Hempfield High School
Parking FAQ

Why was there a change to the parking permit system?

1. More Democratic
   a. Under the previous “reason”-based parking application system, some students may have been overlooked for invalid reasons. We have so many amazing students and wonderful student-run service organizations. How should decisions be made regarding who is deserving of a “better” parking spot? The question has been consistently raised, why does the “reason” matter? Is being a HHS student in good standing not good enough?
   b. Both the Hempfield School District Vision of personal growth, achievement, and success for every student and the Hempfield School District Mission statement to provide safe environments and responsive programs that inspire all students to become lifelong learners and contributing citizens in a global society include references to all students. In keeping with the district mission and vision statements, parking should not be used as a status symbol, nor a reward system.

2. More Efficient
   a. As a result of our open campus initiatives (senior option, dual enrollment, internship, and school to work programs), students come and go from campus now more than ever.
   b. As a result, under the previous parking system, the PAC parking lot, considered the “best” parking available, was typically only about 2/3 full on any given day.
   c. Under the new parking system, as some students leave campus and other students arrive on campus, those arriving can take the parking spaces that have been vacated.

3. Save Time and Resources
   a. Under the new system, parking is assigned once per student for the entire year.
      i. Under the previous system, parking was assigned three times each year: fall, winter, and spring.
      ii. Applications were distributed and collected three times.
      iii. Parking spaces were assigned three times.
      iv. Money was collected three times.
      v. Hang tags were distributed three times.
      vi. All of that data was entered into the computer three times.
      vii. Many students who applied for parking never picked up their tag because they didn’t like the spot to which they were assigned.
      viii. Wait lists were maintained of students hoping for a “better” spot to become available.
b. Under the new system, students will not need to report that someone has parked in their spot.
   i. Under the previous system, every school day, students would come to the office to report that someone had parked in their parking spot.
   ii. The impacted student would then typically be late to school.
   iii. Additionally, the impacted student would then park along the front of the school, taking a visitor spot.
   iv. Our Safety & Security Officer would need to leave the building to go check on the parking violation.
   v. Discipline would be assigned for parking violations.

**How does the new parking system help me as a student?**

1. Everyone in the same level is on equal footing.
2. Previously, if you didn’t like your parking spot, you were stuck with it for the entire season.
3. Previously, students that gave senior option as a “reason” were assigned Quad Parking. Now, seniors who choose to purchase Level 1 parking may arrive to find a spot that has been vacated by a student who left school early.
4. Previously, if you received your driver’s license after parking was assigned, you were assigned to Quad Parking. Now, a student who gets a parking permit later in the school year is not at a disadvantage.
5. If you have an early morning meeting/function, you will be able to get the best parking available in your level. Previously, even if you arrived to school early, you had to park in your assigned spot. (Potentially walking past many empty parking spaces on your way to the building.)
6. Students only have to fill out the parking application once for the entire school year.
7. You won’t be disappointed by the spot to which you were assigned, and you won’t have to second guess the ‘reason for parking’ put on your application. (i.e. - “I knew I should have listed Stage Crew.”)

**How was pricing determined?**

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1. Pricing was based on the previous pricing structure of the three parking lots. Traditionally, parking was issued three times per school year. Therefore, the initial cost of a Level 1 tag was set equal to what it previously would have cost a student to park in the PAC lot for the entire school year ($20 x 3 = $60). The initial cost of a Level 2 tag was aligned with the previous cost of a stadium parking permit ($15 X 3 = $45).
2. A pro-rated price structure was established to accommodate students who procure a driver’s license during the school year. For the sake of simplicity, this table aligns with the marking period schedule rather than the athletic season schedule as in the past.

**What happens to the money collected from parking permits?**

1. All money collected for parking goes into the Hempfield School District General Fund.
2. This money is used towards the general upkeep of parking lots and district facilities.

**Are there safety concerns that will present themselves without assigned parking spaces?**

1. We start every school year without parking permits and without assigned parking spaces. It has not presented issues in the past.
2. Regarding teenage drivers and safety concerns in general, all drivers are responsible for their driving behavior. Accidents and/or driving concerns are reported to the office or the 911 system. Our School Resource Officer or an EHTPD officer will respond if there are traffic concerns and/or violations. Citations are issued and parking privileges are revoked as necessary.

**Will “parking problems” be accepted as a reason for being late to school?**

a. No, transportation-related issues are never accepted as a tardy excuse.
b. The school district provides transportation for all students.