

THE BRANSON SCHOOL

TRAFFIC AND PARKING HANDBOOK

2011-2012

INTRODUCTION

One of the priorities of The Branson School has been, and continues to be, addressing the concerns of its neighbors and the Town of Ross regarding traffic and parking issues. The School's administration has involved itself in an on-going dialogue with our neighbors and Ross Public Safety about these issues. As has been said in the past, it is important to understand that the residents of this area have genuine concerns about the impact of vehicular traffic on their neighborhood. Their concerns focus on safety, noise and disruption to this ordinarily quiet community. The Board of Trustees and the administration of The Branson School are committed to reducing the school's impact on our Ross neighbors. We encourage neighbors to report any inappropriate driving behavior directly to the Business Office or through the Branson website in the "Contact Us" section.

SPEED LIMITS

You are urged, in the strongest possible terms, to drive responsibly at all times, including when you are traveling to and from the Branson campus.

- The speed limit on campus is **10** m.p.h.
- The speed limit on Fernhill is **25** m.p.h.
- The speed limit on Glenwood is **25** m.p.h.
- The speed limit on Bolinas is **25** m.p.h.

ROUTES TO SCHOOL

☒ ***We ask both students, parents, and faculty and staff not to use Norwood Avenue as a route to School.*** The traffic hazards on this road severely reduce its capacity to accommodate traffic safely, as compared to other local streets. Effective during the 2003-2004 school year, the School implemented the following sanctions to discourage student traffic on Norwood:

- The first time a student is observed by school personnel or a neighbor driving on Norwood, he or she will receive a \$100 Branson citation.
- The second time a student is observed by school personnel or a neighbor driving on Norwood, his or her campus parking privileges will be terminated for the remainder of the school year.
- If a student does not currently have campus parking privileges, he or she will be eliminated from consideration for a space in future years.

These measures have been discussed with, and have the full support of, the Director of Ross Public Safety.

ROUTES TO SCHOOL (continued)

- ☒ You should plan on reaching the School by using either the Bolinas/Glenwood route or the Shady Lane/Fernhill route.

Glenwood is a narrow, twisting road and ***extreme*** caution should be exercised when negotiating it. Also keep in mind that while Fernhill may appear to be an easier and safer street on which to drive, houses are close to the street. There are a number of families with young children who live on both of these streets. ***Extreme caution*** is advised. Do not stop to pick up students who are walking on Glenwood or Fernhill. This increases the danger and causes traffic to backup.

- ☒ Please keep in mind that it is ***illegal*** to make a left turn onto Shady Lane from Bolinas in the mornings from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The Ross Police Department and California Highway Patrol frequently post officers near that intersection to ticket offenders.

Also keep in mind that the 25 m.p.h. speed limit is strictly enforced by the Ross and San Anselmo police departments.

PARKING

- ☒ Only students with current parking permits will be allowed to drive and park on campus during the school day.
- ☒ Students are required to park in their assigned spaces on campus and display a 2011-2012 parking permit.
- ☒ If a student with an assigned space on campus discovers that someone has parked in his or her space, s/he should temporarily park in a Visitor's spot. Next, s/he should contact Nathalio Gray at once so that appropriate steps can be taken.

Students living within one mile of the Branson campus, and who apply for a parking space on campus, must present a compelling reason for their request.

- ☒ During the time period when seniors are involved in their internship projects (the Spring of 2012) they may ***not*** give, rent or sell their parking spaces to underclassmen. In the past, when seniors have done this, we've frequently had confusion on campus when seniors returned to campus during their internships and parked in spaces they had previously relinquished.

PARKING (continued)

- ☒ ***Students are not permitted to park on Fernhill, Glenwood, Hillgirt, or Bolinas.*** And, since students are not permitted to drive on Norwood, neither are they permitted to park on this street. Our use permit with the Town of Ross requires us to make every effort to maintain the residential quality of our neighborhood. Restricted parking is an essential component of making this a reality.

Students will be assigned parking on-campus or at the St. Anselm's parking lot. The School provides a shuttle from this lot, which is located on the corner of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bolinas Avenue. Shuttle buses will run a continuous loop from campus to the corner of Bolinas & Shady Lane and back from 7:30-8:10a.m. except on Wednesdays, when they will run one hour later.

Students not adhering to these expectations will receive parking citations from the school. These tickets have the following financial penalties:

- first offense will result in the receipt of a \$50 citation;
- citations 2 to 4 will carry a fine of \$100 each; and,
- citations 5 and above will carry a fine of \$250 each.

After a third citation a conference will be scheduled between Nathalio Gray, the appropriate Class Dean, the student and his/her parents. Parking privileges will be revoked if a student accumulates more than 5 citations.

The total number a student receives during the course of a school year will be factored into determining that student's future eligibility for an on-campus parking space.

- ☒ For ***parents and guardians*** attending a meeting or event on campus, we ask that you park in a Visitor's space, if available. Otherwise, please park on Fernhill -- on the Branson side of the street only. As a final note, please ***do not*** park in a reserved space on campus or the non-Branson side of the street.

STUDENT DROP-OFFS AND PICK-UPS

It is important that we make every effort to reduce the number of cars traveling to and from our campus. One way to do this is to cut the impact of morning and afternoon drop-offs and pick-ups.

Mornings

Parents/guardians are requested to drop-off students at the ***St. Anselm's parking lot*** at Bolinas Avenue/Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in the mornings or in back parking lot area (please do so quickly so you do not block parking spaces of arriving students and teachers). Shuttles will run continuously between 7:30 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. from the corner of **Bolinas & Shady Lane** to the campus, every day except Wednesday. On Wednesdays the shuttle will operate one hour later. This will save you time in the mornings and make your schedule less rushed. It will also have the benefit of reducing the number of cars traveling to and from the campus in the mornings as well as traffic congestion on campus. The shuttles will not stop *en route* to pick-up passengers.

- ☐ Parents/guardians driving one student to school are strongly encouraged to use the ***St. Anselm's parking lot*** drop-off.

Parents/Guardians -- please do not drive onto the campus in the mornings to drop off your child. In a survey of students, one of their frequent complaints was having to negotiate morning traffic congestion as they rushed to get to class with parents/ guardians either driving up from the lower campus or trying to exit the gate after having dropped off their child. If you must drive your student to campus there are only two appropriate drop-off points: outside the ***front gate*** or in the ***back parking lot***. However, you are encouraged to drop-off your student at the St. Anselm's parking lot.

- ☐ Only automobiles with lower campus parking stickers should drive to the lower campus.

Afternoons

- ☐ Afternoon student pick-up spans a number of hours each day and is complicated by numerous school activities. Parents and guardians are, therefore, urged to use caution when approaching and leaving the school. Additionally:

- For pick-ups between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., please arrange a regular pick-up point with your student at one of three locations -- the front gate, the back parking lot or St. Anselm's parking lot.
- The lower parking lot should be used ***only*** when picking up those students involved in athletic activities. During scheduled games, traffic on campus is very heavy and parking is at a premium.

CARPOOLING

Eligible students are encouraged to form carpools in order to decrease the number of automobiles traveling to and from the campus. Parents attending meetings on campus, and faculty and staff, are also strongly encouraged to form carpools.

Students

- ☐ A carpool will be defined at a minimum, as a driver and ***two*** passengers. Larger carpools will be given a higher priority when assigning parking permits and specific spaces.

Students who do not have a carpool will be assigned to the St. Anselm's parking lot.

Students residing within 2 miles of Branson are encouraged to ride their bikes to and from the campus, weather permitting. Bike racks are provided on campus.

- ☐ Student carpools will be monitored regularly for compliance. Lack of compliance with carpool guidelines may result in loss of campus parking privileges.

Parents and Guardians

- ☐ The School's administration will work with the Parents' Association and individual parents/guardians to coordinate carpools for those parents/guardians who are currently driving just one student to or from campus.

Special Event Parking

- ☐ Please follow the directions of the parking attendants. If you must park on Fernhill, please park only on the Branson side of the street.