



**Matthews Elementary School
2026-27 Car Rider Information**

1. **All car rider traffic enters and exits on the west side of the school next to the school sign. ONLY BUSES WILL BE PERMITTED TO TURN ONTO MCDOWELL STREET BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL OR VIA SADIE DRIVE. NO STUDENT DROP OFF OR PICK UP WILL BE PERMITTED IN THIS AREA.**
2. **The cut-through sidewalk and driveway behind the First Baptist Church off Sadie Drive is closed to all car and pedestrian traffic during arrival and dismissal. Please do not drop off students at the back of the school.**
3. Car rider traffic will enter the driveway beside the school sign and travel around the staff parking area to let out or pick up students next to the sidewalks. No U-turns are permitted by the canopy section. Please drive around the staff parking area.
4. A student identification and car identification procedure is used to help ensure the safety of students and provide an accounting procedure for student car riders during dismissal. The school will provide a sign with a watermark for families to display in the right corner of the front window or in the passenger side window. This sign must be present each afternoon when families come to get their child from school. **If an adult does not have the car rider sign, the adult will be asked to pull up or go to the front office to show identification and to verify that he/she is able to retrieve the child.**
5. Students must be let out and picked up only from the right (passenger) side of the car when the car is parallel to the sidewalk in front of the third and fourth grade wing with the black railing and the main building (under the canopy).
6. Once cars are in line in the drive and parking lot area, **no car may pass another car.** The only exception to this important safety measure is for those cars that are pulled to the far right at the front of the line near the front of the main building. These cars may be waiting for identification checks or students who have not come out from the building. Cars may pass only those cars but should be alert to cars attempting to merge back into the exit line from this pullover area.

We regret that we do not have on-campus parking for parents and visitors during the drop off and pick up times (7:15 AM-7:45 AM) and (2:15-2:45 PM). The only parking during those times can be located at Matthews United Methodist Church. This procedure is to increase safety and reduce traffic in front of the school during arrival and dismissal times. All parents that wish to walk students into the building are asked to park at United Methodist Church and walk to campus.

PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANYTIME DURING THE SCHOOL DAY BEHIND THE COMMUNITY CENTER OR IN THE BUS PARKING LOT. ADDITIONALLY, PARKING IS NOT PERMITTED DURING ARRIVAL OR DISMISSAL ON MCDOWELL AVENUE OR BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

Matthews Police Officer assistance for crossing and traffic control is provided at the car rider driveway on the west side of the school on Trade Street by the school sign. Matthews Staff will not provide crossing assistance at the McDowell and Trade Street crosswalk. Parents must assist students should they choose to utilize this crosswalk. Additionally, parents of walkers are responsible for their student's safety until their student enters our building.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILDREN AND APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.