

My child attends: (check one box)	A1. The school offers a challenging, rigorous curriculum.	A2. The school is focused on academic achievement, setting high expectations for students.	A3. The academic program includes a wide selection of course offerings.	A4. Teachers meet my child's needs by including a variety of teaching strategies and activities.	A5. Teachers assign high-quality homework that supports learning.	B1. The academic needs of my child are recognized by staff.	B2. My child receives additional help as needed.	B3. My child receives additional challenges as needed.	B4. Support staff, including educational technicians and literacy and math strategists, help meet the needs of students.	B5. My child's emotional needs are understood and properly addressed.	B6. (For parents of students receiving Special Education services only) Special Education services meet the needs of my child.
FMS											
1 Strongly Agree	33 43%	33 43%	18 24%	22 29%	14 18%	26 35%	27 39%	23 32%	20 32%	25 34%	2
2 Somewhat Agree	26 34%	25 33%	34 45%	29 38%	24 32%	30 40%	21 30%	19 26%	18 29%	17 23%	6
3 Neutral	11 14%	9 12%	12 16%	10 13%	23 30%	5 7%	12 17%	21 29%	18 29%	14 19%	0
4 Somewhat Disagree	6 8%	8 11%	7 9%	10 13%	9 12%	11 15%	9 13%	9 12%	6 10%	13 18%	1
5 Strongly Disagree	0 0%	1 1%	4 5%	5 7%	6 8%	3 4%	1 1%	1 1%	0 0%	5 7%	0
Total	76 100%	76 100%	75 100%	76 100%	76 100%	75 100%	70 100%	73 100%	62 100%	74 100%	9
Strongly Agree/Somewhat Agree no N/A's	59 78%	58 76%	52 69%	51 67%	38 50%	56 75%	48 69%	42 58%	38 61%	42 57%	8
Somewhat Disagree/Strongly Disagree no N/A's	6 8%	9 12%	11 15%	15 20%	15 20%	14 19%	10 14%	10 14%	6 10%	18 24%	1

My child attends: (check one box)	B7. (For parents of students receiving Gifted and Talented services only) GT program meets the needs of my child.	B8. The school provides excellent support services (guidance, tutoring, mentoring, college planning, etc.).	B9. My child learns life skills such as managing time, prioritizing, meeting deadlines, responsibility, and communicating clearly.	C1. The school offers a broad range of co-curricular activities (drama, etc.).	C2. Students have access to a wide selection of sports through the school's athletic program.	D1. The atmosphere at school is positive and conducive to learning.	D2. The school encourages students to show respect for each other.	D3. Adults who work in the school treat students with respect.	D4. Teachers have built strong relationships with my child.	D5. I feel welcome at my child's school.	D6. Parents have opportunities to participate in school activities.											
FMS																						
1 Strongly Agree	22%	12	48%	28	39%	13	17%	39	52%	35	49%	27	36%	38	50%	32	42%	24	32%	36	49%	17
2 Somewhat Agree	67%	9	36%	18	25%	31	41%	22	29%	23	32%	35	47%	24	32%	33	43%	31	41%	16	22%	18
3 Neutral	0%	2	8%	17	24%	14	19%	8	11%	10	14%	6	8%	9	12%	5	7%	10	13%	14	19%	25
4 Somewhat Disagree	11%	2	8%	7	10%	13	17%	4	5%	3	4%	5	7%	3	4%	6	8%	9	12%	6	8%	10
5 Strongly Disagree	0%	0	0%	2	3%	4	5%	2	3%	0	0%	2	3%	2	3%	0	0%	1	1%	2	3%	3
Total	100%	25	100%	72	100%	75	100%	75	100%	71	100%	75	100%	76	100%	76	100%	75	100%	74	100%	73
Strongly Agree/Somewhat Agree no N/A's	89%	21	84%	46	64%	44	59%	61	81%	58	82%	62	83%	62	82%	65	86%	55	73%	52	70%	35
Somewhat Disagree/Strongly Disagree no N/A's	11%	2	8%	9	13%	17	23%	6	8%	3	4%	7	9%	5	7%	6	8%	10	13%	8	11%	13

My child attends: (check one box)	E1. Staff handle discipline fairly, consistently, and effectively.	E2. School staff have a positive impact on students' behavior.	E3. Staff proactively educate students about the impact and prevention of bullying.	E4. Teachers manage classroom behavior effectively.	E5. Behavior expectations are made clear to students.	E6. The school tells me about behavior expectations for my child.	F1. The school is safe and orderly.	F2. The school is clean and well-maintained.	F3. The school reflects the pride taken in educating our students.	F4. The school provides quality teaching/learning materials and technology equipment.											
FMS																					
1 Strongly Agree	23%	20	33%	28	37%	25	34%	18	24%	28	37%	25	35%	40	53%	35	48%	34	45%	37	49%
2 Somewhat Agree	25%	19	31%	28	34%	27	36%	30	41%	31	41%	23	32%	24	32%	26	36%	30	39%	29	39%
3 Neutral	34%	13	21%	16	21%	12	16%	19	26%	14	18%	14	19%	8	11%	10	14%	9	12%	7	9%
4 Somewhat Disagree	14%	8	13%	6	8%	7	9%	6	8%	3	4%	7	10%	3	4%	2	3%	3	4%	1	1%
5 Strongly Disagree	4%	1	2%	0	0%	3	4%	1	1%	0	0%	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%
Total	100%	61	100%	76	100%	74	100%	74	100%	76	100%	72	100%	75	100%	73	100%	76	100%	75	100%
Strongly Agree/Somewhat Agree no N/A's	48%	39	64%	54	71%	52	70%	48	65%	59	78%	48	67%	64	85%	61	84%	64	84%	66	88%
Somewhat Disagree/Strongly Disagree no N/A's	18%	9	15%	6	8%	10	14%	7	9%	3	4%	10	14%	3	4%	2	3%	3	4%	2	3%

My child attends: (check one box)	G1. Administrators and teachers communicate with parents/guardians effectively.	G2. I have opportunities to share my views about the school.	G3. Teachers and administrators are responsive to my concerns and suggestions.	G4. I feel comfortable talking with my child's teacher(s).	G5. Teachers respect agreements and decisions reached at parent teacher meetings, and follow-up on those suggestions.	G6. Teachers help me understand how my child's work is evaluated.	G7. When reporting about my child's progress, teachers use language I can understand.	G8. The school helps me understand how to best support my child's learning at home.
FMS								
1 Strongly Agree	26 34%	25 33%	34 48%	46 61%	26 40%	25 34%	45 62%	24 32%
2 Somewhat Agree	28 36%	21 28%	16 23%	17 22%	19 29%	24 32%	18 25%	23 31%
3 Neutral	6 8%	17 22%	13 18%	5 7%	13 20%	14 19%	4 5%	14 19%
4 Somewhat Disagree	10 13%	11 14%	7 10%	6 8%	3 5%	5 7%	4 5%	8 11%
5 Strongly Disagree	7 9%	2 3%	1 1%	2 3%	4 6%	6 8%	2 3%	5 7%
Total	77 100%	76 100%	71 100%	76 100%	65 100%	74 100%	73 100%	74 100%
Strongly Agree/Somewhat Agree no N/A's	54 70%	46 61%	50 70%	63 83%	45 69%	49 66%	63 86%	47 64%
Somewhat Disagree/Strongly Disagree no N/A's	17 22%	13 17%	8 11%	8 11%	7 11%	11 15%	6 8%	13 18%

Freeport Middle School - Comments
Please share with us your suggestions for improving our schools:
A few more sports offerings and club offerings. Clearer assignments for kids with organization difficulties. Sometimes it feels a little academically stratified.
There could be much more emphasis on technology- coding, etc. as this is the world the kids will be moving into. As well, in middle school we were already doing chemistry & biology labs which seems to be lacking here. FMS has a good core curriculum, but there is a lack of variety. Some alternative classes could be: intro to physics, chemistry, coding, video production, more world geography options (as Maine can be such a monoculture). Although the kids should be learning to organize themselves & prepare, my student struggles with this and I am unable to help as I often don't understand expectations. Thank you for this opportunity to express our opinions!
I would appreciate more communication from teachers when my student is struggling.
Teachers need more time to develop "their work" during these trying times. Staff development days need to reflect this more as it will benefit all students. It would be great to see a golf program and intramural sports at the middle school.
We have no information about how assignments are graded. Power School only gives the grade but no details
Improving engagement of our Children's emotional well being during COVID
There is no communication from my sons teachers regarding his standing unless there is a negative thing they want to share, or there is a parent teacher conference scheduled. My sons teachers rely heavily on E learnings and readings, and there is very limited interactive learning that fit his learning style.
When questions pertained to the school at large v teachers, my answers were neutral because I don't have insight or know how to go about getting the information on the question. Here are some questions where my answer was neutral: The school offers a challenging, rigorous curriculum. The school is focused on academic achievement, setting high expectations for students. The academic program includes a wide selection of course offerings. My child learns life skills such as managing time, prioritizing, meeting deadlines, responsibility, and communicating clearly. Parents have opportunities to participate in school activities. Teachers manage classroom behavior effectively.
Lunch periods are too short. They have potential to create poor eating habits due to limited time to get through line and actually eat.
Better focus on mental health, especially during a pandemic. It's ridiculous the amount of homework that is pushed onto 7th grade students who really just need a break after school for their own self-care and mental health. Teachers also need to be respectful of different personality types. Kids who have social anxiety shouldn't feel targeted and forced to speak out loud in class if it makes them uncomfortable.
Due to covid the schools are not accessible to parents.
Teachers and administration are not responsive to emails
Get rid of habits of work as a separate grade. Rather incorporate it into the child's overall grade for an assignment. For example, you lose 5 points for every day an assignment is late. Teachers manage habits of work so differently at the moment that kids and parents have no idea what to expect from teacher to teacher. It makes no sense that a student can have a 96 in a class and be falling habits of work because of one late assignment that happened to be the one that was "measured." Please, please remedy this by incorporating it into the students overall grade on a given assignment. This also feels like it would be much easier for teachers to manage.
Make sure all teachers are aware of 504 plans or IEPs for students. We sat in a meeting with a foreign language teacher this year and told him our child has dyslexia and a 504 and he said he was unaware.
Make sure all teachers have training in classroom management. Some teachers joke with students quite a bit (great for middle school) but then get upset when the kids then joke back in turn. Kids don't automatically know where the line is. It's your job to teach them this.
More teacher training in executive functioning and how to help kids develop these skills. Sarah Ward is an excellent resource for this!
Increased communication from the school and from teachers.
Opportunities for music and art throughout entire school year & several times a week.
none
I have limited communication need with the school and have limited need to be in the school. Only request - assure there is enough vegetarian options at lunch for my child, seem to run out of vegetarian option if they are late to lunch, and misses out.
It would be great if we lived in a community where it's taught that it's ok to have a different opinion from others and not feel like you can't express your opinion for the fear of being an "outsider" or that you are wrong. Let kids know at a young age it's fine to disagree and to have a healthy discussion about differences.

I know it's been a tough couple of years, and many students have struggled with remote learning, missing school, etc. But other kids haven't had the same struggles and maybe haven't been as challenged as a result. Hopefully COVID will end soon and everything can get back to normal
For Freeport Middle School, I would suggest clearer weekly communications with parents. You should get a few samples of what Emily Grimm sends out to all parents weekly. She always writes a well written and comprehensive updates about the school, student activities, upcoming events, etc. All parents of MLS students are used to that type of communication. FMS has an opportunity to display pride in all of the great things students are doing at school by creating a weekly communication that is more comprehensive and well-written. Also, the grading system is confusing. It's hard to know what grade is a good grade. Is a 3 a good grade or not? Is there an opportunity to better share the grading system with all parents so that we know what grades our kids should be striving for? For those of us that grew up with A, B, C, D, F grading, it's hard to decipher how the 2, 3, 4 grading system aligns with it. Also, could teachers reach out well before parent teacher conferences if there is an academic issue with a child? We've been caught by surprise a few times by issues that we wish we had known about weeks before the parent teacher conference (which would have given us time to help improve grades). Finally, is there any chance more sports could be offered for 6th graders? If not, is there a chance to add some active after school clubs? At MLS there were a lot of great after school activities offered which kids loved, like dodgeball and snowshoeing, etc. It feels like 6th graders are a bit lost after school, especially the ones who are active and need to run around.
don't have clear knowledge of what is happening w my child and schoolwork, certain front desk personnel are not friendly, they make it feel rushed when I call like they want to get off the phone ASAP, kids being rude to my child (don't know what can be done since kids this age can be very mean), my child has problems concentrating and cannot focus in class
I answered NA to almost every question because I have literally zero idea how my child is doing, what he is doing, why he gets the grades he gets, what his grades even are, how he struggles, and how it could be made better. Last year he didn't attend a single science zoom and I didn't find this out until conferences at the END OF OCTOBER. Not a single call or email to me to ask why he wasn't coming. He comes home with almost zero homework and I don't know if he should have homework. PowerSchool is rarely up to date and I'm not great at using it. I know COVID has made communication and relationships difficult, but I am worried he is falling through the cracks and I won't know until it's too late.
The lack of physical education for all student year round is a shame. Recess is not enough time for children to move their bodies to support their health and aid their learning. Physical education should be a part of every child's schedule throughout the school year. I don't understand why this is not a priority. Especially while children are being forced to wear masks all day.
Need better communication about events and things going on at school - more advance notice, more details about logistics and what parents need to know for their child to participate. Over the past 3 years with two kids going through the school I have found many times that we are clueless about opportunities for our kids both academically and Co-curricularly, but I will admit there has been some slight improvement this year. We also have never been explained to about course offerings and/or options for our children, particularly in relation to honors, teachers and progression leading up to high school. We've just blindly taken what was handed to our children without really understanding we/they had options. In general I've felt that I have not received enough details in the school communications, or timely advance notice of many things, and that I always have to work hard to seek out additional information about announcements. But, there has been some improvement in that this school year, and I hope it will continue.
My child tells me everyone is unhappy at school. I think more morale boosting activities is important especially during this pandemic. I don't know if the guidance counselor checks in with the students regularly.
End covid protocols ;)
I would like to see the school better address racist incidents and educate students about racism and bullying. I have heard multiple reports of middle school students calling out the few students of color with racist slangs. Also, my student has never met with the guidance counselor (one on one or in the classroom) which makes me wonder if the school is doing anything to support mental and emotional health.
Keeping the grounds clean would improve appearance and first impressions. More respect for conservative viewpoints.
Compared to PES, FMS is a bit of a black hole to us—we don't really know our child's teachers, what she's learning or whether she's living up to her potential. A few teachers take it upon themselves to communicate with parents quite a bit which is wonderful (special about out to the incredible Alex Brasco-Brin). However please note that we believe most of our feelings of disconnection with FMS is entirely COVID related— Ray gets huge credit for keeping things afloat as well as he has given the circumstances. The parent teacher conferences are far too short to be meaningful. Wish the state allowed for more art, music, shop, home ec type classes, but that's not FMS's fault. It would be great if students were encouraged to participate in clubs more. Would love there to be more focus on developing & mentoring kids executive functioning/time management skills.
While we personally had an issue with a teacher who was not accurately describing what was happening in his classroom regarding our daughter, it was very quickly and thoroughly rectified. Since the initial issue, things have improved dramatically and we couldn't be happier with this outcome. Aside from that brief issue, all our experiences with the school have been positive.
Address the needs for ALL students to be inclusive and respectful. Have ALL teachers use the same platform for assignments and grading.
Middle School and High School should start later and Elementary School should start earlier. Bus or sports issues are excuses used to continue a course of action which studies have shown to be detrimental to students, especially older students whose grades and scores will affect their choices for college and beyond. I believe strongly that like many other school districts in Maine and the nation, we can make this change and do better by our students.
Please add sports for 6th graders
The school could try to manage children coming from a much smaller elementary school and try to put at least one familiar face in each class if possible.
I have yet to understand why FMS only offers one parent/teacher conference per year while all of the other schools in RSU5 offer two (including the High School). I would appreciate a second trimester meeting with my child's teachers so that I am both informed and updated on my child's progress academically, emotionally and socially. I'm still perplexed why this doesn't happen.
My child frequently shares stories of male 6th graders using the "N" word and "fag" out of earshot of school staff. While I understand kids will be kids and they push boundaries and don't understand the full impact of their words, this is still concerning. Perhaps thinking of ways that students who hear or witness this behavior can share it with adults without fear of repercussions from peers - like being considered a "rat."
The physical environment doesn't feel super welcoming when coming into the school. I have been into many other middle schools that are cleaner and more vibrant. I don't know the best ways to make these changes, especially in ways that don't require extra funds.

Please share with us one or more things we are doing well:

My child has frequent medical appointments and early dismissals and late drop offs are easy to coordinate with the fms attendance email address and with the nurse's support.
Nurse has good communication and supports my child during the school day when issues come up.
Teachers and administrators are responsive and good communicators - they treat my child fairly and with respect.
We are so happy with the education that [redacted] has received throughout his years at RSU 5. We feel blessed to have our children in such a wonderful school system. Thank you ALL for what you do each and every day.
Overall my student's teachers have been thoughtful, helpful and communicative. Only a couple instances in the past two years did a teacher not appear to wish to help my student. I get a feeling that my student is emotionally safe and cared for at FMS which is so very special and not necessarily many American children's experience so thank you very very much for that!
Most staff take the time to connect with students and it does not go unnoticed.
Love the happiness project and emphasis on well-being, rather than a steady diet of homework.
Communicating with parents via emails and newsletters is strong at the school and from the superintendent. This is much appreciated.
Keeping kids in school for in-person learning has been very beneficial and well done
Overall Mr Grogan has done fantastic keeping things on course at the Middle School during these tough times.
The school nurse has made the COVID protocols easy to understand and she was very helpful getting my son tested when he was sick.
Overall, the communication has been great this year. Very helpful with constant changes due to the pandemic. The school communication on COVID updates, policy changes, close contact informs and more has been outstanding. Updates from the principal have been positive. I recently received my first class specific communication which was super helpful to know what the kids are working on (7th grade) Sports and coach communications has been good!
Communication is frequent concerning school events and happenings.
Flexibility
I think the overall climate of the HS is very positive. Teachers seems to usually connect very well with students and for the most part students seem to support and respect each other. A great variety of coursework and extracurriculars is offered as well.
I love the focus on social emotional learning that takes place and all the outside of the box stuff such as Fab Friday, overnights (when allowed), the continued recess time. These kids so need this. Overall I think there's a very positive atmosphere at FMS.
Teachers are very responsive.
Flexible learning
Covid communication had been great , efforts at keeping kids in school has been great .
I like seeing the school community events for the kids (i.e. Fab Friday coming up). I also like receiving the 7th grade newsletter. All of the teachers that I've contacted are quick to respond and I appreciate that. Office staff are friendly!
We have been so happy with how the school has handled the challenges of COVID! From remote learning to COVID testing to safe in-school learning, we feel proud to be a part of this school system, especially as we see some of the challenges faced in other parts of the state and country. This school system also offers so many opportunities to our students--from learning opportunities to extracurriculars--that we feel extremely fortunate. Co-workers living in neighboring towns don't have the same extent of options, even with bigger budgets. We also feel the regular communication has been wonderful and clear, whether about COVID or anything else. Keep up the great work!!
You are providing a wonderful Middle School experience, socially. I remember Middle School being filled with angst. It now feels like Middle School is a big warm fuzzy hug. My kids report that no one acts like a bully and that everyone is respectful. We also love the great school-wide activities that you provide, like the all school day at Lost Valley. Our kids thought it was the best school day ever. The opportunities like overnight camp experiences and space camp, etc. are also wonderful (when Covid didn't shut them down). It's so important that kids have a way to socialize together during school activities and these experiences provide them with that opportunity.
Freeport is good school system and has a great reputation
There are lots of clubs and activities and the late bus makes it easy to participate. We get weekly emails, which are nice albeit generic.
My children are happy to go to school and speak very highly of the relationships they are developing with their teachers. Their interest in learning is a direct reflection of the impact the teachers are making. Thank you.
Offer lots of different after school clubs/activities for kids to choose from. Good arts programs.
Keeping the kids in person learning during covid .
I've been really appreciative of the emotional support my child received when it was needed.

These have been some extraordinary years as a result of COVID-19. The pressure placed on all of us, but even more so the faculty at any school is approaching overwhelming. Through all this, it is apparent to me that RSU five, and the middle school where my student goes, has done an extraordinary job of maintaining quality education, nurturing, and professionalism in the face of these circumstances. As a former teacher, I continue to be impressed by my child's teachers. The job of a public school teacher grows evermore universally challenging even without a global pandemic. My child's supportive relationship with his teachers and school experiences through Morse Street, Mast landing, and now the middle school in general, leave me feeling grateful to be part of this school community.

The teachers are great! And Lost Valley fab Friday was a huge hit.

Fabulous principal!

Fab Fridays!

Communication when addressing issues is amazing. Teachers and staff take things seriously and strive to fix problems in all aspects. Whether between our child and staff or our child and another student, solutions are clearly a priority.

Thanks for sending this form out for feedback.

Ray Grogan, Phyllis Gratham, Maureen Erakine, and the team at FMS have gone above and beyond to help my child; I trust them to deal with my child who is going through some very serious issues.

I have friends with children at other "better" school districts who are dealing with issues similar to what my child is going through and not only have they NOT received adequate support from their child's school administration, they are having to fight their school's administration to get adequate support for their child.

Some of them have gone as far to withdraw their child from public school, or even considered taking legal action against their school.

I am very glad my child has the support they are receiving at FMS.

Front staff is very nice. School tries very hard to create a good atmosphere (fab Fridays, socials, etc). Bring back the art/science overnights please.

Bringing back Fab Fridays is so important for the well-being of the FMS community!

Thank you for that!

My son gets the 1:1 support from

Teachers and administrators that is helping

Him to grow both socially and emotionally in positive ways. It's hard to manage the world these days - especially as a middle school boy. I am grateful.

Since my daughters entered the district 6 years ago, I have been nothing short of impressed by the level of professionalism, understanding and dedication by faculty, staff, and administrators at Morse St School, Mast Landing, and FMS. The face of the buildings - the principals are AMAZING leaders. Teachers at MLS are experts in their content areas, SEL and elevating student achievement, confidence and pride. I find the level of communication at FMS helpful and appreciate virtual PTC and hope that a choice for virtual PTCs continue.