

Magruder's CIP

Dear Members of the Board,

Hello! I am Elise Bradley, a current sophomore at Colonel Zadok Magruder High School. I write today to inform you of the current issues plaguing Magruder students. I know that Magruder has been scheduled to be renovated multiple times, each time being pushed back further and further, but the renovation needs to be done now - and here is why.

To start, the parking lot is not suitable, nor very safe for us students. The student parking lot is small, and there is only one way out. At the end of the day, this causes issues. Picture this - each day, when students arrive at school, they have to think very strategically about where they park. One wrong move, and they could be stuck in the parking lot for at least half an hour. Although our parking lot is not very full, it becomes a madhouse at the end of the day. When the bell rings at 2:30, students immediately are trying to get out of the school as quickly as they can and into the parking lot to leave. If you are not out and in your car by 2:33, three minutes after the bell rings, you know that you will be stuck in the parking lot for the next part of your afternoon. Not only does this create a very stressful situation for the students driving, but for the students getting picked up as well. They know that if they do not get out quickly, they are wasting not only their own time, but their parent or guardian's time as well. This is such a major issue that students ask their teachers to leave their classes early just to avoid dealing with a chaotic parking lot.

The parking lot is not only stressful, but unsafe. With all the students trying to rush out of the parking lot right at 2:30, this creates hazardous situations. For example, the other day when I was walking to my car, I was crossing the parking lot, and a car did not even stop for me, rather just slowed down in hopes that I would get across before they had to come to a full stop. Moreover, there have been a countless number of times where I have seen students almost get into crashes with other drivers. With all the cars leaving the parking lot from the same two lanes,

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people cut each other off to try to get out quicker than one another. This is terribly dangerous, as many of the drivers in the parking lot are students, who are likely new drivers. New drivers do not have as much control over their cars as more experienced drivers, making the chances of crashes even more likely. By keeping the parking lot in its current state, you are asking for an injury. You are asking for more stress for an already tense group of teenagers. You are asking for angry parents. Most of all, you are asking for threatening conditions to anybody who enters the Magruder parking lot.

Say that we ignore this and just look at the empty parking lot. The parking lot is old. It is not meant for students to walk in day in and day out. For instance, when there is a lot of rain, the entire parking lot floods. There is nowhere students can walk without having an entire layer of water beneath their shoes. The water does not drain well, causing a massive puddle in a big portion of the parking lot. This is not okay.

Dangerous conditions should not be accepted. High chances of crashes should not be accepted. The amount of stress it takes to park should not be accepted. Something needs to be done. There needs to be a change - and you can make this happen. When thinking about renovations and the budget, think about the students, parents, and teachers that have to deal with strains of daily life, on top of the tension of the parking lot. You can make this issue something of the past. YOU can help us.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. I hope you take my concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Elise Bradley

Magruder High School Student