

# TIMBERWOLVES

## *Northwood High School*

NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL    4515 PORTOLA PARKWAY    IRVINE, CA 92620    (949) 936-7200

The parking lot traffic and parking creates ongoing problems on the Northwood High School Campus and for the surrounding community. The administration at Northwood, along with the Irvine Police Department and the City's Traffic Engineering Department are studying and analyzing the situation in order to develop a comprehensive solution. Our first concern is the safety of all students and we have an interest in a smooth, traffic flow.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform our school community of developments, provide options for drop-off and pick-up, and to solicit ideas regarding how to solve these problems.

One development that is of concern is the recent installation of the "No Stopping" signs posted on Portola Parkway. These signs were changed from "No Parking" to "No Stopping" by the Irvine Police Department for several reasons. One reason is a concern of safety. Portola is a major thoroughfare and there is no safe way for vehicles to merge in or out of traffic when they are parked or stopped along Portola. The posted speed limit for Portola, west of Yale is 55 mph; whereas, the posted speed limit on Portola, east of Yale is 60 mph. Another reason is increased traffic. Due to the recent growth of developments (i.e. shopping centers and homes) in the

area, there is an increased amount of vehicles traveling to and from Portola Parkway. The vehicles parked or stopped along Portola Parkway only added to the already increased congestion. Since the signs have been changed to "No Stopping", this means that vehicles may not stop at the curb for any reason (i.e.



The "No Stopping" signs posted on Portola in front of Northwood High School.

loading or unloading). Stopping along Portola in violation of these signs can result in a citation.

Some drivers have been making a "double right" turn from west-bound Portola on to Yale (the school driveway). This is illegal, and traffic officers have been increasing patrol for this particular infraction.

This one development has caused many to re-examine how students are dropped-off and picked-up. In addition, it

has caused an increase in the amount of traffic coming onto the campus.

Here are some immediate suggestions for missing or minimizing the stress of the morning and afternoon traffic:

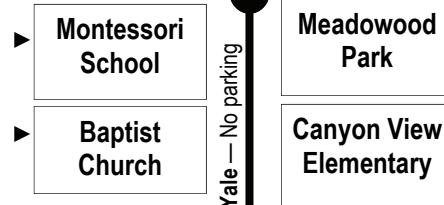
- Drop off before 7:30 AM or pick-up 20 minutes after your child is released. The library is open from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- Drop off students south of Meadowood Park and have them walk to campus (it is only a half a mile to the campus buildings)
- Students who live within a mile or two can walk, ride bikes or ride skateboards. There is ample bike and skateboard racks (& we'll get more if we need to). We have provided a suggested pedestrian map from the city of Irvine on the reverse of this sheet.
- Carpool when you can.
- Follow traffic lanes and signs in the parking lot.
- As always, observe common courtesy and safety in the parking lot.

The Irvine Police Department, Irvine Traffic Engineering, and Northwood High School are all working together to explore other options for improving parking lot traffic. If you have an idea that you think would help us manage this problem, please place your suggestions in the box at the front office of the school.

Private Property — No Parking

Private Property — No Parking

Arborwood—No Parking either side



◀ 2 Hour Parking

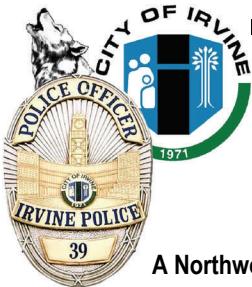
Arborwood—No Parking School side. Parking permitted on north-west curb & further down south west curb—watch for signs

Portola Parkway—No stopping

NHS



Map not drawn to scale

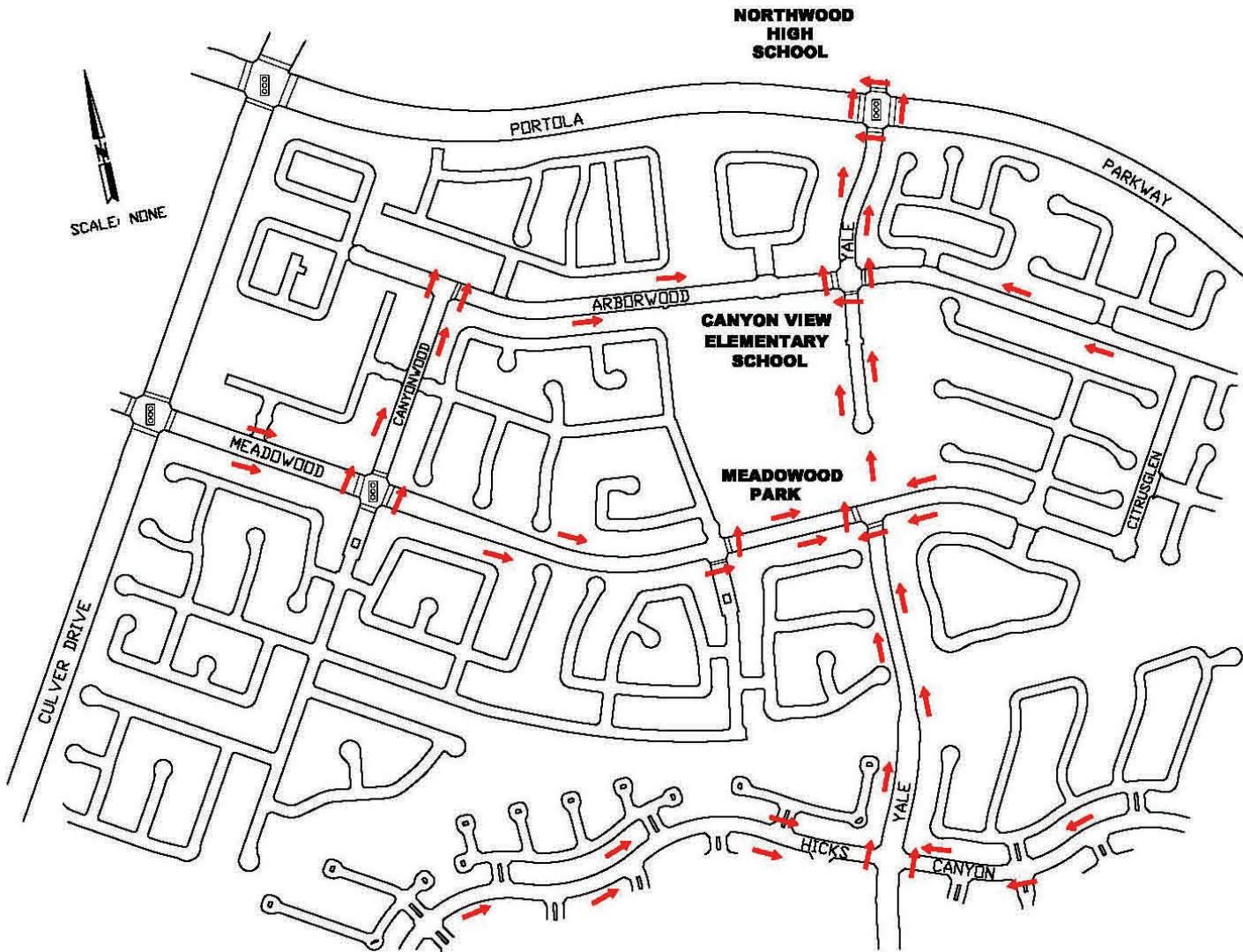


# **SUGGESTED ROUTE TO SCHOOL**

## **NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

**DEAR PARENTS:**

In cooperation with the Irvine Police Department and the Traffic Engineering Division of the City of Irvine, we have identified a **SUGGESTED ROUTE TO SCHOOL** for students who walk or ride bicycles to school.



In the City of Irvine, bicycles may be legally ridden on sidewalks, but must yield to pedestrian traffic. Students on bicycles should always walk their bicycles across streets and look both ways before entering the street. Students who ride their bicycles within the on-street bicycle lanes are required to obey all the rules of the road. This includes riding in the same direction as vehicular traffic. All bikes must be locked in the bike racks.

