



Keeping Students Safe at Hidden Valley School

Safety is Our Shared Responsibility

Students at Hidden Valley School are too young to participate in the AMA School Safety Patrol program which begins in grade five. Without patrols to assist with crosswalk safety or provide a visual reminder to drivers of the importance of school zone safety, we each must do our part to keep streets safe for our children as they travel to and from school.

Take Time For Safety

During pick-up and drop-off in an average week at Hidden Valley School:

- 45 vehicles speed
- 55 vehicles stop or park illegally
- 75 people jaywalk
- 15 vehicles make illegal turns

You can help keep students safe by:

- Talking to your kids about traffic safety - teach the Point, Pause & Proceed method when crossing streets or alleys
- Modeling good habits - think twice before jaywalking or crossing between parked cars
- Building extra time into your schedule so you are not tempted to speed, park illegally or cross unsafely
- Walking your kids to/from school or having them take the school bus
- Leaving 5 metres between your car and any crosswalk markings, stop signs, yield signs, or intersections so that children in the area can easily be seen
- Avoiding backing up – children are small and unpredictable
- Crossing in a group whenever possible

**Please Slow Down
We Walk To School**



Your Child's View of Traffic

Children have yet to develop the skills and physicality needed to be safe in traffic:

- Until age eight, it is hard for children to tell whether a vehicle is moving or judge speed and distance
- They are not able to tell whether there is enough time to safely cross the road before a vehicle passes, especially as speeds increase
- They believe that if they see a car, the car's driver can see them
- Kids are often too small to see around parked cars, bushes and other obstacles and it is hard for drivers to spot them
- Their field of vision is a third narrower than that of an adult
- They cannot anticipate how a car may move in traffic
- Children think cars can stop instantly
- They are easily distracted, focusing on one thing at a time
- They cannot readily tell the direction a sound is coming from
- Children imitate the (often bad) behaviour of others - especially older children and adults

**Most pedestrian traffic injuries in five to nine-year-olds happen when crossing in the middle of the block. Ten to 14-year-olds are more likely to be hurt at intersections.*

POINT PAUSE PROCEED



Adapted from *The Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual* from British Columbia and information distributed by the Canadian Institute of Child Health, November, 2001 (www.shapeab.com) and *Children Act Differently in Traffic than Adults* by The Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute (<https://www.bhsi.org/children.pdf>)

Easing Traffic Congestion

We all have busy lives, but the safety of our children should always come first. This map can help you plan alternative routes that will help ease congestion directly in front of the school.



Legend

	Crosswalks
	Pathways leading to school
	A good place to park or drop off
	Hug N' Go Zone: 2 min drop off
	No Parking

Read the Signs

Being aware of, and following traffic rules around our school keeps students safe as they travel each day. Our school is routinely monitored by the Calgary Police Service, Calgary Bylaw, Calgary Transit, and Calgary Parking Authority (often during peak times). Hidden Valley School volunteers also run routine traffic safety blitzes.

Traffic Signs Near Hidden Valley School

Hug N' Go/No Idle Zone

- Quick drop-offs only
- No parking is permitted
- In effect 7:30 to 9 a.m. on school days



No U-Turn

- U-Turns are not permitted anywhere on streets next to Hidden Valley School, between intersections, or anywhere near crosswalks

*Penalties start at: \$162



Pedestrian Crossings (Crosswalks)

- Pedestrians have the right-of-way
- Vehicles must yield
- No parking within 5m on either side

*Penalty for failing to yield to a pedestrian: \$810

*Penalty for jaywalking: \$25-\$81



Playground Zone

- 30 km/h from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- In effect seven days a week, year-round
- Passing is not permitted

*Penalties for speeding start at: \$81

*Penalty for passing: \$243 and two or more demerits



School Parking Lot

- Strictly reserved for school staff
- Stopping, parking, drop-off/pick-up is not permitted
- Turning into the lot or backing out of the driveway is also prohibited



Calgary Transit Bus Zone

- Reserved for loading/unloading buses
- Stopping, parking, drop-off/pick-up is not permitted

*Penalty starts at: \$81 and possible tow



Other Considerations

- Avoid double parking or blocking fire hydrants and driveways

HVS Safe Streets Pledge

When driving, walking or wheeling children to and from school:

- ✓ We will choose safety over convenience
- ✓ We will obey all traffic signs and laws
- ✓ We will always use crosswalks
- ✓ Even when late, we will model good behaviour and not take unsafe shortcuts
- ✓ We will be courteous to traffic safety volunteers

Thank you for committing to traffic safety at Hidden Valley School.