



Mars Area School District

545 Route 228
Mars, PA 16046
(724) 625-1518

Dr. Mark Gross, Superintendent
Dr. Elizabeth McMahon, Assistant Superintendent

April 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Homeowners Association and Adams Township Officials,

I am writing to formally address ongoing safety and access concerns related to on-street parking during school drop-off and pick-up times in Amherst Village on Blackrock Blvd.

Given this is a main thoroughfare through the plan, the number of vehicles entering the neighborhood has increased significantly, and without any restriction to on-street parking. During peak morning and afternoon hours, this leads to congestion, reduced visibility, and restricted roadway access. These conditions present clear safety risks for residents, pedestrians, and especially students traveling to and from the bus stop.

In addition to general safety concerns, the current parking situation may directly conflict with established School District transportation policies regarding bus stop locations and neighborhood access. Specifically, District Policy 810 provides that:

- Buses will only enter housing plans that exceed 3/10 of a mile, have through (filtering) streets, and can accommodate a school bus without the need to back up.
- Buses will only enter housing plans where roads are municipally maintained and fully completed.
- Buses will only stop at filtering streets and will not enter or stop in cul-de-sacs.
- **Critically, buses will only enter housing plans that prohibit street parking. If parked vehicles obstruct a bus's ability to pass through, the Homeowner's Association will receive two written warnings. A third notice will result in permanent removal of bus service inside the plan, with a relocation of the stop to the neighborhood entrance.**

Given these requirements, the current on-street parking patterns during school hours place Amherst Village at risk of losing internal bus service access altogether. This would further increase traffic congestion at the neighborhood entrance.

The Homeowner's Association has previously indicated that the roads within Amherst Village are public and that any enforcement or modification of parking regulations must be supported by Adams Township. Parking regulations in Adams Township are presently confined solely to the Adams Ridge community, leaving other areas without similar oversight. In light of this, I respectfully request coordinated action between the HOA and the Township to proactively address these issues.

Potential solutions may include:

- Implementing temporary or time-restricted no-parking zones during school drop-off and pick-up hours
- Establishing clearly marked loading and unloading areas



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- Increasing signage and enforcement of parking regulations
- Evaluating traffic flow adjustments to improve safety and accessibility

Taking action now will help preserve bus access within the neighborhood, reduce safety risks, and ensure compliance with district transportation policies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I encourage collaboration between all parties to identify and implement an effective and timely solution. I would welcome the opportunity to participate in further discussions.

Christina Smith

Director of Transportation

Mars Area School District

Administrative Office

545 Route 228

Mars, PA 16046

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