-4:30 PM Kindergarten Orientation
- **Thursday, August 16** - 4-6 PM Family BBQ (ECE-5) - class lists available teachers will be available until 5 pm.

- **Thursday, August 16** - 4:15-4:30 pm-Meeting with the Principal in the Auditorium regarding important school updates.
- **Monday, August 20** - First Day of School - Grades K-5
- **Monday, August 20** - ECE - 9-10 am. Orientation meeting with parents and ECE Students - *Regular school hours for ECE: 8:10 am.-3:00 pm. Monday-Thursday and Fridays from 8:10 am-11:00 am.*
- **Tuesday, August 21** - First full day of ECE
- **Tuesday, August 21** - Early Dismissal for KINDERGARTEN ONLY 8:10-11:30 am
- **Tuesday, August 21** - PTSA Meeting - 8:15 am. - Cafeteria
- **Wednesday, August 22** - Early Dismissal for KINDERGARTEN ONLY 8:10-11:30 am
- **Monday, Sept. 3** - NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
- **Wednesday, Sept. 5** - PLC 2 Hour Late Start (school begins at 10:10 am)
- **Thursday, Sept. 6** - Back to School Night K- 5th - 5-7 pm

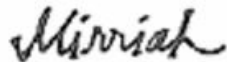
Please continue to utilize our website for general and updated information.

The site contains important information and dates to organize your calendars for the school year. The website makes it easy to sign up for our e-newsletters and e-blasts if you didn't do that at registration. *As a reminder, we do not send home paper copy communications.* By sending information electronically, we save over three thousand copies each week! Please let Ann or Liz in our main office know if you are not receiving updates electronically or need hard copies. (Ann_Warner@dpsk12.org or Liz_Riggleman@dpsk12.org)

We are all excited about the upcoming school year with new ideas, structures, settings, curriculum and great children and parents to work with. Enjoy the rest of your summer!



Robin Kline, Principal



Mirriah Elliott, Assistant Principal

4th & 5th Grade Families

Don't forget to check the Steck website for your grade specific school supply list.



Steck Elementary School
720-424-3870
steck.dpsk12.org/

