

**Verbatim Responses**

Recorded on worksheets as a result of the small group work activity  
Community Engagement Session #4 • April 26, 2022

On April 26, 2022 Vision Forward held the fourth session which included a small-group work session to discuss Improving Student Performance at the Secondary Level – Grades 6-12. Approximately 50 community members and SJSD staff attended in person and another 12 participated virtually. After a presentation on the topic, participants both in person and via Zoom divided themselves among 10 tables and prepared responses to the following tasks:

**Table #5**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Quality education is attainable	School district is accommodating in the education offerings. Need additional information shared with parents about opportunities.

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

<b>Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Similar course offerings and opportunities at each high school		Provide enough funding for re-alignment to improve offerings
Consider reverting back to block scheduling and start/end times of school days		
Prioritize education – remind, encourage		*Organization - balance, equality, consistent

<b>Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Re-alignment with a vision and a purpose!		
Re-visit “team” teaching model		
Address behavior & attendance issues		Hire sufficient staff to address the issues

**Table #6**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

<b>Positive News To Share</b>	<b>Positive News To Share</b>
Arts, JROTC Need positive, great teachers and staff	Glad to have volunteers back

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

<b>Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Attendance	1	The pandemic left the schools without a just cause to attend so now that we are at end we can get back to pre pandemic program and make it better
For core subject Children are struggling	2	
Behavior	3	Internship in high school

<b>Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
6-7-8 in all middle schools		*Build a middle school in place of Bode
Interventionists, tutors		
Culture – better way to understand students		* Need to have better communication to the community

**Table #9**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Invested and caring staff	Virtual Academy option.

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

<b>Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Behavior	2	Increase alternative programs Employ social services staff Therapy dogs
Attendance	1	Get parents in buildings Support from law enforcement Positive phone calls home
Staff Workload	3	Recognize all staff for dedication Teacher 1 course per hour Continue "Closing the Gap" program

<b>Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Behavior		same as recommendation for HS
Attendance		same as recommendation for HS
Staff Workload		same as recommendation for HS

\*Failing 8<sup>th</sup> graders not prepared for credit system at high school

\*No prosecution for parents who don't send kids to school

\*Alternative programming (like Hillyard) should start in MS

**Table #10**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight's presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

<b>Positive News To Share</b>	<b>Positive News To Share</b>
Hillyard, college coursework, internships, apprenticeships	Staff cares: making data informed decisions. Recognizes issues/gaps and work to address them

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

<b>Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Lack of student motivation or goals	1	Landscape of space & what innovation in education & relevant – facilities/schools
Recruiting & retaining the high quality staff & relationships	2	Work to keep educating (outside of box thinking like 4-day school)
Discipline	3	Continue mentoring support High % repeat offenders Support all students Administration in building

<b>Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Middle School structure	1	Consistent grade spans, Interdisciplinary team approach
Transitional support for middle school	2	Strong programs Attendance Time for quality impact
Continued work at engaging course work at middle level	3	

**Table #11**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Opportunities at 3 high schools, as well as Hillyard (apprenticeships)	Caring teachers and staff (more recognition for teachers)

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

<b>Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking</b> 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Focus on workforce – Hillyard for students who won't attend college	2	Bring employers into classrooms
Equal access to education and academics for all high school students	1	
<i>(No additional priorities provided)</i>		

<b>Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking</b> 1-3 <i>(1=highest; 3=lowest)</i>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Consistency in MS!		7-8 or 6-7-8
Attendance		
Understand school policies procedures = reduce cell phone usage		



**Table #12**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Compassionate and caring staff	Comprehensive care for the kids

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Moving start times to a later time	3	Reassess busing situation to fit health and needs of HS students
Re-examined boundaries	2	Balancing title 1/free & reduced lunches. Making it even at schools.
Targeting middle school attendance	1	Attendance interventionists

Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Attendance	1	Understand the top drivers for missing school Accountability for attendance
Accessibility	3	Sidewalks to be able to access school
Change to 6-8 middle school	2	Redistricting Re-evaluate buildings & capacity

**Table #23**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Hillyard – needs to get bigger. Include 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> grades, need to add more teachers & students	Virtual Academy – lots of options for students, lots of potential for growth

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Disparity of school size/offerings		Combine schools, more equity in admin & counselors to student
School start time (too early)		Start at 8 am
Evolve education system		Different schedules (8 period day) More time for planning for teachers Modified block/more electives

Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
All middle schools 6-8 or 7-8 but consistent		
Teams concept		
<i>(No additional priorities provided)</i>		

**Table #24**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
Hybrid Virtual Academy – opportunities, flexible schedule	Caring, committed staff – form relationships that go beyond the curriculum

**Task 2:**

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- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Attendance	1	Positive school climate Emphasis on advisement teachers
Graduation	2	Relationships with students and families Evaluate grading practices
Equity in Courses	3	Use virtual to build hybrid models

Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Attendance	1	Relationships with advisement teacher
Equity	2	Cohesive feeder structure All middle schools 6-8
Course Variety	3	8-period day More hybrid opportunities

**Table #26**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
A lot of high quality teachers in the district	ACT scores went up after COVID and Hillyard is awesome!

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving junior high/middle school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

<b>Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Grad Rate/Attendance	1	Later start time (8:30 am) Better Prosecutor Prepare students for adulthood
Discipline Issues need to be lower	2	Behavior Interventionists & goal setting Better admin support
Better Learning opportunities	3	More/Better electives

<b>Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement</b>	<b>Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)</b>	<b>Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years</b>
Attendance	<b>1</b>	Parent training events Supports & resources New opportunities Positive school climate
All MS on same format and scheduling	<b>2a</b>	Everyone on 6-8 Consistent opportunities across town
More varied electives (PLTW)	<b>2b</b>	8-period day/extra class Consistent opportunities across town National archery in the school program

**Table # (no table number provided)**

**Task 1:**

- ▷ Based on tonight’s presentation, what are two positive things about the St. Joseph School District, its students or staff you could share?

Positive News To Share	Positive News To Share
HTC – Diversity of opportunity (Hillyard Technical Center)	Community environments within our schools (passionate teachers)

**Task 2:**

- ▷ What are 3 priorities to be addressed in the area of improving high school academic achievement? List your top priorities on the chart. Prioritize your top 3 priorities from 1 to 3 - 1 being the highest and 3 being the lowest priority.
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- ▷ What recommendations does your group have to address these priorities in the next 5 years?

**Task 2:**

- ▷ List your priorities on each of these tables and rank them 1-3. Please share recommendations to address each priority in the next 5 years.

Top Priorities to Improve HIGH SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Attendance	3	Engagement & opportunities
Behavior	2	Make sure that other students don’t suffer for the behavior of others
Creating future positive contributors to our society/community	1	Look at alternate ideas of how students spend time in school

Top Priorities to Improve JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL Academic Achievement	Ranking 1-3 (1=highest; 3=lowest)	Recommendations To Address in the Next 5 Years
Engagement/Sense of Community		Gaps being clubs
Consistency across district		
8-period day for more elective choices		