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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Construction Near Lake/Hartville Elementary Will Impact Parent Pick Up/Drop Off Traffic

As we begin the 2016-17 school year, construction for our new intermediate building for grades 2-6 will begin. Our new building, slated for completion for the 2018-19 school year, will be located directly behind the present Lake/Hartville complex and construction will greatly impact traffic and parking patterns.

The construction zone for the new intermediate building will include the entire green space behind the Lake/Hartville Complex, including the Lake Youth Football practice fields and stadium complex. This entire area will be fenced off for safety as we begin the year and will require the following changes: Staff parking for Lake Elementary will be moved to the west end of the complex and occupy 70 spaces. The remaining spaces will be used for visitor parking.

Buses will lineup on Belle Street and Lincoln Street both in the morning and at dismissal. **Student drop off in the morning will be implemented at the west end of the Lake/Hartville complex with all students entering Lake Elementary through door 6. Parents dropping students off will only be able to enter the west parking lot from Lincoln Street.**

**Parent pick for both Hartville Elementary and Lake Elementary students will be at the end of the school day AFTER buses have departed at approximately 3:30 p.m. at their respective building main entrances.**

*We understand this arrangement will present challenges, and we strongly encourage parents to have their children **ride the bus to and from school** during the entire construction period! Also see a map reviewing the Hartville/Lake Elementary bus and parent traffic plan as described above.*

Allowing your child to ride to and from school will provide the following benefits:

- *Fewer parent vehicles will greatly reduce traffic congestion around the Hartville/Lake Elementary complex, allowing buses to arrive and depart more easily and quickly*
- *Fewer parent vehicles will allow Hartville/Lake staff to more efficiently and safely monitor students entering and leaving school building*
- *Bus ridership provides convenience and saves parents time – get other things done rather than driving to and from school daily*
- *Bus ridership saves parents money – less fuel money will be required for your vehicle*
- *Bus ridership saves wear and tear on your vehicle*
- *Bus ridership saves an average of more than 1 million pounds of CO2 emissions per state per year; reduce carbon imprint further by not driving your vehicle daily*
- *School buses are designed to be safer than passenger vehicles in avoiding crashes and preventing injury*
- *Students are much safer riding the school bus than being driven by a parent; they are about 20 times more likely to arrive at school alive if they take the bus vs. having a parent driving them. The safety record for school bus transportation exceeds that of all other modes of travel.*

The schedule for students attending Lake and Hartville Elementary will remain the same as last year. Students will be released from buses at 8:35 a.m. Students arriving after 8:45 a.m. will be considered tardy. At the end of the day, students will be dismissed to the buses at 3:18 p.m. and depart from the school by 3:25 p.m. For your information, the bus routes for all Lake students will be posted on the school website, [www.lakelocal.org](http://www.lakelocal.org), by the middle of August, 2016.

These are exciting times for our district as we begin the journey to provide our youngsters with 21<sup>st</sup> century schools. We are striving to reduce the number of inconveniences and obstacles to our parents, students, and staff along the way to ensure a successful and exciting school year for all of us!

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Using school buses for transporting your child to and from school during the 2016-2017 school year will be extremely helpful!