

TCAPS Montessori Families,

In an effort to increase the safety of students getting to and from school, all staff will park off-site so the Montessori parking lot can be prioritized for our Montessori families. Parents should only use the Montessori lots or the West Middle School lots to drop off or pick up students. By providing the necessary space directly on the school site, the need to cross Franke Road should be limited to students riding BATA. For students who utilize BATA, we ask that parents communicate with the school office so the school can provide support to students who need to cross the road. The crossing guard will no longer be placed on Franke Road but staff will be available to individual students who request adult supervision to and from the BATA stop at Meijer.

Due to the late notice, staff will be available Monday morning at the Meijer BATA stop. For informational purposes, BATA had originally planned to add a bus stop on the west side of Franke Road to the south of the Montessori main entrance. However, due to the change in which Meijer uses the now locked entrance, that option is no longer feasible for BATA. The district will continue conversations with BATA regarding the addition of a BATA stop on the west side of the road so that students do not need to cross Franke Road. BATA remains supportive of this request and is exploring other options.

The district is working with many entities to increase the awareness of the school zone to motorists. Unfortunately, the district's application for a school speed zone which was submitted in January, 2023 was not processed by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission until August 15, 2023 because of a communication error. The Michigan State Police is working with the district to expedite this request now.

On another note, the district was informed today that the TCAPS Montessori school has been selected as a project for a People's Choice Award. If you are interested in voting or would like to see the competition, please click [here](#).

Sincerely,

John VanWagoner, PhD
Superintendent, Traverse City Area Public Schools

