

A reminder to parents from the MSAD 46 transportation department.

We would like to take a moment to remind parents that the area in front of the Middle School is designated for school bus use only, (from 7:30 to 8:00 AM and from 2:15 to 3:00 PM). The area out back of the school is designated for parents or visitors to use when picking up or dropping off students. We realize that because of the limited parking area at the rear of the school that it is sometimes difficult to find a place to park but in past years we have experienced a number of vehicles passing stopped school buses while their red lights are flashing in the schoolyard. As we start a new school year we want to remind parents that according to Maine State Law, Title 29-A, Section 2308 prohibits a vehicle from passing a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing to receive or discharge passengers while on a roadway, **parking area or on school property**. The operator of a vehicle may not proceed until the bus resumes motion or until signaled by the bus driver to proceed. A violation of this section is punishable by a \$250.00 minimum fine for the first offense. School bus drivers are authorized to report any violations to the proper authorities. The reason for this law is obvious: to protect our children from being struck from a passing vehicle while entering or leaving a bus. Most people do not intentionally violate this law; they are usually distracted or simply may not be aware of the law, however the consequences could be tragic if an accident were to occur. Students assume that all vehicles will stop when they are around a bus, thus they sometimes do not practice proper safety methods when leaving or boarding a bus. Please, if you find yourself parked in the schoolyard, be extra cautious to insure that buses do not have their yellow or red warning lights activated before proceeding; if you have any doubt at all it is always best to wait until the buses have left before proceeding. It is our responsibility to insure the safety and well being of students while they are being transported and we certainly appreciate your understanding and cooperation.