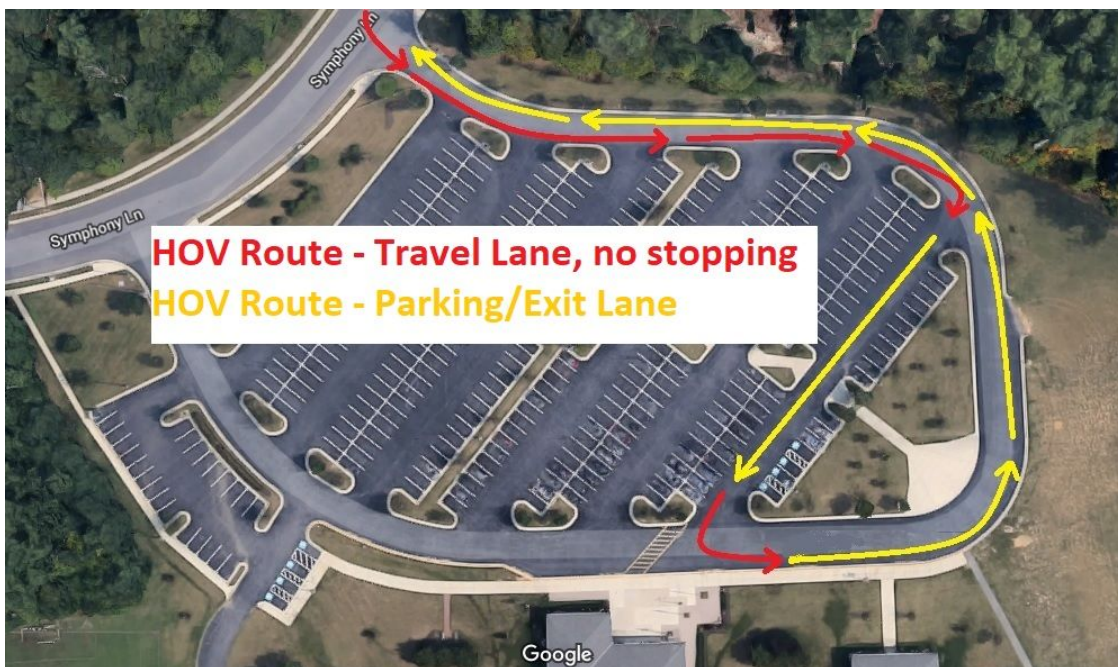




SOTI HOV Lane

SOTI will be introducing a new improvement to our dismissal process. The goal is to incentivize carpooling as much as possible both to ease the congestion of our parking lots and to do a small part of our duty to be stewards of our planet.

Any carpool picking up three or more students in one vehicle every day of the week is eligible to register for our HOV Lane. HOV vehicles will arrive between 2:30 - 2:50 on normal dismissal days and line up along the exit loop (the way we parked at Christmas and on the last day of school). **All HOV riders will dismiss from the building by 2:51 along with bus riders. The HOV lane will be waved out of the parking lot before Maroon and Gold students rendezvous with their drivers. Only registered vehicles with official SOTI HOV parking tags will be allowed to use the HOV lane.**



SOTI will issue permits for no more than 50 carpool groups. In order to park and dismiss from the HOV lane AND have your students dismissed with the HOV group, your carpool must be registered. Carpool registration will occur in three phases.

Phase 1: Application. Use [this link to find the online application](#) where you will submit the names of the families and students participating in your carpool. This must be completed by August 11th. After the lottery, each family will be required to pay the \$25 registration fee even if only one vehicle will be picking up students regularly.

Phase 2: Lottery. On Monday, August 12th, we will employ a lottery system to determine the 50 applications that will be allowed to register their carpools for HOV. We will contact all applicants and inform them of their status

Phase 3: Registration. The selected carpools will have one week to submit payment and signatures affirming that all families agree to follow the rules of the HOV system. If any of those 50 applications do not submit payment and paperwork by close of business on August 19th, we will contact the next application(s) to register. There will be a mandatory informational meeting before the start of the school year.

Anticipated FAQs

1. What if one of my carpool kids is sick and we now only have two kids at dismissal. Can we still use the HOV lane that day?

Yes, you may still drive in the HOV lane on days where one or more students are absent.

2. The third student in my carpool plans to participate in one or more sports or Beyond activities. Can we still register for HOV?

Yes, you may as long as the student is not registered in ESP. In this case, a carpool would register at least three students but would dismiss with the HOV lane with only two students on days when the third student is involved in his/her activity, similar to if someone is out sick.

3. What if one or more of our students' extracurricular schedules change throughout the year?

We understand that family's needs change throughout the year. If a child changes their schedule to add or subtract an Athletics or Beyond activity, it does not affect the carpool's HOV eligibility.

4. What if my carpool dissolves in the middle of the year?

We understand that family's needs change throughout the year. If your carpool dissolves in the course of the year, please inform the administration and we can partially refund your fee.

5. Why does each family need to pay a registration fee even if only one car will be picking them up every day?

The reasons are twofold. First, in the event that the normal driver is unavailable for a day and a different family needs to drive, we want to avoid the confusing scenario where a parent is trying to explain that they do not have a tag because they are not the normal carpool driver while the children are still being dismissed to the HOV lane. Second, it is our way of averring that all parties are aware of the rules and regulations of the HOV system instead of the one parent who regularly picks up in the afternoon.

6. What time do I need to arrive to do HOV pickup and what should I do if I am late?

HOV vehicles should arrive after 2:30 and before 2:50, when the HOV students dismiss. We do not allow cars to begin forming the HOV lane until 2:30 to keep our Fire Lane clear. If an HOV vehicle arrives after 2:50, they will be directed to their regular lot. The

students who are not picked up will go back to the sidewalk until regular dismissal commences.