

Spring 2021 Survey Results Summary



AMSA

ADVANCED MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY

INTEGRITY • EXCELLENCE • COMMUNITY

Response Rates

Survey	2019	2020	2021
Staff	64	75 (58%)	64 (49.6%)
Family	274	N/A	251 (18.6%)



Overall Observations

Noteworthy Results

- Staff turnout still around 50% (faculty rep elections – 74%)
- Overall high approval of administration
- Attention to mental health, depression, anxiety
- A lot of comments about COVID/remote learning

Potential Changes

- Are we over-surveying? – One (shorter) annual board survey

Staff Survey - Comments

What we Heard	Current Initiatives & Future Plans	Board Goal
Middle/High School division	Building bridges initiative (future)	#2 – Culture
Facilities needs	Buying and building out campus!	#3 – Resources
Passionate concerns about academic rigor	The Road Ahead Plan	#1 – Academics
Reactive vs. Proactive decision making	Strategic planning process Board goal efforts	#6 - Board
Balancing academics and emotional health	AMSA 2025	#1 – Academics

Family Survey - Comments

What we Heard	Current Initiatives & Future Plans	Board Goal
Lack of clarity of what the board does	Family forum, orientation	#6 - Board
Politics in classroom	Communication process	#2 - Culture
Academic excellence	The Road Ahead Plan	#1 - Academics
Facilities – lack of updates	Buying and building out campus Facilities discussions in Open Session	#3 – Resources
Consistency (of teaching, fairness, etc.)	AMSA 2025	#1 - Academics
Remote learning	We're back to school	
The survey is exhausting	Potential changes	#5 - Community

Sample Positive Comments

“(..) This charter school should be a benchmark for all the other schools out there. If you set higher standards you will get more and not less.”

“AMSA has a great program and amazing teachers.”

“Admin did as good as possible managing students from 22 different towns during the pandemic. Communication was always open and decisions were fair.”

Sample Suggestions

On BoT meetings:

"I would like [an agenda of topics showing what is being address versus deferred] prior to commenting on if they are addressing most important items first."

"For activities, it would be nice if AMSA did a co-op with Marlborough or Hudson High School for a Gymnastics team."

"I think there needs to be more focus on vocabulary in the lower school."

"There are so many communications to follow/read, and I think it would be helpful to have a weekly digest per grade as a go to for reference on important updates and events as well as To Do items.."

"It would be nice to have more activities closer to end of school."

Other: more social events, teach time management skills, tech. orientation

Sample Concerns

“(.) it is also the teacher's responsibility to ask themselves and the student: why is this student struggling to learn? What do I need to do differently to engage this student? What is my responsibility in terms of equity of instruction and opportunities?”

“I am very concerned about some teachers that use their position to promote their political beliefs. It is the responsibility of the teachers to encourage questions, curiosity, and listening. The students should hear all sides of current and past events so they can form their own political opinions that align best with their personal beliefs. Some teachers are outstanding at doing this (.)”

Different Perspectives

“Admin did as good as possible managing students from 22 different towns during the pandemic. Communication was always open and decisions were fair.”

“I feel the administration policies and decisions were failures in how the COVID situation was handled.”

Different? Perspectives

“The students need to be emotionally supported and emotionally stable to meet the academic standards.”

“As a school, we need to provide a rigorous and intellectually stimulating academic curriculum for the advanced students we serve”

“We have to create our classroom environments to inspire, engage and empower the students to maintain a healthy balance of academic performance and personal well being. That does not mean we should lower our standards but reflect and revisit our teaching strategies to still uphold our expectations while students get support based on their individual needs.

“I'd like to see people who don't seem to be able to talk about these things without getting angry come together. I think they have a lot more in common than they realize.”