

# Exchange Summary

Sean Wilson, Westlake Academy Charter School  
August 26, 2022

What excites you and what makes you nervous  
about this school year?



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation

Parent/Guardian



**188**

Participants



**159**

Thoughts



**4,473**

Ratings

---



## PARTICIPATION

### Breakdown of Participation

Parent/Guardian




Which grade band most closely represents your relationship to Westlake Academy?



**178**

Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
27%	(49)	Kindergarten to 2nd grade
32%	(58)	3rd to 5th grade
37%	(66)	6th to 8th grade
35%	(63)	9th to 10th grade
17%	(31)	11th to 12th grade
0%	(1)	Administration (i.e., front office, registrar, nurse, etc.)



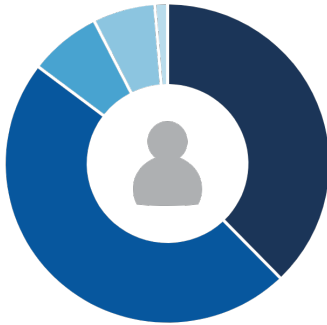
## PARTICIPATION


### Breakdown of Participation

Parent/Guardian



How satisfied are you with the start of the current school year?



%		Answer
38%	(66)	■ Extremely Satisfied
48%	(85)	■ Somewhat Satisfied
7%	(13)	■ Neutral
6%	(10)	■ Somewhat Unsatisfied
1%	(2)	■ Extremely Unsatisfied



WORDCLOUD  
Top Rated  
Parent/Guardian





## THOUGHTS

### Key Thoughts

Parent/Guardian



**When will the portables be replaced? They have been at school for over 10 years and they are falling to pieces.** A lot of \$ goes into patching portables up and maintenance, while they should direct those \$ to a multi year capital campaign to build more classrooms

4.6 ★★★★★ ( 37 👤 )

Ranked #1 of 159

**Portables** Health, safety, and welfare of students should be top priority. Lack of natural light, ventilation, and proper exiting requirements is concerning.

4.5 ★★★★★ ( 40 👤 )

Ranked #2 of 159

**When will the facilities be expanded instead of adding more students to a campus + buildings that cannot hold anymore? Rooms were designed for 18 kids** It's overdue that either the campus grows in facilities or they stop adding students. There needs to be a plan that better serves students and staff

4.5 ★★★★★ ( 40 👤 )

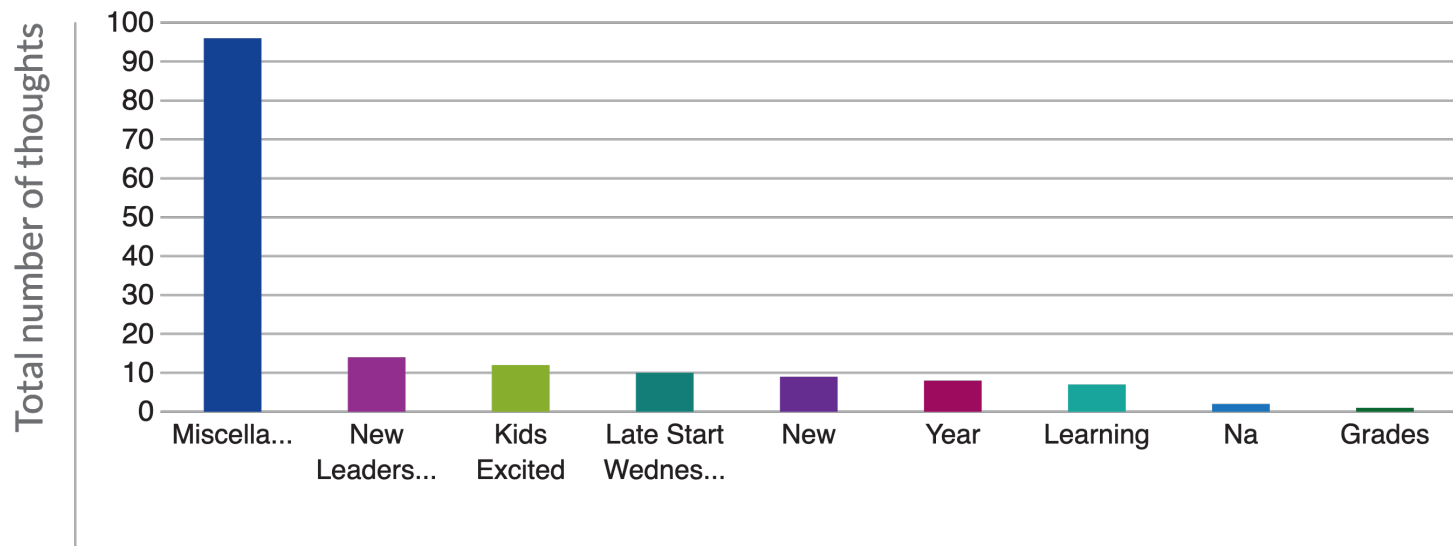
Ranked #3 of 159



## KEYWORD THEMES

### Top Themes by total thoughts

Parent/Guardian

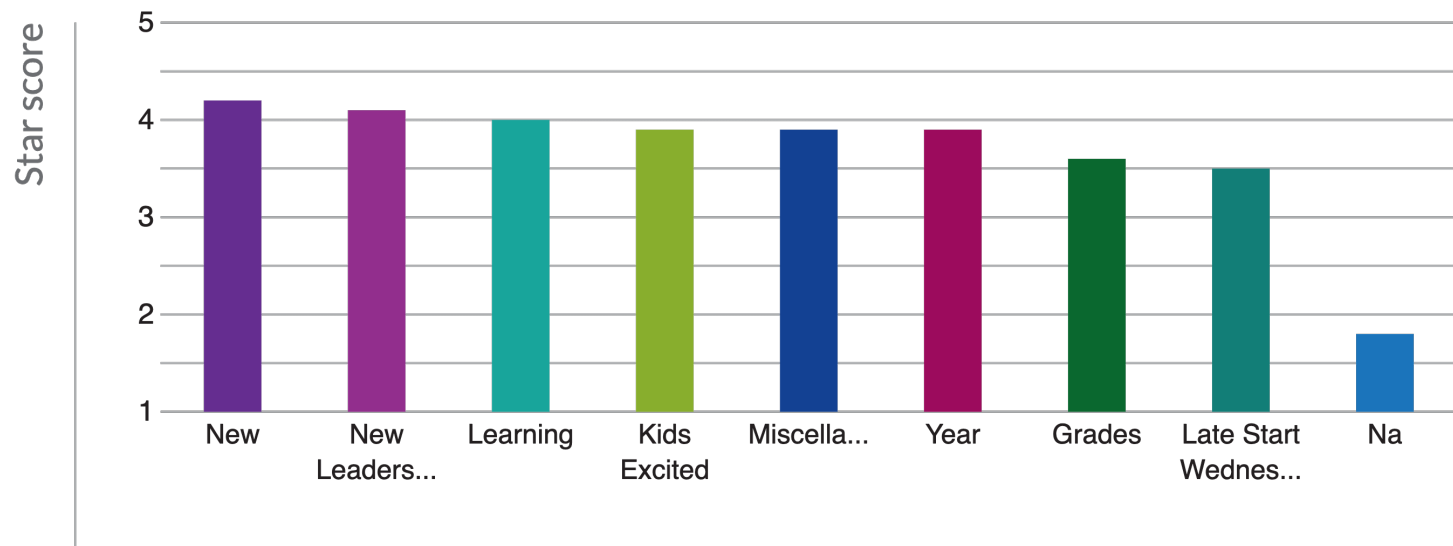




## KEYWORD THEMES

Top Themes by star score

Parent/Guardian







## THOUGHTS

New

Parent/Guardian



**Having new administrators that will hopefully breathe new life into the staff, bring morale up, make teachers feel supported.** Teachers need to feel supported and protected by their administration.

4.4  ( 40  )

**I'm excited to see all the new thoughts and plans put into place** Our students thrive off the energy of the staff

4.2  ( 39  )

**New administration that I hope will bring fresh ideas and new energy, especially to our wonderful teachers.** The teachers create the atmosphere for our students that allows them to do their best work.

4.2  ( 12  )



## THOUGHTS

### New Leadership

Parent/Guardian



**I am excited about the growing leadership team.** Westlake is a growing school and needs an equally growing leadership team who has the capacity to guide the direction.

4.3  ( 33  )

**Excited for new head of school and leadership. I have already heard from teachers they feel so supported and teacher satisfaction is very important.** I want quality teacher retention

4.3  ( 18  )

**I'm excited for the new leadership at WA. It is a welcome and refreshing change for WA.** Old leadership was disengaged and unmotivated to do what was best for our students.

4.2  ( 39  )



## THOUGHTS

### Learning

Parent/Guardian



**I am excited about school life continuing to become a more “normal” experience again.** In-person learning and connection with classmates is critical to student success/well-being.

4.2  ( 22  )

**I am excited for my student to continue their learning journey with such fabulous teachers!** I am wondering if my students learning will be differentiated with the opportunity for deeper learning, research, and experimentation.

4.0  ( 40  )

**My son learning and entering school. I want to ensure he is getting a unbiased based education. Learning a world view.** It is important because we are all connected to each other no matter where you live.

4.0  ( 26  )



## THOUGHTS

### Kids Excited

Parent/Guardian



**Our teachers!** I love knowing that's I can fully trust the people I'm leaving my kids with each day. They truly care for the kids.

4.5 ★★★★★ (39 👤)

**I'm excited that my kids will be in school for a whole year and hopeful COVID will not interrupt that.** My kids thrive on consistency and I want that for them again.

4.3 ★★★★★ (31 👤)

**My kids learning to love school with new friends and kind teachers is exciting!** It's important to enjoy school in the early years, it helps to become a life long learner.

4.2 ★★★★★ (37 👤)



## THOUGHTS

### Miscellaneous

Parent/Guardian



**When will the portables be replaced? They have been at school for over 10 years and they are falling to pieces.** A lot of \$ goes into patching portables up and maintenance, while they should direct those \$ to a multi year capital campaign to build more classrooms

4.6  ( 37  )

**Portables** Health, safety, and welfare of students should be top priority. Lack of natural light, ventilation, and proper exiting requirements is concerning.

4.5  ( 40  )

**When will the facilities be expanded instead of adding more students to a campus + buildings that cannot hold anymore? Rooms were designed for 18 kids** It's overdue that either the campus grows in facilities or they stop adding students. There needs to be a plan that better serves studens and staff

4.5  ( 40  )



## THOUGHTS

Year

Parent/Guardian



**It seems to be a normal year** Hopefully no more Covid

4.2  (33 )

**Communication** It seems to have improved some from last year. It would be great if a more proactive approach could be applied to all things, like extracurriculars.

4.0  (38 )

**I'm excited about the new policy n regards to late assignments. I'm not nervous about this school year.** It's great that students have clear deadlines and harsh consequences for not adhering to them. My child was given to many extensions.

3.8  (26 )



## THOUGHTS

### Grades

Parent/Guardian



**I am nervous about the teacher turnover.** Some of the new teachers do not have IB experience and that seems important for the upper grades.

3.6   (9 )



## THOUGHTS

### Late Start Wednesday

Parent/Guardian



**ATL instead of a study hall** Giving the older kids a chance to do their homework would help make up for the late dismissal time

3.8  (39 )

**The Wednesday late start. Having the kids start later will be an adjustment when they have a routine. Sitting at home for 2 hours makes no sense** It is important because it effects all working parents

3.6  (21 )

**Can you offer extracurricular activities on the late start Wednesday? Life skills comes to mind. You may even recruit parents to help conduct them.** Life skills are often left to the parents to teach but a structured approach at school sounds like a good investment for future well rounded citizens.

3.5  (37 )





# THOUGHTS

Na  
Parent/Guardian

N/a

Na Na

2.0  ( 35  )

1.8  ( 30  )

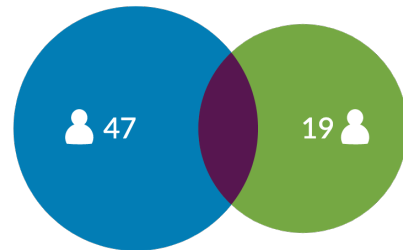




## DIFFERENCES

[47 | 19]

Parent/Guardian



### Side A

**The very late dismissal, made later by the traffic in the pick up line** We're late to all our after school activities; for a school that says it values well-rounded students, you're making it very hard to be well-rounded

★ 4.4 ★ 1.5

**Lack of top notch extracurriculars for MYP/DP**

★ 4.4 ★ 2.3

### Side A/B Common (high)

**Our teachers!** I love knowing that's I can fully trust the people I'm leaving my kids with each day. They truly care for the kids.

★ 4.5 ★ 4.8

**Exciting - IB program, high quality teachers/staff** This sets WA above other schools.

★ 4.2 ★ 4.8

### Side B

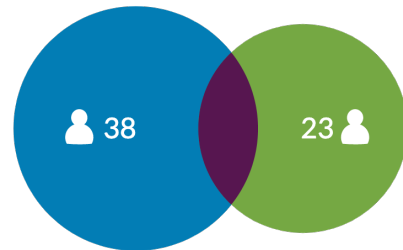
*This group of participants rated Side A thoughts low. Review the common interest section to see thoughts that both groups rated high.*



## DIFFERENCES

[38 | 23]

Parent/Guardian



### Side A

**Can you offer extracurricular activities on the late start Wednesday? Life skills comes to mind. You may even recruit parents to help conduct them.** Life skills are often left to the parents to teach but a structured approach at school sounds like a good investment for future well rounded citizens.

★ 4.5 ★ 1.2

**Nervous - The Kindergarten dismissal at 2pm for 2+ weeks.** For working parents, especially ones with multiple age students, the multiple dismissal

### Side A/B Common (high)

**When will the portables be replaced? They have been at school for over 10 years and they are falling to pieces.** A lot of \$ goes into patching portables up and maintenance, while they should direct those \$ to a multi year capital campaign to build more classrooms

★ 4.8 ★ 4.9

**When will the facilities be expanded instead of adding more students to a campus + buildings that cannot hold anymore? Rooms were designed for 18 kids** It's overdue that either the

### Side B

**Administration in PYP needs to do their job and not deflect issues that should be handled in school vs outside of it.** It's important because it's their job to protect every child who attends WA.

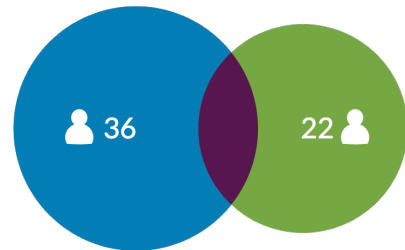
★ 2.4 ★ 4.6



## DIFFERENCES

[36 | 22]

Parent/Guardian



### Side A

**Having such strict rules for 9th & 10th graders about phones is excessive.** Students should be able to send/receive a text about a ride home etc. Giving some freedom before then gain total freedom in DP is wise.

★ 4.2 ★ 1.3

**There have been rumors about the school going private or being sold and this makes me nervous.** It might be best to make sure the school community is updated on things that are happening in the town

### Side A/B Common (high)

**Concern about the condition of the portables.** My child has most of their classes in the portables, and they have been in poor shape for awhile.

★ 4.4 ★ 4.8

**Portables** Health, safety, and welfare of students should be top priority. Lack of natural light, ventilation, and proper exiting requirements is concerning.

★ 4.5 ★ 4.8

### Side B

*This group of participants rated Side A thoughts low. Review the common interest section to see thoughts that both groups rated high.*



## WRAP UP

### Next Steps

Parent/Guardian



## Thanks for participating

We'll be carefully considering what we learned and sharing our actions back with you.