

OCE Bridge Closing Plan FAQs

1. How will the bridge closing impact our school overall?

- We are anticipating greater pressure/crowding at the Olive Chapel/Kelly Road intersection. Because of this, in consultation with the Apex Police Department and our PTA, we decided to extend the space available for the carpool line to relieve pressure on the intersection. **Cars utilizing carpool will travel down Kelly Road and turn around at the entrance of Kelly Road Park before entering the school's carpool parking lot via a right turn (there will be no left turns into OCE during the bridge construction).**
- The majority of OCE faculty/staff will begin parking in the bus loop parking lot and gravel lot starting on April 14th (faculty/staff parking only in the lot). This should reduce congestion in the bus parking lot and allow buses to exit the parking lot more quickly and in a safer manner.
- Parents, and some faculty/staff on the kindergarten/1st grade hallway will begin parking in the carpool lot only starting on April 14th (there are approximately 52 spaces in this lot). We hope that freeing up parking spaces on the carpool side of our parking lots will give parents a more consistent place to park, improve safety on the bus parking lot side, and facilitate getting buses on campus in a timely manner (buses will not have to wait for parents pulling out of the gravel lot).

2. How long will these changes be in effect?

- We have been told that the repairs to the bridge will last approximately seven months. As we all have experienced, however, weather/complications can always wreak havoc on a construction schedule. As the bridge improvements progress, the NC Department of Transportation would be your best source for schedule updates.

3. How will parents pick up a sick child if they have to arrive during the carpool window in the afternoon and there are no spaces on the carpool side of the parking lot available?

- If you have received a call from the health room to pick up your child, you will be able to pull in front of the carpool line and park in front of the handicapped spaces in the loop. Front office staff will inform administration/staff outside on duty as to your need to bypass the carpool line.

4. What is the preferred method of transportation for students to get to and from school in the morning and afternoon?

- While we understand that parents have numerous reasons for choosing a particular form of transportation in getting their child/children to and from school each day, we want to encourage you all to give our buses a try. We are continually working with Apex Transportation to make buses as efficient, dependable, and safe as possible. The more parents who choose to have their children ride the bus, the less traffic in our parking lots and the safer all our children are.

5. What is the purpose of having the Apex PD on campus the first week of school?

- The Apex PD have agreed to be on campus next week (April 14-17) to gauge the impact of the bridge closing on Olive Chapel Road and Kelly Road as well as the traffic patterns at OCE. They have also agreed to return as each track changes to see if the traffic patterns change.

6. Could this plan change?

- Yes. There are many uncertainties at this point as to exactly *how* the bridge closing will impact our school. We will all need to be flexible the first few weeks.

7. Will parents be able to park in the gravel lot starting on April 14?

- No. Starting on April 14th, the gravel lot—and the entire bus parking lot—will be for faculty/staff only.

8. What plans does the school have for large events during the day/end of year events?

- Events will be handled on a case-by-case basis. We realize that there will be events where the carpool side of the parking lot may become overcrowded—especially as the end of the school year nears. Please know that we do have a system in place where we ask staff to stagger events as much as possible to help ease parking problems. If the carpool lot becomes too full and there is a need to open the faculty/staff parking lot however, we will communicate the change to the parents in affected classes.