

Greetings Vista Parents and Student Drivers:

It's no secret that Vista is a great school. It's also no secret that Vista's enrollment now far exceeds what our school was built to accommodate. When Vista first opened, we never imagined that we would be enrolling more than 1900 students. In recent days, I have heard from many families concerned about how this is impacting available student parking.

When Vista was originally planned and built, students could still legally carpool. Since then, laws have changed so that more students are driving themselves (though there are ways our parents can provide permission for siblings to carpool - keep reading for more details). So between the new laws and our increasing enrollment, we now must make difficult decisions that we believe will provide fair and equitable access to the limited spots we have available as we begin the new school year.

We also hope that our families and students will consider alternatives to driving as we continue to work with the District, our partners in the City of Folsom, and the community to identify long-term solutions.

Please keep reading for important parking permit updates, and for additional resources to help you plan for the beginning of the school year.



### **2018-19 Vista del Lago Student Parking Permit Update**

Priority for parking permits will be given to seniors through the first three days of school (8/13-8/15). Seniors must have a current California Driver's License to apply for a permit.

The remaining parking permits will be available to Juniors through a lottery. Juniors may enter the lottery by completing this [form](#) before 4:00 pm, Wednesday, August 15th. Families will be notified of lottery results by email on Thursday and permits will be distributed on Friday.

As a reminder, parking permits will now be issued each term. Fall permits will expire on December 21, 2018. Spring term parking permits will go on sale to seniors at the beginning of December and juniors will re-enter a lottery for spring term. Stay tuned for specific dates.

- Vehicles without parking permits will not be cited during the first week of school.
- Starting the second week, any vehicle parked in the student lot without a permit will be cited.
- Permitted vehicle parked in non-student areas will also be cited and permit may be revoked. Speeding or reckless driving on campus will result in revocation of permit.

### **Transportation and Parking Alternatives for Students:**

#### **Carpool Options and the New Laws:**

While the current laws prohibit minors from transporting other minors, there are exceptions. The California Driver Handbook states that the law allows exceptions when related to schooling or a school-authorized activity. A signed note explaining the necessity to drive and including the beginning and ending date for the necessity, must be kept in the driver's possession. Please visit [this site](#) for more details or call Folsom Police Department.

#### **FCUSD Transportation:**

It is the mission of the FCUSD Transportation Services Department to provide for students, staff and community of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District the safest and most reliable means of transportation. Routes and time schedules are posted on the Transportation website at: [www.fcusd.org/transportation](http://www.fcusd.org/transportation). The 2018-19 Bus Pass Application is available by clicking the following link: [2018-2019 BUS PASS APPLICATION](#).

#### **Public Transit:**

The City of Folsom offers reduced rates for students/youth. One-way fares are \$1.25 for anyone under age 18. The City also accepts Regional Transit Student Discount Monthly Pass--which currently costs \$20. Route 20 is located and timed to best serve Vista del Lago students. It covers surrounding neighborhoods and is timed to our bell schedule. There is a stop right in front of the school. For more information on Folsom Stage Lines and Route 20, follow [this link](#).

#### **Community Parking:**

Parking is now restricted on some areas of Serpa and Caversham streets. Last year many students used these streets for parking. In order to keep these spaces open, we highly recommend that students parking at this location park appropriately and be good citizens by driving slowly, keeping the noise down, and not littering. While there are two-hour time limit parking zones on many nearby residential streets, special events or games that fall

outside of the school day (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.) window are not subject to the two-hour time limit. Parking is always prohibited on Broadstone Parkway, unless a special event organizer has requested and been granted permission to allow temporary parking (in which case the parking signs would be covered and therefore not in effect.)

**Walking and Biking:**

Vista encourages students to lead healthy lifestyles that include walking and biking. There are two bike racks for Vista students, one near the Wrestling Room and one near the Library. Students need to bring their own bike locks. Vista is also considering installing a skateboard lock rack, should there be enough interest.

We understand that there are no easy short-term solutions, but we and the District remain committed to identifying long-term answers. We are grateful for your patience and partnership in that process, and look forward to working with our students, families and community in finding solutions.

Sincerely,

Lori Emmington