

Monday, April 24th 2023

RE: Safe Streets Madison, Sandburg Elementary

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lori Lopez and I am the interim principal at Sandburg Elementary School. Sandburg Elementary is located on Madison's far east side on Donald Drive. We serve 415 students in 4K through 5th grade. Of those 415 students, only about 50 students ride the bus. This means that each day we are managing the arrival and dismissal of about 365 students and families who are walking, driving, and biking.

Upon my arrival at Sandburg Elementary during the 2022-2023 school year, the assistant principal (Lucy Sieber) and I immediately received feedback from our families, staff, and community members about the significant safety concerns during arrival and dismissal. These safety concerns included heavy amounts of traffic congestion due to the curve and narrowness of Donald Drive, students and families dropping off on the opposite side of Sandburg on Donald Drive and crossing in the middle of the street, use of neighbor's driveways to park/u-turn, speeding, and parking in no parking areas designated by yellow curbs on Donald Drive.

To help mitigate these concerns Lucy and I revamped the arrival and dismissal procedures at Sandburg by adding more staff supervision during arrival and dismissal, spreading out drop-off spots between Tomscot Trail and Donald Drive, and by providing clear and ongoing communication/feedback to families about these procedures.

Despite these changes, arrival and dismissal procedures at Sandburg continue to be unsafe for our students, families, and staff. Therefore, Lucy and I began partnering with our alder, Sabrina Madison, and the School Traffic Safety Committee for the City of Madison. Based on the committee's observations, we believe the best solution is repositioning the parking of the buses at Sandburg and installing a crosswalk on Donald Drive in front of Sandburg.

We are asking the Transportation Committee to please approve the funding for the installation of the crosswalk on Donald Drive. We believe that this, alongside a commitment from the Sandburg administration to educate families about traffic safety and promote walking & biking, as well as our continued partnership with the School Traffic Safety Committee will provide the best possible solution to keep our students, staff, and families safe.

We greatly appreciate your time and consideration.

Best,

Lori Lopez, Interim Principal

Lucy Sieber, Assistant Principal