

Davis Drive Middle School Richard B. Williams Jr., Principal

2101 Davis Drive Cary, NC, 27519

http://www.wcpss.net/davisdrivems

Tel: (919) 387-3033 Fax: (919) 670-4307

Davis Drive Middle School August 30, 2017 **Railroad Crossing**

School Contact: Principal Williams, 1-252-669-5451 Communications Contact: Lisa Luten, 1-919-609-2413

Davis Drive Families.

I am calling to provide you with information about an incident that occurred on bus route #4 yesterday.

Last night I received reports that during the morning route, bus #4 had stopped before the train tracks on Davis Drive and Collins Road. While the bus was stopped, the railroad crossing gate descended and landed on the front of the bus.

Because a similar incident occurred last year at this same crossing, I wanted to provide additional information about this crossing. As you are all very aware, the road at the railroad crossing is congested in the morning and afternoon. The congestion, combined with the overgrown shrubs, requires that our bus drivers take additional precautions at this crossing.

At this location, WCPSS bus drivers stop first at the crossing's white line, as required by law. They then continue to the railroad, stopping before the tracks to ensure that the tracks are clear. When clear, they will continue across the tracks.

In this incident, the bus driver correctly stopped at the white line. The bus driver then proceeded towards the track, and stopped about 15 yards before the railroad tracks to check for clearance. It was as that point that the crossing gate descended. Cars were both in front of and behind the bus when the gate descended.

At that point, the driver did not proceed to the cross the tracks. Our bus drivers are trained to never cross the tracks when a train is arriving. The driver waited until the train passed and the crossing gate was lifted.

The safety of our students is our top priority. As soon I became aware of this incident, I immediately contacted WCPSS Transportation Department. They will continue to investigate the incident and will reach out to the Town of Cary and the NC Department of Transportation to evaluate if additional changes to the crossing can be made.

In addition, our Transportation Department will meet with all bus drivers who travel on Davis Drive to ensure they are trained to properly and safely drive through this railroad crossing.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 919-387-3033. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Rick Williams Principal

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