Hello Parents!

I am Officer Howie Fitzpatrick, School Resource Officer at SJHS. This is my 4th year at the school and my 21st year in Law Enforcement. As the School Resource Officer, one of my duties is to keep our children safe. This is accomplished in many ways, one of which is to monitor the bus loop and the parking lots before and after school. The parking lot and parent loop can become quite congested and, at times, a bit dangerous for the kids. I am asking for your help in making sure that the drop of and pickup of our children is done as safely as possible.

In the mornings, especially with the Loucks St. detour, Lewis St. is extra busy. I have noticed the larger parent loop is not being utilized much, while the smaller parent loop is highly congested. This causes traffic on Lewis St. to become even more backed up. Please try to use the larger loop, as it will accommodate more vehicles, and there are two entrances to the larger loop, one each at Arlington Ave. and Adair Ave. Remember, there is only one exit from the larger loop, and that is at Arlington Ave. Also remember from 7:30am to 4:30pm, you cannot turn left out of either loop.

There are several designated “No Parking” areas at SJHS. These areas are clearly marked both by signs and the yellow or red curbing. In the entrance nearest the building, there is a section of the curbing that is painted yellow and a sign that reads “No Parking Here to Corner”. This is to allow safe travel into and out of the student drop off and pick-up area. Also in this part of the parent loop is the “island” of grass. The curbing around this area is painted red, and signs which read “No Parking Fire Lane.” The other Fire Lane is the area around the flag pole, which is in the larger front parent loop. It is also clearly marked in the same manner as the other fire lane. In addition to being a fire lane, if you are parking here to pick up your kids, you are forcing them to walk between vehicles and to cross traffic to get to you. I completely understand our loops are full, but that does not make it acceptable or legal to park in one of the prohibited areas. There are always available parking spaces in the main parking lot to the east.

One other area where parking is prohibited is across a crosswalk. Since I mentioned crosswalks, I will also point out that pedestrians have the right of way in a crosswalk, which includes when they are standing at the curb waiting to enter the crosswalk.

These parking violations are covered by both City Ordinance 16-18 and by Wyoming State Statute 31-5-504. Continued violations of this nature will result in citations being issued.

I truly appreciate your assistance in keeping our kids safe. If you have any questions about this issue or any other issues, please feel free to contact me at 672-9745 ext. 7114.

Thanks again,

Officer Fitzpatrick