

SAU70 2022 Survey Free-Text Answers

SAU70 Strategic Planning Survey June 2022

Based on 503 completed surveys

Free-Text Answers

Select portions redacted to eliminate potential identifying information for individuals. Each redacted word is replaced by four asterisks: ****.

Only free-text response questions are included in this document

Many respondents wrote free-text answers similar to “No”, “None”, and “Nothing”. Answers like these are not present in this document; these are the differences in counts between “# Responses” and “# Specific Responses” below.

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Totals		2,250	1,396	

Q2: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q1: Which current aspects do you value the most about our SAU70 schools?*

187 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 117 answers

1. I was pleased with my child's teacher but lack of grade -level curriculum was a big negative.
2. As it was not specifically included, we believe that MCS had an incredible basis in whole student learning, learning how to learn (not teaching to the test, eg), and that specials (art, music, foreign language) are as important to a child's development as math and

reading; further, that the outdoor education and integrated foreign language (French) need to be maintained as a priority in the curriculum from K-6.

3. Perhaps a guiding mission statement for all aspects of the school.
4. Particularly please with the boys soccer program.
5. I would've also liked to check social cohesion and connections
6. The guidance Dept is exceptional. It's great that the PE Classes have access to and use the ropes course. Safety procedures seem to be followed (I always have to sign in which I appreciate).
7. Three options are not enough
8. I am opposed to the decrease in French and Specials at MCS and feel it was rushed without community input
9. I think MCS needs more than one counselor. Bullying was a problem.
10. Indoor HEPA filter is essential to reduce disease transmission
11. While there many strengths of the school from Administrative support and support services, DEI+a is an area of the school I look forward to seeing growth; There is certainly support administratively for future work.
12. The curriculum needs to be improved at RMS & Ray School as i have asked for years for what it is and they "have been working on it."
13. We should be able to access any curriculum online to see what our students are learning
14. It is definitely hard to pick only 3 as many are interconnected. For example, DEI is more meaningful with staff and student diversity. I worry about gun violence - but don't want to say that physical safety is a priority over social cohesion, for example. Some choices are hard to make.
15. Well supported Arts programing
16. Last year one child had a terrible teacher. This year they all had great teachers. The good teachers make all the difference. It's hard to tell how you evaluate this type of issue and address it. I do worry that the teachers focus a lot on kids meeting minimum standards, and that kids who are ahead and somewhat ignored. **** * spends a lot of time "reading to self" in class. Whereas **** * gets tons of extra attention. Since kids learn at different paces at different times, being more flexible on both ends seems important.
17. What is the definition of "quality" of teacher and staff?
18. Thank you for your planning skills and time in this effort. I think limiting to 3 responses in unfair and not going to show what priorities people appreciate beyond basic "education" by limiting responses to only 3. I think all these are priority. It would have been ideal to rank these priorities in my opinion. I also think that World Language, Art/ Music, Technical school are priorities too that could be included. S
19. I think the quality of curriculum and instruction is tied to the quality and quantity of the teachers and staff.
20. Quality of instruction is of paramount importance. That's what we are in most need of, and I feel the teachers do a good job of providing that. Social-emotional support is also critical for these kids. A lot of them experience anxiety and sometimes depression for various reasons. We need everyone to be aware and stay ahead of that for each of the children.

21. I am an immigrant, a person of color, and a racial as well as religious minority. To me, being treated equally and with respect is more important than the number of people in the school who 'look like me'.
22. I notice that only the first 2 options relate to academics. 5 out of 12 options relate to social aspects, with some redundancy among the 5, thus increasing the likelihood that a social aspect is selected as most valued.
23. I would rather answer something other than physical safety, but unfortunately, I do believe this is something that needs to be continually covered in our community. I would hope that we could have a community that celebrates everyone BEFORE they get to a crisis point. I do worry about our kids' safety too much in today's climate - we should be worried about much more important details of providing for our kids!
24. Teacher and classroom curriculum quality is the most important focus of public education. All of the other social and political agendas making their way into the school need to stop.
25. The outdoor classrooms and nature activities are excellent
26. super capable student population - motivating for our children
27. I think DEI work is MOST important to the few families of color. The data probably won't show it as highly rated, but it is probably the reason that people who would diversify our community would be willing to move here and stay here.
28. I feel like the staff at Ray has been willing and well-equipped to manage and help my child with **** differences who needs intervention and special accommodations.
29. Our child suffered from depression this year as a result of another child in the classroom repeatedly belittling **** identity. We struggled for most of the school year with this painful issue and the teacher/ school were unable to resolve the issue for probably 80% of the year. It was a very sad year.
30. Teacher and staff quality is important. I feel our **** grade teacher did not get the children engaged enough and that my child was often bored which is not typical for ****. Yet our **** grade teacher was great and pushed our child to do better and it worked.
31. Very hard to choose 3, though I know why you need to narrow as everyone will choose all otherwise. Respect for all cultures, backgrounds, ethnicities (fellow students, staff and the broader community) is something I hope these kids leave the school system with greater than they came in with.
32. quality in terms of instruction and teachers/staff encompasses having a diverse group of teachers and a curriculum that reflects diverse experiences and is inclusive.
33. The reason schools exist is to build academic, social, and emotional skills in our children. That MUST remain the top priority.
34. Teacher and staff is valued by me but needs improvement in the sau
35. Many of these are connected, and all important! DEI efforts are key to creating school where students feel valued and get along well with each other. A solid curriculum allows students to learn while engaging hands-on with real issues in their communities, local and global. Key to DEI are a diverse staff and access to support services. So... all of the above!

36. 3 choices are not enough! Safety, social connectedness, mental health are also critical
37. I like the wide offering of sports in HS
38. **** had an IEP for the **** time this year. I was able to see how impacted the high school is and the resources they have to support **** needs which has been well-balanced.
39. we have been appreciative of special education, but find guidance counseling less satisfactory
40. Some of the teachers are life changing for the students.
41. I find all of the choices to be areas where we could grow.
42. I feel like the schools could do more with DEI and foregrounding diverse voices within the curriculum itself
43. I think inclusivity is very important, as well as options for different classes. Some of the classes I signed up for got cancelled. Maybe organize that better.
44. Consistency of staff; ed asst. in every classroom K-3; sharing 2or 3 ed asst. grade 4and5. Reduces looking for subs, consistency for students and better support in classroom and reduces cost of hiring subs. This was the case when **** was principal.
45. RMS has done an incredible job transitioning my 6th grader (7th as of today!) to multiple classroom format, and identifying his strengths and challenges.
46. Teachers and curriculum are very liberal biased and spend too much time being politically correct. Team sports requirement in school hours. Community involvement requirement.
47. It is well-known in our community that SAU70 schools are failing disabled students. Students in need of supports are not receiving them. Inclusion of disabled students is not consistently practiced in our schools, in spite of decades-old federal legislation mandating it, endless research supporting inclusion in education, and full endorsement of inclusion by the National Association of State Boards of Education, the United Nations and other entities. Children are receiving instruction in special education classrooms because teachers refuse to include them in the general education classroom. Outdoor spaces are not accessible and non-inclusive, indoor spaces lack appropriate accessibility features and require disabled students to move about the building separate from their peers. It is discriminatory and inequitable. It is outrageous and cruel. Why aren't we doing anything about it? How can we allow this group of already vulnerable children being treated like this? Our SAU administrators should be ashamed of themselves. Please conduct an independent third-party review of this issue with urgency.
48. We have a long way to go before I could say that I value the diversity of students/staff or our DEI policies. I appreciate the efforts during what I recognize has been a challenging time to move this forward, but I want the district to focus on creating and implementing a policy and practices that support a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive school system - special focus on hiring and retention.
49. Please work hard to retain good teachers
50. We value these things, but there is room for improvement in the categories above.
51. Hard to select only three. Quality of teaching and teachers, DEI, and community engagement and cohesion are all top priorities for us.

52. curriculum would be my #1 but there is literally NO curriculum. teachers would be tied for #1 but many actually aren't that good.
53. Hanover schools have been great for our child.
54. Yes, the outdoor programs that **** * leads are fantastic, and adds a special and unique aspect to MCS , not found in many schools.
55. A strength of MCS is that it facilitates parents getting to know each other at dropoff versus "drive by + dropoff" at some other schools
56. Whenever we have raised our hand with a concern for our children, we have received helpful and prompt attention.
57. More special ed services would be better
58. The other things is resources needed for excellent teachers and staff to execute on the excellent curriculum.
59. While I think there is room for improvement, I admire the dedication to these three areas of education, learning and student experiences.
60. The support and the resources available at the high school are second to none.
61. There have been numerous incidents this year with bullying and physical violence that need to be addressed. I feel this has a lot to do with student mental health and wellness. It's all connected.
62. I am most concerned that teachers are not being paid to cover other teachers classes due to the sub shortage. This increases teacher burnout and negatively impacts moral of the whole school. Please take at the very least- the sub pay of \$100 and for each class covered (ie. 5 at Richmond Middle School) compensate \$20/ class covered. The math checks out that the district is just pocketing the money that would have been spent on a sub and is now being guilted onto teachers.
63. I am grateful to be living in a very safe area. However, when schools declare themselves "gun free zones" that makes us a target no matter what area we live in. I fully support undisclosed teachers/staff to be trained and carry concealed weapons to protect students in the event of a shooting.
64. I encourage SAU 70 to hire and keep the best teachers in the country. Everything else will fall in place behind them.
65. In light of current events and spotlight on mental illness paired with easily accessible availability of firearms, SAFETY is a big concern and a topic of interest for me as a parent.
66. This is specific to RMS
67. More support staff
68. We support the forward progress SAU 70 continues to make across the board, including it's important DEI work.
69. The DEI efforts have had a good beginning, and I like the thought behind integrating it in the curriculum in many ways. I hope the efforts will continue to be sustained and improved upon.
70. YA, as much as I want to choose all of those NONE ARE TRUE
71. I really value the culture of caring and community, and the thoughtfulness that goes into considering the needs of ALL students
72. Wish for more diversity

73. The aspects of MCS that appealed to us the most when we moved to Norwich were the emphasis on outdoor time and the French program.
74. It's the achievement orientation and quality of the fellow students that really makes the difference for us.
75. We especially value the academic rigor and availability of honors classes.
76. It's hard to choose only 3 items especially as so many go hand in hand.
77. We are proud to send our kids to school in this community that values diversity and makes efforts to ensure that all kids feel welcome.
78. I also value communication between the SAU and parents/families
79. Academic excellence is VERY important and currently lacking
80. I also value DEI efforts and feel they are part of the staff and curriculum and wellness; not a separate thing if done well.
81. Those are what I value most but not what are most valued at school.
82. It was hard to pick 3. The schools are generally well-resourced. My 4th and 5th pick would have been the outdoor facilities and the quality of curriculum.
83. I view quality of teachers and quality of curriculum as hand in hand. Physical safety and mental health as well. I would have liked to have added social cohesiveness as another - feel like this is getting lost at school and affects quality of life.
84. teachers, administrators, and nurturing environment are fantastic
85. Teacher quality and quality of instruction seem redundant
86. Children need social and emotional education
87. I like the physical safety component, nicely done, often forgotten in Hanover. That said, would be nice to have mental and social safety, which I think is separate from the options of "student mental health" and "social cohesion"
88. Not enough diversity
89. I think our district coasts on the high quality of our students' genes and educated parents. We don't add enough value, particularly as concerns diversity and equity.
90. Academics has always taken a back seat to sports and counsel. However, over the past several years academics are treated as less important than scheduling; the schedule is built around what the computer can do, not what is best for students or faculty. Changes to the schedule at the last minute by the admin do not consider the ramifications to classroom plans at all. Earth Day, Youth in Action Day, Spring Festival, and a myriad of other reasons to take students out of class are encouraged. There is no one who has a sense of the whole picture..
91. I am sorry to say that the question is not useful. All these elements are critical and they should not be ranked against each other.
92. Between the pandemic and overall social atmosphere we need to make sure we are taking care of each other and our students.
93. Re: student mental health and wellness: a little too much homework
94. The teachers in our district are highly trained and very professional
95. The quality of education feels very mixed. Some teachers are absolutely stellar, make their subjects interesting, engage students, handle problems respectfully and graciously. Others seem to be going through the motions, completely unresponsive to individual students' needs, sarcastic and condescending to their students.

96. Those are the things I value most about what is available. I would like to say that student mental health and wellness was at the top of my list, but my student social wellness is at a "2" on a scale of 1 to 10.
97. School safety is the number one priority
98. IEP support services are very important for our family
99. I tried to focus on the foundational aspects. I also value mental health and wellness, for instance, but believe this will come in part with good staff and physical well being.
100. rules and discipline
101. I don't wish to provide more information about my responses to the previous question.
102. The quality of the staffing is critical to the well being of many aspects of the school. As far as the physical plant/school building and grounds, this is also very critical and we are and have been failing there for years but never worse than now.
103. Please read data on the effectiveness of diversity training. Should we continue to focus on DEI when the research indicates that it does not reduce bias or decrease discriminatory practices. And, the research indicates that mandatory DEI trainings are the least effective in this area.
104. We have observed that some teachers don't seem to be teaching. Rather these teachers assign a lot of busy work and expect the student to teach themselves a lot of the time. We appreciate the free-thinking self-starter environment, but at times it seems very inefficient and excessively time consuming, not to mention the need for parents to intervene and help out with homework assignments way too much.
105. I would like to add that both building and student's physical safety are also very important
106. I had a hard time selecting any of the choices. I believe our SAU has a lot of work ahead.
107. Student achievement
108. We have some awesome teachers! I worry about the direction of the SAU. Too focused on LGBTQ!
109. mental health should be more of a priority.
110. Obviously nothing is more important than safety, but assuming you keep everyone safe, the above are the top three choices
111. I place a high value on social-emotional skills too as students have suffered during past 2 years.
112. DEI within each of the areas I indicated is also very important to me.
113. I think that those are all things this school district should work on. Personally, I find it lacking in all areas.
114. A school's most important features are 1) high quality curricula, 2) effective instruction, 3) student safety and well-being, 4) extracurricular offerings for personal development
115. you need good teachers and staff, good space, and sound/healthy minds. you can build upon everything else from there.
116. It's a terrible question. Do you really want parents to pit indoor facilities against teacher quality? Question 1 will tell you nothing useful.

117. I most value the peer group for my children - families that are well educated and care deeply about their children's education.

Q4: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q3: What are the biggest current challenges adversely affecting quality of life in our SAU70 schools? Please choose up to three of the most important answers for you.*

251 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 194 answers

1. Lack of curriculum and limited opportunities for advanced work if appropriate holds some kids back and/or requires a lot of supplemental teaching at home.
2. As in the previous question, we are concerned that testing and academic stats are taking precedence over the whole child learning with integrated specials, foreign language, music, and outdoor ed being reduced either in class time or access.
3. School could end later on Wednesdays
4. fentanyl is terrifying. **** ** has worked in the substance abuse space and I'd like to see actual educational classes on what drugs/alcohol do to a brain/body
5. Some classes require the student to spend a large amount of time outside of class. Others require very little. Overall, there were weeks where I felt too much time was required for homework.
6. RMS needs playground-type equipment geared to older kids. My child and her friends don't want to play organized sports during recess, but there's no engaging equipment for them to use, so they just usually sit around.
7. Textbooks are not used in most math and science classes. Thus, students aren't prepared for learning from textbooks in college. Methods science class is ill-conceived' do away with it, and let the students take biology like in the rest of the country. Nobody knows what Guidance counselors do besides set class schedules and write college letters. They don't support or advocate for the students. HHS history classes no longer teach students how to write essays and term papers.
8. I feel that the children that excel get adequate attention but the middle tier fare less well
9. some teachers do not foster open communication and support of opposing or alternate viewpoints, critical to intellectual debate
10. is there a reason that administration is not covered in these questions of what may need improvement? also: it looks like this technical issue is still not resolved, above, i did not choose any of the things you've listed, yet, i cannot submit the form without choosing them. please disregard the issues i marked in the question above.
11. Balance is hard to achieve with current academic standards-when you take regular classes, you feel like they are perceived as below average (even though they are also challenging). Having everyone participate in regular classes (and offering help to those requiring it) would be better. Those seeking enrichment could always look at other

avenues. This would decrease pressure to have to double up on honors classes. With respect to diversity, micro-aggressions persist and there are biases in reporting behavior to the office (i.e. a well respected white athlete might get favorable treatment). While there are some staff members that are absolutely amazing when it comes to teaching minority students and understanding their unique needs, there are other staff members who still have a long way to go in this area. Indoor facilities are lacking in terms of a communal common space where students can hang out. Also my kids have complained about broken chairs/not enough chairs.

12. questions about the MCS septic and general conditions of the buildings
13. When I say not enough rigor I don't just mean reading writing arithmetic- I mean full well rounded human development
14. the language instruction was "fun" but **** ** after 7 years can't understand a sentence of French.
15. It seems fairly clear that the school, understandably, puts a lot of resources into remedial instruction, in managing problem behaviors, to ensure that even the "lowest" performing students achieve a solid baseline. It's less clear the degree to which resources are put toward enrichment and challenge for students in need of greater challenge (is there such a thing as "gifted and talented" anymore?)
16. Please work on mental health at the high school. Seriously this is urgent. Focus on mental health before emphasizing always on success and good grades.
17. I would love to continue being a part of hiring committees with the hope of bringing quality diverse staff into MCS as well as committees to develop curriculum and activities
18. We should be able to easily access the curriculum in all of our schools so we can see what students are learning. BIG PROBLEM: why is there a difference in where Marion Cross students and students from Ray RMS in math placement. If Norwich is doing a better job preparing students for math then we should adopt that curriculum at RMS or Ray
19. School should start at 8:30 or 9am, not 8 am
20. We are fortunate that our daughter enjoys school and is doing well. However, as academic demands increase with higher grades, we worry that she is not getting enough guidance from teachers in terms of homework due dates and expectations. It would be good if these were laid out more clearly and parents were informed somehow.
21. Start time is too early. Some teachers seem to try to jam everything in during the last quarter and the workload becomes too intense.
22. If kids are ahead in some dimensions, let's capitalize and encourage that, rather than let them stagnate while others catch up. The support for kids who are behind seems very good.
23. My child attends the Ray school, and it would be nice to have better lunch options (we are vegetarian and my child has nothing to eat at school).
24. Classrooms on the south side of HHS, near an asphalt parking lot, are oppressively hot when the outdoor temperature reaches 80°. Air conditioning would make this an acceptable learning environment for the start and end of the school year.

25. what is the goal of this school system? to produce academically well educated people? What does it mean to educate students to be a good human being to help each other, becoming a part of community, and in the world they are going to be in?
26. Provide more foreign language instruction at the elementary level. Reading and myth homework for families to do together with their elementary aged child.
27. The lack of homework and experiences like recognition that are supposed to alleviate anxiety is creating anxiety later on when students and families are past a time when they can develop coping skills. The elementary and middle school are being snow plow parents for the students. Also if reading/writing is down at MCS, why isn't reading being assigned and parents being partners in their children's education? Why are we instead taking away elements that enrich and create enjoyment in school?
28. Pressure on kid to keep up with others. Socioeconomic and academic pressure
29. Thank you for including lunch time in the schedule.
30. Counselors and the therapy dog are excellent for helping kids. I'm glad they are on staff!
31. I'm thankful that the bond passed and the track will get needed attention. There is too much attention in our community in college and not enough emphasis on a variety of post high school options. Not enough info on the role of the parent versus the role of the school and counselors in supporting students. There is a culture of being stressed out is cool and if you are not stressed out, you're not doing enough.
32. Ironically, the DEI focus and mantra really only accepts others who agree with the current "anything is ok" view point. A person who genuinely believes gender is binary or homosexuality is wrong is not accepted or welcomed.
33. The problem with the DEI initiatives in my opinion is that its the "cause du jour" and there's too much political polarization over it. Teaching about oppression of minorities is important but it cannot crowd out high-quality instruction in science, math, literature and history. It is one facet of our history, not the predominant one. Balance is essential.
34. Culture of impunity at the high school (for students)
35. Please do a survey on how many students are still online after 11pm get some statistics share with parents.
36. There seems to be considerable variability between teachers, even those teaching the same subjects to the same grade levels. Proactive efforts to bring the less impactful teachers up to a higher level would serve the students, teachers, and school well.
37. There are advertised services to help with mental health however they are unhelpful.
38. DEI and the political agendas of teachers and staff is both divisive and counterproductive.
39. The lack of after-school after-care programs at MSC remains a major problem for working families.
40. MCS septic issues are an ongoing concern
41. School transportation that combines k-12 is not ideal. Concerned about younger students on buses with (much) older students. Start time is doable, but early dismissal on Wednesdays and lack of after school care is challenging on families with fulltime working parent(s).

42. Academic rigor seems inconsistent, some classes are quite challenging while others seem to repeat material students should have covered in 5th grade.
43. Sometimes my student complains that school is boring.
44. the intense competitive bubble of Hanover/Norwich - with too much talk/focus on grades and which colleges students are applying to.
45. elementary level - not enough offerings for those students are advanced - many, many resources dedicated to those who have special needs, but the **** grader who is reading on a **** grade level has to sit in neutral - should have equitable resources for children at all levels
46. The bullying of the teachers and administrators to continually assert their one way view point creates a hostile environment for my children who do not follow or agree with them. Also, to force my children to attend these advisory sessions that continue to project the same one way thinking is wrong. ALL do not agree with your extreme left assertions and your use of our public school to push them. In addition, those administrators who during a pandemic added to the instability by removing our long-standing mascot should be held accountable. Most were not in favor of this, yet those who probably do not even live here where able to "get their way." How sad and disruptive this was to all of our children. You choose to ignore their voices and ignore the horrific price tag, again to push your own personal agenda.
47. Having different hours 1 day/week is inconvenient
48. why is it that we're not paying attention to the literature about later start times at RMS & HHS??
49. I wish there was more access to mental health counseling. **** **** **** needs help but I can't get it through the school or **** healthcare provider. It would be nice to have a more culturally diverse teaching staff.
50. I hear from my child there is still a lot of memorization and short answer questions in the English classes- wish there was more of an emphasis on discussion, essay writing and creative writing
51. I don't feel competent to judge how the school is doing on most of these issues.
52. We would prefer to have specific textbooks and whole year curriculum at the beginning of each school year.
53. I feel that many of the student-athletes feel obligated to do more than they can handle on a daily basis and have no additional support on the back end academically or as a support to help them manage their time even if that means dropping down to a regular class or cutting out extra clubs/activities. There is a pressure they feel that they HAVE to do all of these things to go to a good college and/or be successful.
54. With kids in multiple SAU 70 schools, it is difficult to answer questions like these - different schools have different issues.
55. Our kids have been able to strike a nice balance between academic and extracurricular activities (sports in our case). I would mark the final box, were it not for COVID and the impact I think that has had on student mental health.
56. The open campus for all students has the premise that all a students are responsible enough to organize their time wisely and make good choices- almost as an adult or college student. But the reality is that these are kids with varying degrees of maturity,

and the opportunity to leave school at most times during the day opens the door to poor decision making. I drive around town each day and see high school students coming out of Dartmouth buildings, smoking pot in the parking lot and elsewhere, and definitely not being productive. These kids need guidelines and guardrails as they navigate these times- not an open invitation.

57. There is far too much emphasis on testing and standards. This is ruining American education. It needs to stop or we will continue to produce sub-par educated students. We are below 30th in the world now education wise. Awful.
58. The bus system was not adequate. The bus stop we were assigned was not safe it convenient and buses were over crowded. Due to these issues, we did not use bus (I had raised issue with superintendent's office)
59. education and curriculum are solid, but inconsistent from teacher to teacher
60. I feel that the material at the high school, particularly in the history department, is excessively difficult. Students generally do not have the background information to understand too much of the material that they are asked to read and it turns students off. I know the school has considered having a later start time to the day, and I wish that would be reviewed again.
61. I feel that teachers are asked to do too much and that their mental health and life balance is being ignored by higher administration. It also seems to me that while the school values diversity and equity, it is an agenda-driven focus rather than a true valuing of all individuals, particularly teachers.
62. I think the level of math is too easy. I would also like to see MCS switch to Spanish and have a more rigorous language program.
63. We need the best and most qualified teachers for our children. Administration must begin to supervise curriculum and its execution in the classroom. The current state of curriculum is that each classroom can operate however it wants with no standard or metrics or accountability. Our teachers are by and large good, but SAU 70 would perform significantly better with accountability for teachers and classroom instruction.
64. I think theres a huge social hole not helped by kids being on their phones all the time- please look at Park City, UT high school policy of no phones on in school. It seems to do wonders for the kids actually bonding with and talking face to face with each other. It works!
65. At the high-school level, the hours devoted to sports practice after school are insane. Practice five days a week, two hours a day, plus matches on weekends or during school hours, is too much. There's homework to be done. It would be nice if they could occasionally get to bed at a reasonable hour. Plus, it can't be good to exhaust the kids physically, so that they're not in top form for the actual games or races.
66. The DEI efforts are excessive and not the role that a public school system should be playing. The weekly Advisory that meets on Fridays at lunchtime is a waste of time for our HHS student and, reportedly, many of their peers.
67. Not providing more support for AP exams is a problem now that more colleges are SAT optional

68. While I know we must support all students of all abilities, I would like to see more opportunities for rigorous curriculum in the English and Social Studies subjects where there seems to be less emphasis.
69. Too much unnecessary busy-work homework.
70. MCS has an opportunity to increase the amount of time spent on core academics. Some teachers in the school are not meeting the expectations that the MCS community expects.
71. My daughter has had an awesome experience at MCS.
72. High school is rigorous enough, but feedback from my kids is that their RMS classes were slow paced and lacked enough content. They also felt group projects (where work was disproportionately completed and grading sometimes unfair) were overused at RMS.
73. Having a waitlist for KAST suggests a problem.
74. More mental health resources/options should be provided to all students regardless of whether or not they have an IEP. A lot of Hanover High students are stressed out.
75. guidance counseling lacks continuity and has been limited usefulness
76. For my children, school work seems to take them a long time to complete and they work hard. They get good grades (A average), but are still not in the range for any academic award it seems. Teachers frequently bunch up the assignments when the quarter is ending. According to my kids, the curriculum around mental health was not beneficial. They really miss all classes daily and X periods.
77. The Ray and RMS seemed to be balanced well in terms of Rigor. however, there is a major disconnect at the high school. The amount of work that is given is absolutely insane. It also seems to be a college level in some instances. Also highly disappointed that honors classes are just "harder" not weighted more and not given AP credit.
78. The rigor at Hanover HS is intense and leads to heightened anxiety. There is a lot of "busy" homework.
79. MCS needs to have their own buses. It is now right that their students are dropped off first and picked up late. It also provides supervision challenges and safety concerns.
80. The middle school especially needs to have school sponsored sports. Having everything go through the rec center is really difficult on families.
81. It should start later
82. Striking a balance between school, homework, and sports/extracurricular activities is always a tough one, and HHS has a rigorous set of expectations. Not that I'd change that, it's just the demands on kids these days are very high.
83. Student mental health, balance in life, learning basic life skills such as how to go to an interview. A lot of effort goes to the students who are doing well academically and to those failing. To those coasting, more needs to be done. Perhaps getting more of them into trade schools or life schools. How to succeed in college curriculum even junior college. Those kids need to know the small things, like how to write a paper, how to spell, etc. Drug/alcohol access is rampant. The school is not going to be able to stop that but they can help with increasing a students self-esteem - that can help the student to "Just Say No".

84. Speaking as a teacher at a **** ***, I am absolutely floored at the lack of curriculum continuity across classroom. There is absolutely no standards-based reading instruction happening in many classrooms.
85. DEI sounds great to parents who don't know that Neo-Marxists love linguistic manipulation and have redefined these words and their meanings. EQUITY is neo-Socialism, or forced equal outcomes among groups through redistribution and state-sanctioned discrimination. Equity replaces equality, the latter which seeks to protect individual rights, equal opportunity and equal treatment and protection under the Law. DIVERSITY is the practice of including people from a range of different races and identities who conform to the same viewpoint but who are intolerant of viewpoint diversity. INCLUSION takes their meaning of diversity in order to exclude non-conforming viewpoints and people through censorship as well as segregation via race-based "affinity" groups that focus on victimization and oppressor "accountability groups" that focus on so-called privilege and bias.
86. Quality of life in our SAU 70 schools is adversely affected through the advancement of Marxist/neo-Marxist ideologies into our K-12 school classrooms using Critical Pedagogy (or Paulo Freire's Marxification of education) and Critical Race Theory (or Race Marxism). This Marxian ideology reverses the Civil Rights gains of "judging people as individuals by the content of their character, not by the color of their skin" to "judging people as groups/collectives defined not by their character and individuality but by their race and other identity factors." Marxism/neo-Marxism is contrary to our American values and should not be used to program our children.
87. It is well-known in our community that SAU70 schools are failing disabled students. Students in need of supports are not receiving them. Inclusion of disabled students is not consistently practiced in our schools, in spite of decades-old federal legislation mandating it, endless research supporting inclusion in education, and full endorsement of inclusion by the National Association of State Boards of Education, the United Nations and other entities. Children are receiving instruction in special education classrooms because teachers refuse to include them in the general education classroom. Outdoor spaces are not accessible and non-inclusive, indoor spaces lack appropriate accessibility features and require disabled students to move about the building separate from their peers. It is discriminatory and inequitable. It is outrageous and cruel. Why aren't we doing anything about it? How can we allow this group of already vulnerable children being treated like this? Our SAU administrators should be ashamed of themselves. Please conduct an independent third-party review of this issue with urgency.
88. would have liked more choices - onsite sponsored after school activities and balance of time spent academic, extra, family and personal act
89. There are many benefits to working in SAU 70 compared with other districts in other places, but it is difficult to feel physically safe amidst unmasked students in a (still) ongoing pandemic and a (still) ongoing epidemic of mass shootings.
90. There is a need for more strategy and structure in curriculum. I am hopeful the strategic planning process and Asst. Superintendent roles can continue to move this forward and provide guidance, leadership, consistency, and accountability. We have great teachers and staff, but the curriculum has been too unstructured and unaccountable.

91. The MCS septic situation is unacceptable. Every year, there is some reason to kick the can down the road on the issue. Also, academic excellence does not seem to be a priority of MCS school leadership.
92. there is a significant amount of bullying to which the staff is unresponsive
93. Everything feels just fine, however, regarding curriculum, there are a few issues that have come up, particularly around Thanksgiving theme, and the instructional materials depicting happy go lucky Native Americans, and songs for 1st grade that feel dated and frankly quite wrong., In fact, I remember these sheets from when I was in elementary school, so it seems a review might be helpful.
94. While every child has to learn to deal with this in life, there are some inexcusably poor teachers. I just want my kid to be inspired and engaged.
95. I really wish that the septic at MCS was in good working condition and the green didn't smell like poo half the year
96. Teacher quality is very uneven. Evaluations and rigor of teachers are needed. Overall quality is good but there are some real duds!
97. My kids seem to be doing OK with mental health. However, I know this is a big issue for older kids in our community.
98. I have kids at the elementary level and the middle school level- I'm focusing my answer to this question to the elementary level. While I fully appreciate the great balance of play/academics/specials/outdoor time- I think more attention should be placed on academics. Especially in grades 4-6.
99. As a society, we must encourage connections. One way to do that would be to provide an integration and support plan for new students and acknowledge those leaving our school
100. I wish the teachers would focus more on engaging students in actually enjoying what they learn, rather than just stuffing them full of facts and tell them to do things "just because". It is so demotivating for a teen to just complete assignments without context and understanding why.
101. I would love to see improvements to the MCS playground. I hope that the wonderful outdoor spaces at MCS will be able to be used ALL YEAR next year.
102. I would strongly recommend having a school resource officer on site.
103. Richmond Middle School specific- students should have more time to get exercise and move around to improve mental health. This could be accomplished by a longer snack period that includes a recess or everyday Physical Education, which would be ideal.
104. Need to stop with the social agendas and get back to educating and developing critical thinking skills. Teachers should not discuss their sexual orientation or political opinions with students.
105. I wish the start time was a bit later. My understanding is that research shows that a later start time benefits student learning and wellbeing.
106. Lack of vertical and horizontal alignment of curriculum
107. DEI feels like a religion or political movement, not a well thought out and tested academic pedagogy. Why is it taking over our schools with no proven track record of

- improving our children's education, our society, or our country? Why are we going to spend money on DEI when we could spend it on great teachers?
108. No respect for a student's wellbeing and how much time a child can spend on studying for 3-4 exams scheduled for the same day.
 109. RMS RESPONSE ONLY
 110. I believe that each classroom at Ray & MCS should have an EA and support staff for students on IEP or who have specific needs.
 111. School hours should shift from 8am-3pm to 9am-4pm or even 9am-5pm with a healthy lunch break but keep a the early Wednesday release.
 112. The dirth of after school programming at Marion Cross is really, really challenging for families with two working caregivers
 113. As a teacher, it takes a long time for B&G to take care of major projects, like the leaky science roof and the cracks in the floor due to settling ground. Sometimes I'm surprised I work in a rich district when parts of the school are falling apart or don't work right. Keep hiring teachers of all backgrounds. I know we try!
 114. high school could start later
 115. My remarks are limited to MCS; do not have other experience.
 116. A wider range of after-school options would be attractive. Is there a chance for partnering with local extra curricular efforts?
 117. Want to choose basicly all of them tbh besides last one
 118. Reduction of specials time particularly in the post-pandemic era
 119. This is a difficult learning environment for kids who are average or below average academically and there is significant stigma around accessing academic, remedial support. It's a tough place to be if you are not a high academic achiever and/or have outstanding skills and talents in other areas. Average kids feel deficient and it effects their self esteem and overall mental health.
 120. Grade 12 is actually pretty divided with groups not speaking to other groups
 121. Inconsistent approach to engaging families this year. Just learned about special open houses and events for certain grade levels at school, but very little done to let families see end of year demonstrations of learning. As a kindergarten family eager to be involved, feeling quite excluded from the school
 122. missing class for sport activities
 123. I would like to see more opportunities for enrichment as opposed to focusing so much on intervention. All of our students are ready to soar in at least one area, but they are not always given the chance to expand on their strengths. Focusing on weakness, while important, can suck out the joy of school and learning.
 124. Septic issues and unsafe play structures
 125. Poor communication from administration at MCS; school is losing the sense of community it once had and parents feel disenfranchised, many long term excellent teachers have left since new administration started
 126. I'm very concerned about the proposal to cut specials to make more time for math and phonics. I think this will lower the overall quality of the experience for the students.

127. if there are after school sponsored activities I really feel that they aren't communicated better. Why not use an app instead of an email?
128. Administration has its head in the sand when it comes to substance abuse on and off campus.
129. There are too many kids in kumon for math and reading. Kumon is assisting our kids where our education system is lacking.
130. Rigor could start earlier; self-esteem is built by accomplishing hard things.
131. I think the academics are generally strong but when there is a weak teacher in a subject, or a student needs particular supports, those needs are not always met well enough. There is also a huge concern about the decimation of the French program at MCS. The board and admin are not addressing the huge outcry from parents about the proposed changes to the curriculum for the next year.
132. I find "rigor" is frequently defined as busywork and not depth. Frequently things aren't scaffolded properly or teachers equate inscrutibility/inflexibility with "rigor." Different learners may not have access to the teachers whose style works best for them due to scheduling. The 9th grade English curriculum is underperforming for the students who can already pass the midterm before entering 9th grade; anyone who can already write a 5-paragraph essay and has a good handle on grammar should be able to have a section of English 9 that serves as their Comp 2 requirement. It is easy enough to create an intake exam as you do with the languages, math, and science. There is no point to the Methods course, it can be handled in the context of a subject; our students are a full year behind the national curriculum because of it and it minimizes their electives later. Students who have the math under their belts should be allowed to take Chemistry and Physics before Biology if they choose. The Social Studies curriculum has too many required courses. The 9th grade one should be condensed into a semester at most - again, it minimizes their options later. There needs to be more performing arts options for students at the school. Students who have a high academic skills battery frequently fall through the cracks in terms of their access to learning support because their grades are considered "adequate" and therefore resources are not spent on them. This leads to anxiety, depression, and unhealthy coping mechanisms. The first line of defense is taking them out of honors classes and these types of learners frequently get bored when they aren't being stimulated enough academically, so they won't perform better in that setting.
133. The playground equipment at MCS needs to be repaired. There are a few items that I noticed that needs to be fixed so shorter kids can climb onto the playground itself.
134. I wish kids had more outside classroom learning
135. Clubs are not supported enough at HHS. Sports (which are great) are given much more priority and emphasis at HHS. It would be nice for clubs to be offered at a time right after school when students could participate before sports start. At least one other local high school does this. That way, students wouldn't have to pick between doing homework during club time (during the day) and going to a club meeting. Clubs should be more robust and allow students to really explore other interests. It just feels like HHS is falling flat on this opportunity, which is unfortunate. Council is wonderful but seems more like a popularity contest to be involved. What about those kids who want

leadership opportunities but might not be among the popular crowd? They might be very smart and have a ton to offer. If clubs were supported and emphasized more, they could be leaders within clubs.

136. The lack of school sponsored sports afterschool programs for the Ray School and Richmond MS is really hard to understand. To be competitive and healthy kids should have options outside of town rec and club programs. The lack of a cafeteria or use of the gym (as was done in my school) is rather concerning
137. I do not know all the physical safety measures that are currently in place. It is the highest priority for us, but I can not say whether it is strong or lacking. It would be helpful to know what measures are in place.
138. The quality of staff is the strength of the SAU but can also be spotty. Sometimes you get a teacher who has trouble connecting with kids, esp. kids who are "young" for their cohort. **** has a minor **** that is not sufficient (apparently) to warrant services, but clearly bothers **** and makes it hard for ****. We feel stuck with a "normal" kid who still needs a little help, and a district that seems to require more distress on **** part to provide it.
139. Would love to see community support more of the DEI initiatives. It feels like a small group of voices are delaying anything from happening.
140. increased communication and transparency is also something both the SAU and administration could improve - perhaps a school parent liaison could help
141. Too much emphasis on sports!
142. I feel that there are many student issues not being addressed because there is a lack of staff.
143. I'd like to use the same language at home around emergency drills that teachers use during school but I don't know what the approach is.
144. I'm not against DEI initiatives, I just think we're spending too much time and energy when there are many other important issues not getting enough attention
145. I really value the quality of the education here in the district, but I wish the faculty and staff were from more racially diverse backgrounds. It's a pretty homegeneous and white staff. I think there could be a more DEI focus, not that kids need to be beaten over head with it, but more of a focus in general. I also wish that at the middle school level that there were more opporunities for kids to get involved in sports that are part of the school rather than through parks and rec. Parks and Rec is great, but I don't know why Richmond doesn't have school sports. I believe other local schools have school sports. I'm not a huge proponent of sports necessarily, but it would be nice for kids to have the option.
146. Homework load seems excessive
147. Ray is measurably less academically rigorous than ****, **** **** ****. We've been surprised at the relative lack of science and history at Ray, and the lack of self-study.
148. There hasn't been space in the after school program for years. Also, the students losing access to the forest at MCS was really sad. Also, MCS really needs a solution to the failed septic tank.

149. A majority of students feel overwhelmed with the quantity of homework assigned. It is impossible for some to play a sport and/or work a part-time job given the amount of time they put into homework on a typical evening. They are feeling stressed out and overwhelmed.
150. only issue we have at MCS is that academic work in core subjects is not challenging enough, we just supplement at home
151. I think HHS gives too much homework in honors classes and the grading is too harsh in some honors level classes. Rigor could be redefined.
152. The curriculum does not offer sufficient life skills courses
153. Too much pressure for after school clubs and sports resulting in fragile mental health. Substance abuse at the high school is concerning
154. We need more supports in place around mental health
155. The septic under play area is a problem and health hazard.
156. Too much focus on minorities but serious lack of focus about students mental health. This is very concerning. Too much pressure (peer and school) to attend after school activities. Unhealthy sense of competition
157. circle and the SEL curriculum are poorly executed and ineffective
158. We should be prioritizing busses, bicycles, and other non-single car options for getting children to school. I would like to see a toll on vehicles dropping off one child. I am totally serious.
159. I think a lot of the diversity training is trying to fix something that is not broken! If there are incidents of racism or exclusion the those involved should called in; it is like punishing the entire class for something done by a couple of students. Does this statement refer to the staff or the students?? Because it is certainly a problem for teachers; nights, weekends, summers, are all devoted to school. This has caused problems with many marriages around the amount of time it takes to be spectacular which is what is expected of us. Balance of time spent among academic, extracurricular, family, and personal activities. Also "circle" topics are lofty and do not address the real time issues that students are dealing with.
160. HOMEWORK: I support more homework for elementary students, corresponding to 10 minutes per night per grade level of reading and 5 minutes per grade level per night of writing/journaling. If we compare ourselves to a high-quality local private school such as Crossroads--which I think we should do--their academic rigor exceeds ours, and includes homework. AFTER-SCHOOL: Equity dictates that Norwich (where I live) should offer high-quality after-school care that is within easy reach of town so that kids can go attend sports activities whether they have working parents or not, and so that all parents can work if they need/choose to. The town and school should partner to procure funding and to run an after-school program that ideally would also include language immersion! DIVERSITY: Our schools should take an active stance to educate kids about the legacy of white supremacy and about gender diversity, and diversity of other sorts, such as ability, socioeconomic, religion, adopted status, etc. In particular, I would like to see gender identities including binary and nonbinary be explicitly included in literature and language across our elementary school.

161. I feel that there is a disconnect with having stable, balanced kids who enjoy learning as opposed to the current culture of being the best at all cost. It's not about learning anymore. It's about getting the best score or the most points. I don't think the school is necessarily creating this culture, but it does enable. I've seen it more so in the high school. Some teachers understand this dynamic more than others. Unfortunately, it's the parents that are setting this tone which then trickles down to their kids. It definitely starts in 7th grade and slowly seeps into high school. That's when kids begin to checkout because it's not worth trying. We've lived in many places and have had our children in both private and public schools. The fundamental difference for us is that the private school makes a strong effort to ensure every child succeeds and the public schools unfortunately, it's very much a sink or swim mentality. I also understand that public schools face different challenges than private, but that has been our observations.
162. I will always be concerned with the well being of our school populations.
163. Student mental health and wellness: a little too much homework
164. Current scheduling is a joke. My child has too much free time on some days. Also, have two different lunch periods (e.g., lunch before 4th period, lunch after 4th period, with half the fourth periods assigned to each group).
165. Physical education is not meeting my child's needs at all. Too much focus on talking about activities and doing non-physical activities, and not enough actually doing the activities. Students should be able to try out a lot of sports in Phys Ed classes, and many of them need more time to move around instead of time sitting and talking (or listening to a lecture about an activity that's longer than the time they spend doing the activity.)
166. I don't know about the bullying, because it can occur on subtle levels. Certainly, my child does not feel comfortable reaching out to students to try to make friends.
167. I appreciate the focus on diversity that the District has focused on. I believe that there are other groups of marginalized students who are being ignored. For example, economically disadvantaged students, students from conservative homes, etc. These students also need support from our schools.
168. Too many teacher absences at Ray School
169. The MCS building and grounds are not in alignment with the wonderful school and community that are there. I'd love to see the playground updated: we could have such a gem of a play space for our kids! And the septic! ugh.
170. Lack of communication with and respect for parents on the part of ****, ****, ****, parents feel shut out of decision-making at the school, as well as literally shut out of the building, teachers seem unhappy with current administration. Schedule changes are being implemented that appear to diminish the foreign language and arts curriculum yet there is no discussion about these curriculums and the effect that a schedule cut has on them
171. I wish there were afterschool activities (clubs, sports teams, mentoring) available to primary school students.
172. At hanover high there is a huge drug problem. people sell and use drugs mainly in the bathrooms, and probably other places too. As a **** I have walked in on many

people vaping in bathrooms in addition to drug use. I have also heard of three separate situations where someone overdosed on drugs and got sick in a bathroom. It seems like the school is not doing much to solve this problem because it continues to go on and there is a known group of students who walk around high, wasted, etc and no one does anything about it. Why can't the school have a drug-sniffing dog or do occasional bag checks or something like that? I have been deterred from using the bathrooms comfortably because I do not trust the other people in there and I don't know what their intentions are.

173. I'm not that concerned about bullying/harrassment or alcohol/substance use, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
174. I don't wish to provide more information about my responses to the previous question.
175. As a parent of an MCS student, I'm very displeased with the school's 7-day schedule for students next year. It increases time that students are in seats in their core academic classes (ELA, Math, WIN?), while significantly decreasing the opportunities they have to learn with other amazing faculty in the arts. French is being cut by nearly 50%; students will have nearly 1,000 fewer minutes with **** art class; music class will decrease by almost 500 minutes. This is crazy! Three years ago we moved our family to this community specifically for MCS. This was a local move and not easy to make. It was not in our view, at the time, that core academics would increase so much that the parts of life that living special (art, music, languages, library) would be cut so drastically. Especially at the elementary level, I want my child to learn to LOVE learning. I want them to understand that learning is diverse, opportunistic, challenging, and empathetic. Spending more time in reading/math groups is not going to fulfill the needs in which I know this school was recognized nationally for, and the very reasons in which we relocated here. I don't believe that this immediate direction that MCS administration is steering the school is in the best interest of our lovely children, dedicated teachers, and community. My mark of 'Teacher and Staff Quality' is specific to administration. And according to our child, I don't think that **** has even visited their classroom, simply to enjoy being with kids. It's an elementary school for goodness sake. Show ALL the kids that you care about them.
176. Administration involvement and interactions with the kids and community is lacking. Therefore, trust has not been built and the culture/connection seems lacking.
177. These things are known by most, ignored by those in charge of change
178. If you are going to hammer DEI every question, you will get skewed results.
179. I would of chosen lack of staff/staffing issues had this been a choice.
180. MCS is lacking leadership at the administrative level
181. A greater emphasis on establishing a balance in one's life might improve morale. I've seen morale in my kids plummet as they get buried in mounds of homework. There doesn't seem to be much balance there as they perceive they must do excessive amounts of academic work to keep up with peers. Streamlining the teaching and learning process to save time for other valuable extracurricular experiences should be a goal.
182. teacher shortages

183. Too much homework
184. at times kids with the honors courses seem to be burdened by excessive busywork, more is not always better. Block scheduling is great except not really working with every class on Wed. There is some disparity among staff- some very qualified and caring and student focused, others not that cognizant of the students the needs of the class, and/or outdated/ teaching such as "teach yourselves"/again some teachers are amazing others not
185. More academic rigor for those that need it in 4th and 5th.
186. I'd like to see teachers in the elementary school at MCS (I don't know about Hanover) to be better trained in literacy instruction and best teaching practices - especially with a developmental focus. The schedule and pedagogy are too much focused on adult needs, not children's ways of learning and growing.
187. Senioritis
188. I think that the curriculum in this school is seriously lacking. Teachers are not motivated and the curriculum is seriously behind considering the privilege of this town.
189. Please! For the love of god. Stop with equity and intrusion training. It is a waste of time and resources
190. I selected DEI too much and too little because I don't know how to strike the right balance, sometimes it feels like too much and too little at the same time.
191. I feel like the school is great for kids who are naturally great students, and good for kids with significant disabilities, but leaves a lot of the middle-of-the-road kids with significant learning gaps without awareness on the school's part.
192. It's the homework! Rigor does not require endless homework in honors classes. The hours of homework--and tech issues like scanning photos of math problems into a google doc--is a waste of energy.
193. I feel that students are afraid to report bullying in fear of retaliation.
194. Too little academic rigor in the middle school. Work is engaging, but not challenging. Need more focus on writing. In general, teacher quality is uneven. Little inspirational teaching in the high school. Across the board, way too much focus on DEI, pronouns, etc --- need more on actual learning!

Q21: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q5-Q20: The 16 assessment questions*

222 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 161 answers

1. I would have answered "uncertain" to some questions if that option was available.
2. The response choices available are, honestly too broad. There should be a chance on each response to add a qualification. In general, we have noted a drop in effective communication from the administration and district, particularly about changes (particularly reductions in specials, school start time, parent-teacher conference opportunities (open-houses especially), etc. As to Covid communications and response, we feel that there were after-school activity cancellations due to reported outbreaks

but there were no changes within the school as far as mitigating risk of our kids being exposed and therefore exposing us at home. In short, we were left wondering why outdoor activities, open houses, performances weren't being restored at the same time that kids were allowed to be unmasked without being tested, or simply continuing the monitoring that kept everyone safe at the peak.

3. Received very little to no info from our teacher this year on what they were learning in the classroom which made it difficult to support him at home, esp with math.
4. Unfortunately, far too much turnover in Spec Ed at MCS
5. My kids do not get special services so these are hard to asses. What I hear from many other parents is that the kids way at the top do great, kids who need extra services and have involved parents do well, but the kids who are just average, not highly motivated or with active parents, slip by
6. i wonder about the way that these questions are formed, thus far, it feels "top down" meaning that admin is asking questions to rate teachers and facilities, without including themselves within the question process. to get a more full and accurate picture, perhaps then entire system should be included in the process.
7. The resource rooms (e.g math, english, etc.) are appreciated but it would be helpful if they were staffed for an hour after school so that students could get academic help if they need it (if they're not on a 504 plan or an IEP).
8. lots of communications but seemingly not a lot of information bring passed
9. Major curriculum changes should have a time for community input
10. I would love a little more support for students prepping for the college application process. Maybe beginning as early as 9th grade.
11. I don't think it's ok to rely on a website for academic assistance. that has to be in person or the extra work just won't stick.
12. NH schools are better than VT in district. Students who struggle with writing seem to be overlooked. Reading is a priority, but writing goes by the wayside in favor of speech to text. The skills are important to work on from day one, even if there is a SLD.
13. COVID has been a challenge for all, and a moving target, and the district/school have done well overall, but as things have "opened up" over the past few months, it's felt a bit like the wild west, every man for himself
14. Inexistant communication abt my kid- You guys do too much about gender diversity - please for once so more about Socioeconomic diversity
15. The assessments, oversight & discussion of results as well as implementation of support administratively and in the class is exceptional.
16. DEI - the focus is too much on outcomes vs. opportunities. Every student should be provided the opportunity to learn and participate where they are educationally (and physically for athletics). There has been too much concern over outcomes of how people feel their experience was. It is definitely good to ask questions about how students and parents feel their experience in the SAU is but the context of those feelings are extremely important. Ultimately the SAU is never going satisfy 100% of the people 100% of the time so it should focus its efforts on its core mission - to provide an opportunity for a high quality education given the resources available. Outcomes are going to change yearly so the best assessment is whether the SAU is providing

opportunities for the kids to learn and making sure the curriculum is setup to progress over the course of the k-12 journey. This includes progressions for all students - those thriving, those struggling and everyone in between.

17. Nice that HHS finally has a lunch period. Let's not have kids making up tests and quizzes during this time especially if that is the only free time they have all day!
18. Of all the subjects, our daughter is the least impressed by Science - and we wish there was more rigor in the science curriculum. We also heard the least from her about what she is learning about Science whereas it felt like she spent half a year on the Civil War which seemed quite a lot considering there is so much to be learned about current affairs as well.
19. I feel like the schools do a great job in general. I think they sometimes focus too much on the 10% to the detriment of the 90%. An example might be sexual identity which gets a lot of focus very early. Too early, IMO. 80% of **** grade friends think they're gay because they "don't like boys". Seems statistically unlikely. I think it's hard to understand what a sexual identity is when you haven't gone through puberty and felt the effects of hormones, yet. Some kids may "know". But, I think most do not and the intense focus on it makes them think they need to "pick a side" or put themselves in a box before they are ready or have the proper context to make an informed decision. Same goes for classroom time. A small minority of kids with severe behavioral issues and extraordinary developmental needs slows down the progress for the majority. I recognize the need to integrate these kids into "mainstream" classrooms but I wish there was a better way to make sure instruction was not disrupted so much. I feel teachers end up glossing over subjects in the last half of the year in an attempt to make up for lost time. The classroom should not need a procedure for what to do when the kid with **** (true story from **** grade).
20. I like to understand the curriculum for the classroom. I don't just want the list of state or national mandates.
21. Missing question on accessibility and effectiveness of accelerated academic opportunities
22. Some of these are more relevant to grades older than my children
23. As said, lunch options could be improved.
24. For students who are able to manage and try to achieve their goal, there are many supports. However, people who are behind and are having hard time to keep up with, we don't see any visible support. NONE!
25. Assessing at the elementary level
26. At MCS no classroom work comes home and there is no consistent teacher communication aside from report cards. If you don't have a child who likes to talk about school you are sending your child into a black box. Parents are not included on committees such as the scheduling committee so unless you don't work and can go to a coffee thing at 8 am or tune into a board meeting when you're trying to parent, decisions come out of left field and take parents by surprise. Homework, and glasswork are windows into your child's school life especially during COVID. MCS used to be welcomed and partners and now we're at arms length. It's really disappointing. As I have never seen my child's academic work, I'm not sure how I can ever comment

27. This is in regards to high school. My student does not feel comfortable approaching his teacher to ask for help or to explain grading. There are several teachers who aren't always weighing things appropriately to match how students show their learning. Not enough opportunity for extra credit. Exams (10%) seem to hurt overall grades if not successful but don't really help raise grades if a student does well.
28. World Language access, Tech. access
29. We have had wonderful help from school and communication, so we may be biased in thinking that it is great!
30. I have encouraged my hs student to get help from the resource center and they feel uncomfortable because there are so many people (adults and students) in the room. As a result, the help is not effective.
31. Its not easy for some kids who are struggling academically. My child currently isn't in that camp, but I very much support the availability of tutoring and after-school help for kids who need extra assistance to keep up and fully understand the material.
32. I tried to get **** extra time on exams as **** has **** ****, and you flat out said no. the fact that we have to pay for parking for a public school is ridiculous. too much wandering around free time.
33. Speech therapy
34. previous question doesn't make sense: what is "too little effectiveness" or "too much effectiveness" of assistance?
35. teachers should be required to make comments on every students' report card. All teachers should also be required to use have grades listed in PowerSchool no more than 10 days after an assignment is submitted. This is not the case at HHS. Take a detailed look. Also why is it that some teachers do not have their assignments listed in Schoology. Please standardize this across the board
36. Many of these topics are unknown to me... probably because we receive so little information about our child and her progress. The Schoology/PowerSchool mess (having two systems, neither fully utilized) is worse than having no system. I know you're aware of the issue, but let's ensure it doesn't linger! Some personal (human) connection to e.g., her academic councillor would also be appreciated.
37. I find the school involves parents too quickly in some situations and doesn't reach out to the students fast enough in others.
38. academic assistants are excellent, however more qualified and specialized assistants would be great.
39. need to look at academic assistance on "both ends" or at all levels - your school is not meeting the needs of all students. the claims of DEI and equitability fall short if you are focusing time and resources on a small number of students special needs, such as behavioral issues (anger) or medical conditions (autism) - yes, those needs are really important ... AND the needs of the other children who are asked to sit in neutral and spectate (or worse, be bullied, threatened, or physically contacted by another student who has a 1-on-1 in the classroom and is allowed to do just about whatever she or he wants to do all day long)
40. Please stop pushing your gender beliefs onto my children. And Black Lives Matter signs posted in the schools create a hostile environment.

41. Some of these don't apply to elementary school families. Also, I didn't want to put "too much" on some of these but many of the ones I put "just right" actually exceeded expectations. The survey doesn't capture that sentiment.
42. There is too much homework at the high school and not enough at the middle school. The elementary school should require more independent reading at home in the upper grades.
43. What are we doing on ventilation to clean indoor air quality at all four of the district's schools? What is the timetable for having HEPA-level filtration in ALL rooms in all four schools? Why is it that we can't follow Vermont's school guidance given that it is more strict about COVID? Don't Vermont parents have the right to keep their kids safe in an interstate school district?
44. I'm just responding based on our experience at Ray. I have much different opinions based on what I know about the HS
45. I wish there was more support for parent really wanting to follow along and understand how to access the online curriculum resources, grades (which can be really hard to interpret depending upon when and how you access them)
46. Again, not being in the classroom, I do not have an informed opinion.
47. Again - different schools, different issues. This almost can't be answered at a district-wide level...don't know how you guys are going to sort thru this data without this.
48. My perception of lack of academic focus comes from the remote learning during covid and continuing with this year of in person learning. Honestly I am not sure it could have been remedied easily. I did however pay close attention to the Thetford school system and they seemed far better equipped to handle the academic needs of the students with remote and in person learning. Before this academic school year started, I reached out to voice my concerns about my child and others needing extra help to catch up. My concern for my child was specific to ****. I was reassured that the WIN program would help the kids who needed it. It was clearly not enough and my concerns were met with (virtual) shoulder shrugs. When I asked for a referral for tutoring I was again met with (virtual) shoulder shrugs. I had to seek a tutor and pay to get the help my child needed. I fully realize that most Norwich residents can easily afford to do this, however I cannot. It was a serious financial hardship to take on and I will be paying off for the next several months.
49. I don't have as much awareness as I should about DEI and sustainability within the school system, so I rated as just right, but it's more because I'm uninformed on this. The others feel just right, with the exception that I don't feel we get enough communication re: our child specifically.
50. In the high school, the "honors" classes, especially in the math department have an assumption that the kids should be able to self-teach the material. My **** **** teacher would be gone for a week at time this year and then come back and administer an exam with little to no instruction on the material. **** could meet with **** at lunch, but if you asked most kids about their experiences you would hear that honors courses are treated more like an independent study. While fostering independence and growth is certainly part of moving through high school, greater emphasis should be put

on having kids learn and master the material, rather than the sink or swim attitude that pervades Hanover High.

51. The middle school lunch/recess period is too short.
52. I'm not a fan of the new block schedule. I wish student were seeing teachers more regularly, and that the block schedule didn't leave students with big gaps of time. It seems to be very inefficient.
53. The focus of administration should be on effective curriculum development and then holding classroom teachers accountable for effectively executing that curriculum. There shouldn't be a huge delta of academic achievement between classrooms in the same school and same grade.
54. My **** would love to do sports if it wasn't 5 days a week intensely- **** has a job- so any kid that needs to work can't participate.
55. There have been times when our HHS student struggled academically in a given course. It would have been helpful for the teacher to have included the parents in a discussion, or at least cc'ed the parents in an email notifying the student about concerning test scores, missing assignments, etc.
56. Counselors do not appear to be motivated to apply more direction in the early academic years
57. Eliminate DEI communication and pressure for adherence to the "choose your gender", pronoun and what seems to be LGBTQIA grooming from our public school. Parents can teach basic kindness and care for each other at home. Not the place for school.
58. I can only speak about RMS and RAY school
59. MCS needs a consistent curriculum for ELA across grade levels. When new teachers come in there is nothing for them to refer to, to ensure quality instruction.
60. I would love to see more time dedicated to world language instruction in the early grades. We are missing an opportunity at a key developmental stage. Current programs are great for exposure to language, but more time would help kids actually learn a new language and build empathy and curiosity about new cultures at an early age. I firmly believe that a language should be part of our core academics (as in many countries) rather than a "special."
61. I would have liked to move the slider between the answers but wasn't able to.
62. It seemed this year that staffing levels were impacting the availability of school counseling staff' they were spread quite thin
63. I had no idea the Hartford Tech program was open for applications until I randomly sent **** ** guidance counselor (****) an email that I was considering non-college options for **** **. Had I not sent that email, we would have missed the deadline for the programs but **** wasted no time telling me how lucky **** ** should feel that **** got in (clearly I do not like this ****). A lot of school counselors/advisors seem clueless on how to advise families who cannot afford to pay for college expenses out-of-pocket OR who refuse to send their kid to college with loans. All of the advice I continue to get is that a lot of colleges are Test Optional. **** ** ** psychologist had to calm me down after I told him about the many **** people in paid positions to "advise" yet they are telling me not to sweat the SAT/ACT exam because it causes undue stress anyways. They lack the ability to understand ALL families and ALL income situations in

their school. It's very ignorant so I spend a lot of time talking to **** ** people about the **** ** people at this affluent high school.

64. as coursework becomes more difficult support center are less able to be helpful
65. There are many wonderful things about HHS, however, we were disappointed in the lack of support around transition out of high school. Limited information was provided to us as parents and when asked, we were told it's up to our child to figure things out.
66. I strongly feel that sexual orientation/transgender, etc should not be discussed so heavily in the schools. My kids feel like a minority to be "straight" or that it's not "cool" to be straight. There was one instance where **** ** were being **** ** and **** ** did not want to **** ** and felt singled out because of that. I feel way too much emphasis is being put on this subject.
67. Some of these I wish there was a N/A option because they don't apply to us yet (e.g. athletics at school) or we haven't needed them
68. Too much homework/stress for students in the high school specifically. Other schools at the lower levels have a better balance.
69. It takes a really long time for the school to recognize the needs of children who are not performing up to expectations, and the services provided to not seem to line up with the actual needs of the students in some cases.
70. Wish there was apex here. Maybe there is but not for younger grades? My child says school is easy some ways there is time spent to challenge him but other times it seems not
71. "too little" in environmental sustainability because A) I don't know about this aspect, and B) one cannot possibly do too much right now.
72. As previously covered. Has a more Japanese style of education been considered?
73. My child, who was a struggling reader, received the bulk of **** reading instruction from an untrained para. I was under the impression that **** was seeing a reading specialist.
74. "Critical Thinking" is being replaced in schools by "thinking using "Critical Theory." The word "critical" does not mean the same thing here. "CRITICAL THINKING" uses reason, logic, data and science when examining assumptions and beliefs. "CRITICAL PEDAGOGY" teaches the learner to think through the neo-Marxist lens of "CRITICAL THEORY" which makes assertions without evidence (e.g., "all racial inequity is caused solely by racism"); is subjective and anti-intellectual; and is unable to defend its assertions with reason, logic, data or science but relies instead on using the logical fallacy of ad hominem attacks to silence critics (e.g., "if you disagree with CRT, DEI, etc, then you have bias, or you are being racist, or you are enacting whiteness and "privilege-preserving epistemic pushback", and/or you are exhibiting white supremacy and white fragility.") We need to stop with the indoctrination of this neo-Marxist religion into our schools and stop attempting to program our children into becoming Socialist activists.
75. Culturally responsive education/multiculturalism seeks to divide our students into tribes, "balkanized" by race and ethnicity instead of recognizing the richness of our varying traditions while unifying our students in the celebration of the "melting pot of American culture" that we are all Americans, E pluribus Unum, "Out of many, one."

Tribalism is pre-civilizational. Reducing Americans to identity groups is toxic and divisive.

76. It is well-known in our community that SAU70 schools are failing disabled students. Students in need of supports are not receiving them. Inclusion of disabled students is not consistently practiced in our schools, in spite of decades-old federal legislation mandating it, endless research supporting inclusion in education, and full endorsement of inclusion by the National Association of State Boards of Education, the United Nations and other entities. Children are receiving instruction in special education classrooms because teachers refuse to include them in the general education classroom. Outdoor spaces are not accessible and non-inclusive, indoor spaces lack appropriate accessibility features and require disabled students to move about the building separate from their peers. It is discriminatory and inequitable. It is outrageous and cruel. Why aren't we doing anything about it? How can we allow this group of already vulnerable children being treated like this? Our SAU administrators should be ashamed of themselves. Please conduct an independent third-party review of this issue with urgency.
77. On a different note, coaches should go through specific training and monitored. Specifically for the mental health and well being of players, for instance a JR or SR trying out for Varsity, but making JV, can be devastating. When they get the news by email - there is not professional support for how this news will affect them.
78. These features were not working for me and would only allow me to choose the labeled spots, not anywhere else on the range.
79. The lack of homework is worrisome. Simply, we are worried that our kids are not developing the discipline to come home and work hard on academic subjects. This is a critical skill.
80. We're in early grade at Ray so have limited insight into many of these topics.
81. there is very little communication or feedback from teachers, even when kids are doing work incorrectly. Also, THERE IS NO CURRICULUM!!!
82. I appreciate that **** * received additional academic support when needed.
83. We hired a literacy tutor for our child because he was having such problems reading, even with school services. We pay almost \$1,000/month to our child's tutor.
84. At the upper elementary level: I would like more feedback about how my child is doing during parent teacher conferences. I don't need constant updates, but the information provided during conferences needs to be more comprehensive.
85. For those not qualifying for a 504 but need help, especially with executive function skills, the schools could do more. There are year long (but short daily time) curriculums that could be focused on during guided / supported study halls.
86. Support for teachers? (Did you know they work extra every week as subs are not paid at a level that attracts people).
87. Really miss one on one teachers conferences
88. I am a teacher, so I am not sure I should answer the questions about availability of curriculum, assistance, etc.
89. The RTN program is superfluous, and not necessary - Counseling, at-risk Counselor, school psychologist, teachers, 504 and SpEd, along with study hall provide more than enough time and resources already.

90. When our child has had great teachers, then I don't worry that there is no formal curriculum. When our child had a not-so-great teacher, we worried and asked for the curriculum. The curriculum offered was less informed than the teacher we didn't like. I encourage you to hire and keep great teachers. Let the others go.
91. Our child is well supported when she does well and well supported when she needed extra help.
92. So much emphasis is placed on academic success and athletics.
93. Academic assistance for 3rd grade and up is now the responsibility of the teacher (as is my understanding) and I believe that my student and likely others would benefit for assistance outside the classroom. It is simply too much to add to the teachers already full plate. I haven't seen curriculum and would not know where to access it and also would like to know when and what testing (state and otherwise) is taking place ahead of the school year, if possible.
94. COVID related information was great during most of the pandemic, but I was disappointed by the large tapering off of COVID case reports in recent months.
95. I feel like the school does not sufficiently challenge kids who excel
96. By "additional academic assistance", I meant offering more challenging materials.
97. YA, give people that do theatre a freaking award!!! it was the extracurricular activity that took the most time and effort! and i played two other sports!!!!!!!!!!
98. I would like parent teacher conferences with my middle school child, at least once a year.
99. Open campus at the high school gives kids too much freedom for poor choices; maybe reserve for upper class men or seniors only
100. I feel that the Ray school and high school do great on communication but that individual teachers at RMS need to be more proactive in engaging parents
101. Updated website look did not include updated info. Out of date (and sparse) kindergarten curriculum info
102. For younger children, I think fewer but longer recess periods would be great. Let them really spend some time getting into imagination play, esp in K-2.
103. i think there maybe too much emphasis on gender expression particularly for 6th graders who should just be able to "be". i worry they may feel pressure to express something that they are either other aware of or not yet ready to be public about. perhaps they shouldn't feel compelled to "choose" a pronoun while they are just discovering themselves
104. For an environment of high academic achievement like Hanover, a lot of information necessary to excel (within reason) is not readily available.
105. I find it hard to give one answer for all 3 schools. For example, I think the homework and intensity at the HS are different from the elementary schools. Homework at the HS seems to be the way to measure rigor. I would like less homework with regard to quantity and a greater focus on quality
106. I understand that you're limited in what you can do for COVID mitigation, and I appreciate everything you've been able to do. I said there's too little DEI and sustainability efforts because those are two areas where we all need to do so much more, not because of any complaints about the important work you ARE doing!

107. Inadequate communication from administration about change in priorities from arts/foreign language toward literacy and math, I don't understand why there are such big cuts to the arts and French, even if there are literacy problems in young kids because of COVID. That shouldn't affect my older child's ability to take French. I also think we should be following CDC guidance about indoor masking when COVID levels are high since we are a Vermont school and could have required masks again like Hartford did.
108. Please don't sacrifice "specials" to add even more time to math. Parents should bear some responsibility for reading and math. Most parents cannot realistically make up the gap in art, music, and foreign languages.
109. Far (!) too much reliance on Chrome books and online/video work. Is HHS receiving money from Google? Feels our kids have been sold to silicon valley.
110. Kids should be hw that supports what they did in school. A small amount is needed to teach the kids to balance work and play. Each grade should have book clubs
111. Reducing homework in middle school makes the transition to high school more difficult. Too much "homework" is done in class, wasting class time. My child was bored in middle school; it was too easy for her.
112. In my experience when my students have used supports they have worked well. I am concerned about the access to supports since I receive so little information about my children's progress from the school.
113. Too much focus on political agendas, not enough on giving our kids a well balanced, strong academic foundation
114. I don't have much/if any experience with access/availability/effectiveness of academic assistance
115. It is hard to answer the first one since I think there is too much focus on sports and too little on theater/music. There is no dance at the school. Students can't combine sports with performing arts, and sports are "cooler." As mentioned before students with strong academic skills who have learning disabilities frequently do not get the resources they need because they do not fit neatly into the way 504s are designed and you have to fight too hard to get an IEP.
116. As a parent at HHS, I've never been invited to meet with any teacher working with my student, nor with the guidance staff as part of routine college counseling. It's a "closed door" message, one that I'm not inclined to disrupt.... but, shouldn't someone from the school have had some level of contact with me in the past 3 years???
117. At HHS, the guidance counselors are wonderful. The one issue I have is that all of the college-related information (looking at schools, understanding Scoir, etc.) and those meetings happened too late in my opinion. Why would those meetings not happen earlier in a student's HS experience so they know how to plan ahead for Jr./Sr. year events? I think having those meetings Jr. year is way too late. Sophomore year, parents and students should be given a heads-up on -- this is what you should be doing! Not every parent has had an older child go through this before. I think the school and counselors may assume parents are "in the know" and many are not. This is an important area that should be focused on starting in the earlier HS years.
118. responses vary by school. RMS does better than the Ray School on all these metrics.

119. I answered "too much" on the extracurriculars question, with my personal focus specifically re Athletics. I actually love the breadth of athletic offerings, but to our family it has been clear over the years that teams get way more attention than say, the music program, or other group activities not sport. From newsletter commentary on sport achievements through spending on coaches but not robust music teacher replacement, we think there is some rebalancing needed.
120. Hanover is underperforming. Compare to similar schools in northeast, they are sub par. Taxes are high. What's going on?
121. We do not have the staff to support all of our growing needs at the school.
122. the emphasis on theater/athletics as lumped together was hard to answer as there is a lot about sports and not a lot about arts
123. School communication is often disorganized and/or repetitive. The weekly newsletter could be mostly replaced by a link to a well-maintained events calendar on the web and a well-maintained resources page on the web, and then the weekly update could focus on the most important messages for the week.
124. I wish indoor masking was mandatory. I also would prefer if Jay Badams communication reverted back to when he reported when cases occurred at the various schools on a more regularly basis rather than sporadically the way he does now. I know most people seem to have accepted the inevitability of covid transmission, but I don't think that has to be the case at the schools.
125. I'm not sure if I'm supposed to be able to slide the dot on these scales to indicate nuance- I can only click on too little, just right, or too much just FYI
126. March Intensive offerings are very limited and do not generate the interest/excitement that they did in year's past. This is leading to families planning their own March Intensives, which defeats the purpose.
127. Students do not have equitable access to courses due to the inherent rigor in most classes and the lack of differentiation to allow access to students with a broad range of abilities. Greater differentiation is needed across the academic curriculum.
128. communication from administrators and teachers has always been clear and easy to follow for us. we are truly thankful for the clear and consistent communication throughout covid
129. It is difficult to convey only one rating for schools that range K-12. The middle school and elementary school do not give too much homework, but the high school does.
130. There is no information about what Hanover High courses are offered when during course selection periods
131. No available parking- too much pressure (teachers/coaches/ peer) for athletic expectations
132. I know the district's hands are tied with masking requirements and such, but I miss the daily Covid updates and those should come back. The perceived secrecy is odd and irritating, particularly since it's implied that the district is still tracking the info.
133. I believe many of the absence related issues would be dramatically improved by masking. It works and there is little evidence that it negatively impacts education or

socialization. also again the septic issue is a health hazard. We need sewers in these modern times.

134. Too much focus on minorities/ serious lack of concern for student mental health (not applicable at RMs)
135. I have not had the opportunity to interact with any of my students teachers
136. These sound like questions for parents, not staff.
137. MCS's plan to reduce specials needs to be discussed with families. I don't think most families would support it. Also, I don't support cutting French, but I WOULD support a plan to replace it over time with Spanish, which is spoken by so many more people in our country and world than French is.
138. The above sliders do not work. I was not able to change the values.
139. based on my previous comment. The academic rigor and curriculum is appropriate, it's the approach to teaching kids how to learn and the reasons for learning. We need to take a more holistic approach as opposed to it being about the grades or points. It would be good to have a good balance between hands on vocational skills and traditional academic courses. I understand that can be a challenge, but we're seeing kids graduate from high school with absolutely no skills or purpose.
140. #6. It is silly to group athletics and theater together. Athletics are celebrated and have ample resources devoted to them. The performing arts are neglected by comparison.
141. I had a hard time moving the slider dot. I seemed to be only able to get it to the extreme sides or right in the middle. For most of my answers "Just Right" is accurate. The extreme too much or too little should be less extreme.
142. All year we've had teachers ignoring school policies about masking and other covid related issues. Some of these were brought to the school administration but nothing was done. Teachers who don't follow school policies can not effectively enforce them among students.
143. Pressure to succeed - too little emphasis on choices students could make other than college. DEI efforts: are your teachers and staff educated about this? Students too. Understanding could help a lot - and not just with LGBTQ, also with understanding for kids on the spectrum. Additional academic assistance - Not clear to me how to get that, arrange for a tutor, etc.
144. Unfortunately the button wouldn't slide to an intermediate place on the scale, so my responses only reflect extreme end of too much or too little.
145. HHS HW way overboard. HHS policy of if athletic bus comes in by 11pm or midnight you still have to do all HW due next day is too much -- when athletes travels sometimes 2+ hours each way after school for games; Athletics and Academic staff really need to collaborate and not put students in middle of untenable situations and choices (e.g., you can't miss a game for the academic field trip or you'll be benched.".."
146. I think the Ray school is a wonderful place for our children
147. Can't comment about academic assistance from my perspective. Regarding communication, teacher communication at MCS is excellent but **** is too limited, **** is implementing changes without engaging parents in conversation to help understand the reasons for changes and without soliciting any feedback

148. Related not to lunch but snack. I was surprise when my child came home early in the year and told us that there was no snack time built into the day (MCS). I think they were to eat during class or take class time to eat. It seems to promote unhealthy habits of the way we look at food and work that the school and/or school schedule does not support kids to take a break and eat, socialize, and recompose. Was it teachers and/or administration that came up with this plan?
149. Balance is important. Kids need to have time to breathe, connect in person and smile. Time outside of the classroom is important.
150. We have never seen the inside of the schools because of COVID restrictions (and our child is a young elementary student). It would be nice to have a time set aside for a tour and also to have families welcomed back into the physical classrooms again.
151. Sports are nuts. You want to do something about equity?- End FSA and stop allowing Friends groups to accept donations. It is embarrassing to watch a school board meeting when DEI is discussed and then thousands of dollars are accepted to fund Crew. The SAU and Board's self awareness is lacking. Is it true the SAU is hiring a pt physical therapist for 100+k? Oh yea, you care about equity...
152. Due to staffing shortages and challenges, academic assistance has not always been available or consistent.
153. It's very difficult to find tutors or extra time for teachers to work with students if the student has a full schedule.
154. I'm not sure how effectibe additional academic assistance is because we were not able/didn't know we could access it
155. teachers comments are quite limited and sometimes nonexistent it would be helpful for the student to receive more feedback more than one sentence or two per year.
156. So glad they now have lunch at HHS. Keep that!
157. Children on IEPs for **** * are very ill-served by the classroom teachers and special education services provided at MCS. Switching to a seven day schedule (as proposed) doesn't address the sub-standard instruction many kids are getting in ELA. There is no coherent vision of how to raise reading scores and no leadership that parents can see on this subject. It's not just the educational assistants who are (often shockingly) untrained to provide instruction. The whole system needs overhauling. It shouldn't be that families have to fight so hard for their children. Many parents don't even know there is a problem. It seems like the district wants to put the burden on individual kids and/or pretend there is nothing wrong.
158. It seems that some of the assessments and assignments are pretty antiquated. Current best practices encourage students to evaluate themselves and get feedback on standards and skills...not points. The point system ends up rewarding some things that do not have to do with learning standards/skills
159. WIN and PAL programs are very successful for my child.
160. We need regular math homework at the elementary level--not conceptual but more practice problems

161. I cannot understand why parent/teacher conferences don't exist at the middle and high school levels. This makes no sense. In order to interact with a teacher I have to break the flow of their work week. Why?

Q23: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q22: What are the current most pressing academic needs within our schools?*

212 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 153 answers

1. Yes. None of the responses were close to what we are concerned about. Frankly, there have been too many changes away from the whole-child approach at MCS from before the pandemic, too much focus on reading and math, reductions in the French and other specials curricula (understanding that those subjects are not electives but are key to helping a child learn how to learn, not just do well on tests). Further, effective communication before making sweeping changes is not occurring, and the isolation holding over from the pandemic as well as a loss of institutional memory has made it difficult to keep parents apprised of changes; further, once very-well integrated communications between school and parent has become fragmented such that we feel we have to react to unwanted changes v. being part of the development of the curriculum for our kids as we had experienced prior to the pandemic.
2. It might be nice to have more flexibility in tracks, so that one can tailor letâ€™s say an art class with the traditional academic curriculum. Right now it does not seem possible
3. additional 1x1 support would be very helpful after school
4. Given Covid, so many kids became secluded, and now can get lost and hide in larger classrooms. They need a smaller class/group to be more engaged and have it dialogue oriented. Many kids have a hard time communicated today - given Covid reclusiveness and phones
5. Balance the academic rigor between classes. Some are far more rigorous than others. This comment applies to courses that, in theory, should be roughly equal in rigor (e.g., Honors).
6. there are major unknowns about what the true picture of what is happening within the academic landscape, and how we compare. i'd like a clearer picture. what has been most intriguing and powerful, in the past, has been MCS's effort to use the most current methodology as guidance in school planning. i'm not sure that is still the case. we seem to be leaving behind "best practises" to invest in older educational ideas. why is that? is that, in fact, what's happening? that's what it looks like. it seems that play is being minimized, as well as alternate learning avenues, in favor of a math and ELA only focus, begrudgingly including specials. is this so? if so, why?
7. would be nice to have more time for foreign language, and more foreign language options available

8. I would rather have some standardized options with larger class sizes (e.g. everyone does regular chemistry with larger class sizes, rather than break it into the 3 levels, then offer more electives with fewer students). The current focus is on remedial, regular and honors classes rather than actually getting kids to enjoy what is being taught. It's ok if the honors kids sit in regular classes-they can seek enrichment from elsewhere. The honors classes make the non-honors kids feel like they're not as worthy even though some of the kids in regular classes are capable of honors work but choose not to because the intensity of those classes is just insane (and many students are getting tutoring to achieve at that level).
9. Lack of afternoon programs overall
10. As a teacher we have been working to hone the math curriculum. It would be nice to also see effort put into planning consistency of curriculum taught in the areas of science/social studies.
11. Everything feels fine but I disagree with recent curriculum decrease in French and specials
12. please add Spanish to MCS. and more tutoring availability than just before school.
13. Too much pressure for after school activities (clubs and athletic)
14. I wish French lessons are still provided
15. We offer many great activities across MCS but that causes time to be tight with regard to core academic areas; That said, the scheduling committee is working on the Fall 2022 Schedule and has already made improvements.
16. Please explain the math differences between MCS and RMS students. Several of the MCS students are ahead of the Hanover students and take Geo as 8th graders while majority of Hanover kids take Geo in 9th grade
17. More hands-on science. More writing. More math games and engagement.
18. too much academic work
19. 9th grade Social Studies curriculum should be an introduction to Social Studies and NOT so focused on history and note-taking.
20. I only want more summer opportunities because I don't know what is happening academically
21. More opportunities for choice. Project Based Learning. Hands on exploration and meaningful activities in High School. We have a district where we can be more innovative in our instruction. Kids should have experiences like Genius Hour.
22. History classes need to expand offerings about global history (e.g. Asian, Latin American, African) in addition to European/N American history.
23. Grade inflation is a real problem (and it actually contributes to the stress and pressure)
24. please do something about Methods H have more than **** *. Please access how inline this course is within the science departments' other course offerings.
25. Our experience with the teachers in the Ray School has been phenomenal! At each grade level, the teacher(s) have been wonderful and inspiring! Our child could not be more excited about school because of the teachers!
26. Please add spanish language instruction to MCS.
27. During Covid we were disappointed with the reduced time allotted to specials at MCS; hope that does not continue.

28. more academic support programs integrated with the school system(s) and teachers would be very helpful
29. My impression is that some subjects can be more challenging, provided there are options for students who struggle to access more support.
30. Nearly all of your survey categories or questions are biased to those who might need "more time" or "more support" ... what about the children who are really ready to learn, really ready to go beyond the average? How about the opportunity for additional resources or pathways for them?
31. It concerns me when I hear of children in our school system that are struggling with learning yet have not been identified with an IEP. Hanover, has no excuse whatsoever why any child in our system should not be receiving all the help necessary to be as successful as possible. We can do better.
32. Need to teach Chinese, Arabic and other important world languages
33. Some summer academic options would be nice for those of us whose children experience significant learning loss due to LD
34. Again, not being in the classroom, I do not have an informed opinion.
35. More instructional time - there is a lot of fluff. The extracurriculars are great - but there is a regrettable amount of time spent doing non-academic, non-deliberate extracurricular activity.
36. One-on-one instruction, summer and after-school academic availability would have been GREAT this year after the past 2+ years dealing with a serious lack of academic instruction especially with the remote learning during Covid. My child would have greatly benefitted from these this year. Now **** * with a substantial academic deficit.
37. My kids are high school and beyond, but I really still burn from the full cutover from French in the grammar school to Spanish. I felt like there was not enough discussion and we thought it was an addition rather than full cutover. Was not done in the right way, I would have voted to keep the French program in place, with optional cutover to Spanish if resources allowed for both.
38. More language options would be great. Also Latin should be available.
39. I haven't been happy with the math curriculum--it's either way too rigorous or way too easy, and my kids have gotten caught in the gap in the middle. I also think, based on college survey data, that more students should be required to take classes that serve them better (such as statistics). I'm also troubled by how French is being phased out (starting now at the elementary schools).
40. There should be a category labeled "other". Students are graduating from HHS without a basic understanding of climate change, its implications for their future, and understanding how the choices they could make impact the sustainability of their future. This generation will be facing significant issues regarding the ability to grow food and access clean water. All the skills and knowledge they acquire throughout high school will not be of much use if they don't know how to live on a planet with finite resources.
41. the experiences between different teachers is just so wide. some are excellent communicators, others not. Some are really great with inclusivity, including in learning

style, others are awful. We have a student who went from loving **** and being considered gifted elsewhere to literally wanting to end their life because a teacher was so critical of their need to take time and have quiet to do ****. We had a different teacher start the year out with what the teacher later described to me as a middle school **** problem but given with no context to **** grade students. This led our student to think - again - that they were somehow not good enough, but it was an impossible problem to solve. I spoke with the teacher who said they wanted to build resilience in the students, but setting everyone up to fail at the outset with no context and no support in the immediate time following (more than a week went by before the teacher told the students) is not a good way to build confidence for a community of students who have been through a complete mess due to covid. That said, we have had other teachers who take this same student and our other student and give them the space to be who they are and learn as they find most effective and our kids have thrived in those years. The difference between teachers who understand how to foster a range of students vs those who want to fit students into boxes is just heartbreaking and its miserable when your student is stuck with a teacher who demeans and fails to support a student.

42. Consistent, standardized curriculum that is SUPERVISED. Teachers must be held accountable for effectively executing the curriculum.
43. There continue to be an insufficient number of elective courses available to allow underclassmen to take electives of interest. There is disparity between teachers in terms of quality, procedure, attention to detail, responsiveness, and commitment.
44. GPA needs to be weighted
45. Students should not have homework over the long breaks. Teachers have (insincerely) given deadlines one day after break yet saying no homework was assigned during the break.
46. There should be less french instruction to allow for more time for ELA.
47. I only say academic rigor with respect to math. **** **** had amazing math instruction at two **** schools. MCS math done with online programs / games at MCS was a big step backwards. Overall though, I think **** has had a wonderful academic experience. And, the social piece of school is the most important in elementary school.
48. As above-- comments for RMS only. Also, the option to do more electives in 6th grade rather than study hall would be good, as they have essentially no homework so study hall was not very useful. The old elective system for 6th graders was preferred to the new assigned electives with study halls.
49. Social studies at HHS could be have more standardized curriculum and assessment across teachers
50. Unsure how to answer this since every child has different unique needs.
51. it would be helpful to have support before or after school
52. Again, the high school rigor seems out of control difficult at times. Too much homework (why does a child need to be up past midnight doing homework?) and why does my child have homework during every break? There is no balance with home/personal/vacations/ and school work. The rigor is way too much.
53. HHS needs more courses in computer science, programming and coding.

54. Some students take certain classes with specific teachers because they know that class will be easier with that teacher. Make the rigor consistent
55. No available space in the most popular electives (e.g. woodworking)
56. Some more optional online summer work might be cool!
57. Ray School- Too much pressure to meet standards rather than maturity level of the children
58. Year round school should be mandatory not optional. The time expended at the beginning of each school year "bringing the student back to level" is horrifying as there is a we've got to move on anxiety in the teachers. Having teachers go on paid sabbaticals is ridiculous at this level. Months off doesn't occur in other sectors. Having months off causes problems in other businesses, all the employees want summer vacations, etc. School hours as well as number of days should be increased.
59. There must be a consistent language arts curriculum. It's ridiculous that the teachers are not held accountable to a specific curriculum. As a result, some teachers are choosing what they want to teach
60. Amount of homework assigned is too much
61. I worry that by passing on AP courses we are making it hard for colleges to distinguish the rigor of classes our students take. In an era of SAT becoming optional we are making admissions much more difficult for our kids if we don't rank and make it hard to distinguish the difficulty of the curriculum
62. Too many of our students are falling through the cracks
63. The homework load seems to be teacher dependent, more monitoring of what teachers are assigning, especially Honors vs non Honor classes in the same subject. What is the objective for all the homework?
64. I vote for more focus on SEL and life skills, especially at the elementary level. Ray does a good job of this, but I do not want to be focusing on academic achievement with my <10 y/o children.
65. Please don't change the MCS specials and French program so drastically without community input. We have had an amazing community school with lots of special things.
66. Why aren't AP classes offered?
67. It would be nice to have Spanish and German available, in addition to French, and native speakers when possible.
68. Not enough time to play outside
69. Afterschool services would help
70. There needs to be more done for those not pursuing college after high school, more for those that have delayed engagement, curriculums need to be expanded each year (sometimes it just seems repetitive). I'd like to see more languages taught that can be useful (Chinese, Russian, Arabic). I'd also like to see community service required of graduates.
71. I wish more time was spent on a particular topic in a class to dive deep into conversations and discussions about that topic, rather than skimming the surface on many different topics.

72. Please support the French program so that it can be successful. The two classes in seven days is NOT sufficient to have a successful program. Spanish is a more relevant language to learn in the US right now. Switch language to Spanish. Keep the LEEEP program, it is wonderful.
73. Offer everyday Physical Education, even on a trial basis so kids could choose everyday or two days a week.
74. Not sure about the block program at the High School. Have they determined the reasons we are better off with the new schedule versus the old? It seems harder to make schedules work for students.
75. I think HHS kids spend too much time at sports which takes too much time away from academic rigor which is ultimately more in their long term interest. Would like to see more academic club offerings after school....not just sports, theater, music options.
76. My child is in first grade, so I don't feel like I'm able to accurately address this question
77. I think we need alignment of curriculum (if that's what is meant by "standardized"). And by "classroom" size, if "class size" means the number of students in a class, I think we should keep a close watch on class sizes.
78. Provide AP courses at the high school.
79. Spend any available resources on getting and keeping great teachers. Let the others find another school.
80. distinct disciplines seem archaic. modern education seems to be cross disciplinary and project based.
81. Please add more foreign languages.
82. I would like for all school days to last until 3:10. Having one school day that ends an hour earlier is very challenging from a scheduling perspective and seems like a missed opportunity for learning.
83. Honors classes are not serving the kids that are not top performers. They should be AP equivalent to be useful and if a grade is not high enough there should be an option for conversion to regular course grade.
84. Balance of curriculum should be adjusted toward more relevance to the world and critical thinking development. The French program at MCS is very ineffective. The children watch videos and play games most of the time, and aren't learning French.
85. GPA needs to be weighted based upon honors vs regular classes.
86. academic rigor differs depending on the teacher and more consistency would be an improvement
87. "Average" classes are not average: too hard. Particularly the history classes. Focus on student skill development, less on content-driven curriculum. The Harvard US History case study program should be taught in an honors class, not general US History. It's not accessible enough for average students who are trying to build skills and learn history.
88. As a parent I have very little visibility into what is being taught.
89. The school district has done a lousy job with thinking through the earlier introduction of Spanish. The highest places kids who weren't native speakers placed out of one year of high school Spanish after 5 years of instruction at Ray and Richmond; 5 years should amount to more than that!

90. Seems like the right balance this year; worried about planned changes for next year that don't match academic data presented at board meetings (academics are maintaining consistent high levels by TMP, but claim is that they are worsening so more time needed for literacy and math)
91. If we are to have 1.5 foreign language teachers, it would be nice to expand our offerings for the older students to provide them with a choice of French or Spanish/Chinese. This would also speak to our current school community, which includes several native Chinese and Spanish speakers.
92. I appreciate SO MUCH this school's progressive homework policy and emphasis on wellbeing over academic rigor. No test or coursework or academic pressure could better prepare our kids to excel in life than this solid social-emotional foundation you are helping them to build.
93. Specials are not superfluous. Students need this time to be energized for so-called core subjects.
94. There is no cohesive curriculum which all of you reading this are aware of.
95. Additional options for faster-paced classes (or optional challenge assignments), especially in 8th and 9th grades, would be great.would be
96. I have three concerns: 1. proposed cutting of MCS French program 2. planned consolidation of math 7 and pre-algebra at RMS 3. confusing transition from MCS to RMS (math). There needs to be more coordination of math efforts from MCS to RMS around math placement and instruction. I have been very pleased with the MCS instruction. However RMS and MCS used different placement processes for 7th grade and combined the math 7 and pre-algebra. After my **** lack luster experience with the RMS **** teacher (**** depended on the resident/assistance teach for instruction) I am worried about the ability to actually differentiate appropriately within the combined class. Pre-algebra and math 7 require very different kinds of support for students who learn math easily and those who need more time and remediation. I am also very concerned about the reduction in French time for MCS students in favor of other subjects. The french program is award winning, engaging and most of all fun for students. There should be a way to balance the need for remedial language arts instruction without decimating this program!
97. Would love more options to enhance learning, even for high achievers
98. our child is 9 so we don't have a lot to go on. We have loved the Ray school
99. Change the required curriculum to allow for more flexibility within subjects so students have more options for electives instead of following a "track." Redefine rigor as depth instead of piling on the workload. Provide more arts options.
100. The overt STEM-focus of the high school is reflected in the lack of high-rigor/honors classes in Social Studies and the limited availability of honors classes in English.
101. I realize this has been discussed by Council already, but it would be really nice if more Honors courses/options existed in English and Social Studies. Not every student is on a Math/Science Honors track.
102. My daughter seems to share lots of work that seems that does not seem to have a purpose. She also does some fantatsic things, but when the work does not have

a purpose she does it to get points and keep her grades up...which is not what we should be instilling in our kids

103. Civics Courses
104. I would not change the academic situation dramatically. I think the curriculum and workload (which is more visible at RMS) is appropriate. I hope that there is a district wide availability for standardized test prep starting in high school (PSAT, SAT etc.)
105. I hear and understand many friends re either too much academic rigor or too much pressure. I understand, but i actually think the high school does a tremendous job of balancing value of higher level work while not over-pressuring. I think the overall academic balance is actually superb for a school of our size.
106. Underperforming schools. Have to do better
107. our tracking makes success in math and science a label of success in school in general. We need to be careful there.
108. Over reliance on videos in electives like music and physical education
109. I also want to add optional after school assistance.
110. Why are students being taught french and german? Can we please other languages that are spoken far more commonly in the world, such as Mandarin or Arabic?
111. I think there should be consistency with grading, curriculum, and to some degree teaching style within same level classes (for instance **** *). We had an issue this year with this that resulted in 2 very different grades when our child merely switched classes.
112. My children have taken honors courses at the high school and these at times feel too rigorous. But when they stepped down to not take honors, they weren't challenged. Could the school either increase the rigor in the mid-level or decrease the rigor in honors? It feels like there's a happy medium that could be created!
113. I really think MCS students should have the option to learn Spanish.
114. seems to be very high demand at our school for after-school extracurriculars, would love to see PTO and parents play more role in helping run after school enrichment programs
115. The elective staffing cuts have really limited the electives students can take and the options available.
116. Hanover High should offer more life skills training. It should offer more vocational training. The few slots available to HHS students at HACTC are insufficient. Not all HHS students are destined for college. HHS focuses too much on the high achievers and not enough on students who will not be going to 4 year colleges.
117. Need more hands on classes about real life
118. The whole Ray Spanish and Marion Cross French thing just seems odd. Some sort of historical quirk that needs to be rectified and moved on. Between the two of them, Spanish seems much more obvious.
119. It is not normal that the school does not have weighted
120. I would like there to be AP courses at HHS

121. Bring back French. We live close to Quebec and the vast majority of our kids will never become good enough at Spanish to make it economically useful to them. They are much more likely to visit Quebec.
122. "Classroom sizes" implies that the actual classrooms are too small; I assume you mean class size. There is nothing in here about support for classroom teachers. It very much feels like the SAU, Admin, Student service, department heads, student supports services (sped etc)and guidance are not supportive of the teachers. It very much feels like "us" against "them". Also what does this mean?"Condense the required curriculum: Not enough time for each subject". Teachers have had to give up a great deal of curriculum for things like lunch, advisory, circle, block scheduling, etc. No one seems to understand that, and there is a sense from those not in the classroom that teachers need to give up more.
123. Do not cut French unless you are replacing it with a rigorous, time-intensive Spanish program. And remember that "specials" are also academic; music is a different kind of math and reading; French is a different kind of speaking, listening, reading and writing; art is a different kind of expression and appreciation. I do not want MCS to reduce the joy and diversity of its offerings for more English language desk work!
124. I very much like the idea of offering summer, afterschool, or one on one academic support. But this should only be for kids who are mid range or falling behind and need a little bit more support. I know my child struggles with math and is okay, but would benefit from a little one on one or other support to help her with them with their self esteem. Just like we offer access to our over achieving kids to take classes at Dartmouth, we should offer the alternative for those who actually need help and would benefit from the extra support/review afterschool or the summer.
125. #22. There have been far too many classes for my children that have been uninspired. There have also been classes that are tedious but not rigorous. What a waste of their time.
126. Teachers and students will be happier and more effective if we can make classes smaller.
127. Be careful that kids doing "just fine" are not falling through the cracks. They should have the extra help they need to truly succeed and shine. Both academically and socially.
128. MCS curriculum in math and foreign language is just not rigorous. Kids are far behind their Hanover peers.
129. I'm concerned about the differences in foreign language programs between Ray/RMS and MCS, not necessarily the difference in the languages being taught but in the approach and proposed instructional time (too little time at MCS)
130. Please bring back Camp Coyote.
131. I don't have any academic concerns, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
132. I don't wish to provide more information about my responses to the previous question
133. Please see my response to question #4. Thanks-

134. Treat specials as core academics. It's vital kids have more time with Art, Language, PE; we have to get creative and better integrate these subjects.
135. Any option for after school care or summer care is incredibly helpful for families with full-time working parents. KAST has been great so far, but we wish there were more options.
136. Pigeon hole that we have to select three, should be up to 3.
137. The equity of world language options is an issue. Students from Norwich do not have the ability to make it as far with Spanish as the Hanover kids can with French at RMS. Hanover kids only take Spanish at Ray, and then have the option to switch in 6th grade, therefore taking 3 years of French at RMS. MCS students all take French, and can only switch when they come over in 7th grade, therefore, only making it through Spanish 2 at RMS.
138. Too much hand holding. The mental health of teens is in the dumps because we can not hold their hands enough. Very fragile generation and our schools are promoting this message of fragility by offering too much hand holding. We have moved from helicopter parents to helicopter educators.
139. Increase foreign language in K-6
140. More effective teaching in class would be appreciated. Sometimes it seems like my kids come home having learned very little in certain classes and would have used the time better just staying home and reading the book or looking it all up online somewhere. Better mentorship altogether would generally improve the learning environment.
141. The relegation of activities to in-school periods means that students must choose just one or two to be involved in. It would be wonderful to offer some activities/clubs directly after school, which students could attend in the gap between school and athletics. It also appears that far too much organizational weight is placed on students in these clubs so that if there is not interest, the clubs vanish once interested leadership-minded students graduate. Teachers should spearhead clubs so that they survive over time. Why doesn't Hanover have a bona fide Science Club (Lebanon has recently had incredible experiences with Science Olympiad) or a Mock Trial or Debate Team that actually participates in competitions? Students need these opportunities to discover their interests before they head to college or a job.
142. AP classes. Reduce homework time.
143. Too many specials, not enough time for academic instruction.
144. These questions are so hard to answer for the SAU as a whole as opposed to how much homework (too much in some honors courses at HHS - challenge the mind without as much homework), pressure to succeed - OK until you hit HHS. etc.
145. Instead of "change the foreign languages available," I'd like to see an option to require one year of a foreign language. Why is this subject being treated differently from all others?
146. It's interesting that the above choices don't capture a really pressing problem. It's not so much that there is a lack of standardization (though there is a serious lack of consistency, even within schools) nor is it the case, at the elementary level, that there is not enough "rigor." In fact, I think kids shouldn't have much homework in the early

years. In many ways, young kids are being pushed too hard. The problem -- which, unbelievably, is not captured in this survey! - is that the fundamental mission of the Marion Cross elementary school (literacy) is not being met for all children. If you asked 100 people to name the mission of an elementary school, I'm certain the vast, vast majority would say, "to teach kids how to read and write." Why, then, are so many children in the early years struggling to read and write? This requires major strategic thinking at all levels, and within and across all schools.

147. I think the curriculum should be more accessible for students pursuing their strengths and passion...so less time but deeper learning
148. We'd like to see less focus on homework.
149. Teaching a foreign language in Elementary school is a great thing. Would be great if another language was offered, not just Spanish.
150. AP classes need to be added. Honors classes are not enough. Teaching for the AP tests supplies academic rigor plus the chance to earn college credits by passing the AP test. HHS fails when it comes to giving AP opportunities to students.
151. Pressing needs: rigor without excess homework. Better communication with parents of upper grade students.
152. Hanover should offer AP classes which allow students to gain college credit which saves money at college
153. Add Mandarin as a language option. Hanover is behind on this compared to major metro areas.

Q25: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q24: What are the current most pressing student support and service needs within our schools?*

176 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 99 answers

1. With the isolation produced by the pandemic, we don't see kids in the community as we did prior. We used to have a feeling that the kids in our community were developing into generous, helpful, world-savvy citizens. Perhaps this will return, but we feel the schools need to work hard to re-establish an engagement in the community that seems disrupted.,
2. Our child should have had more support, earlier and received only after our request, in some cases repeated requests over several years
3. Back to what I wrote on the last question - we need kids to engage more. Not necessarily empower, but gain comfort in a group setting and speak up
4. Would be great if high school students were able to get more sleep during the school week. That requires leveling homework loads and teaching time-management skills.
5. There could be more fun events connecting students and staff, such as games, plays etc.
6. Decrease academic rigor, and increase a sense of community. Teach kindness, empathy, how to treat others etc. The guidance department and the PE department seem to have

a good understanding of the whole child-get input from them because they're already doing it but there's only so much they can do by themselves-the school culture needs to change.

7. bullying needs to be recognized and addressed perhaps by a specialist who comes in and does workshops. The way the bullying situation in the **** grade was handled was completely ineffective. please note that **** **** **** a **** **** **** in **** **** **** because **** was bullied. This is a serious topic that should be addressed and the kids should face consequences if it goes on.
8. High school is the worsts place for mental health. This is seriously concerning
9. Student support services are exceptional in my opinion both administratively, with Ed assistants and with one-to-one aids.
10. Better communication at the beginning of the school year on the curriculum for each grade. Ray school does ok but RMS is not good. This fall is my first year at HHS so not sure how they do.
11. Stress management is very important and we see it taking its toll toward the end of terms.
12. We had a bullying issue and as soon as we told the teacher, the school's response was phenomenal. The counselor who helped with it is amazing. **** should get a raise. So should the teachers. Seriously
13. being a part of community, especially for high school students, is important.
14. I understand the benefits of same grade cohorts in advisories, but HHS has lost the social benefits of the 9-12 mix provided by Common Ground.
15. The changes MCS has made in teaching growth mindset etc has been wonderful
16. No phones in advisory!!!!!!!!!!
17. My above comments about support apply here. Also, It is difficult to begin hhs from outside the district. These studrr we nuts need more scaffolded support
18. From my older kids' feedback, there's a strong current of disrespect for girls and women among a subset of the boys at the high school. That includes sexist remarks, subtle dismissiveness of female students by some male students, and even a "rape-is-normal" culture. This is something that absolutely must be extinguished at HHS by whatever means necessary. Its self-reinforcing if not dealt with overtly by teachers and staff, and I find it disgusting and unacceptable.
19. There is currently far too much focus on the self and one's "identity" in all its forms.
20. The past few years have been isolating for families with younger children (i.e. elementary school). Strengthening bonds between students will help socially. Increasing 1:1 tutoring with supplement in-class learning without taking away from group learning. Mental health / de-stress lessons will help children learn how to deal with these feelings at a young age and practice as they grow.
21. RMS seems responsive to student mental health issues and I would encourage the school leadership to keep expanding these efforts.
22. We need more mental health resources/counselors for short-term intervention (6-10 sessions), just like math intervention. We also need to ensure that our HS students are prepared for college OR career and start making non-4 year colleges and work an acceptable pathway

23. Again, not being in the classroom, I do not have an informed opinion.
24. promoting the Hartford tech program as an option for all kids. it's a great resource and shouldn't be stigmatized. all kids should see it as an option!
25. Giving students time to use their bodies, whether in motion or meditation, is crucial for their mental health as well as their physical health and studies demonstrate that it improves learning
26. Focus more on academics while continuing to foster social cohesion.
27. Covid has put such a damper on student socialization outside of the classroom; this is probably not an issue that schools can directly address. For younger children, the "play date" was such an important way to foster friendships and build social skills; it's been missed for two years and the impact is evident.
28. we have found it difficult to find an affordable tutor option.
29. The counselors at HHS are exceptional but they seem overworked. There should be more counselors available to students on a daily basis.
30. Talk to any affinity club to get more feedback
31. Ray School - 1:1 support for assistants. No qualification is needed to be a 1:1 yet that person is the primary person providing assistance
32. Have the students work for the school, sweep the halls, clean sports equipment, rake the fields, etc.
33. As I'm sure you are well aware, there is an epidemic of students suffering from depression and anxiety. Much of this seems to be related to Covid. What more can be done to help them between the schools, the hospital and wider community resources? Partnerships would be helpful to ensure that students needing help can get it in a more timely manner.
34. If could, would have chosen all the above including stronger connection options too. and increased access & available school based counseling services.
35. MCS has been special with a connection to the norwich and surrounding community. Please keep this going
36. let parents do their job at home and stop trying to insert school personnel into situations that are more appropriately left to parents. Parents raise their kids; the school disttict's #1 job is to EDUCATE them in academic areas. also, you need to stop coddling kids. You are creating a generation that lacks resilience and will struggle in life as a result.
37. I don't feel like I have enough experience with school to answer this, so I am clicking on "Everything feels just fine"
38. **** * is the best, I hope she is supported
39. More tutoring available would be helpful
40. We have speakers coming in for wonderfully, aspirational careers, but there is a disconnect as to other real-world jobs (postal worker, store worker, restaurant owner, etc.; not just doctors and professors. Also mentioned earlier, but there is little done for new students. We assume they are being absorbed into the student population and unless they stand out for some good reason, it seems they are standing on the sidelines, waiting to be noticed.

41. I love the circle that **** has created - such a great informal support system during a really tough time. There is so much peer pressure at the school to perform and it would be helpful if we can bring down the tone of academic achievement a notch.
42. More options for students to be active are needed.
43. I think we could all benefit from more focus on dealing with anxiety and helping students deal with anxiety.
44. Currently we have POOR academic counselors who are not engaged in their roles. Only one academic counselor always comes highly recommended because **** does **** job.
45. advisory has been great to build connections
46. I would have checked more boxes in response to this question if possible. Student mental health is facing huge challenges especially from social media and isolation (and feeling of disconnect). I think connecting our students to the community with the school as the cornerstone would help many students feel a sense of belonging (and perhaps less pressure to fit in). Recognizing and celebrating students' strengths & talents, especially those used for or applied to the community would bolster that process. Is there a Community Relations committee for the district?
47. Advisory is intended to build student and staff relationships, but my child reported that most students just stare at their phones. Meanwhile, I have heard that other advisories have more varieties of activities that foster team building.
48. PE should be part of every year. Not everyone can keep up with the after school sports along with the academic requirements. Or provide after school sports that are not so competitive. The addition of the XC skiing development team was a really helpful development. How about yoga or other sports that don't require going to competitions and training every day. But really PE would be best. Lots of European countries require it for K-12.
49. AGAIN EVERYTHING
50. There is a need for increased counseling services, particularly since private counseling is booked solid. HHS counselors are bogged down with administrative and college prep tasks, they don't really have time to develop meaningful relationships with students. The school needs more adults available for counseling and general relationship building.
51. I wish more effort was made to help new to school families feel included.
52. I understand that these are matters that are being addressed, but I feel that they are not being addressed in an efficient manner (and I don't know what an efficient manner would look like).
53. When fully staffed, support team is awesome. This year (due to overall staffing issues), it seems to have suffered. Understandable...but a bummer.
54. While my counselor is very nice, I have almost no contact. I understand that they're busy, but it increases the feeling of disconnect.
55. Diversity related issues
56. I believe that the students get along just fine and are friends... but I feel like there could be more after school group activities. In elementary school these kids live quite far apart to meet up by themselves and are still a bit too young to cycle great distances. If there

were structured activity clubs that the kids could sign themselves into after school or in town in Hanover that would be great.

57. Students and families have serious problems with class consciousness/economic diversity. Hanover pigeon holes poor kids with non-college educated parents into VoTech, affluent kids won't speak to them, it is awful to bear witness to.
58. Teach virtues in the school. This will help the kids maintain good relationships with each other and be more respectful to the teachers.
59. Mental health care is so limited in the Upper Valley, I think the more availability there is for kids the better. The social isolation of COVID has been really limiting for kids and as we create a new normal, mental health is an area to focus our efforts on.
60. Many students feel like there are some teachers there who don't care about them as much as they would like. Time management would be great.
61. Our teenagers are not ok. They were stressed out before covid and the pandemic has not been easy on them. We need vastly more resources applied to helping them feel connected and manage their anxiety.
62. Again, welcoming families to the high school community would be nice. Aside from watching my kid play sports, I've never been invited to the school for any reason - certainly nothing academic. It's the least-welcoming environment for families that I can imagine.
63. The 9th grade PE program is fantastic for building connections. Somehow, the Circle time has not succeeded in building connections. My children say it feels forced and unnatural to share with the group. It would be much better to do activities together rather than force kids to share when they are not comfortable. Looking at the PE example, somehow the kids do become closer through doing challenge projects together and supporting one another. Why couldn't each grade do things like that every year? Lifting each other up, trying to complete a group challenge? It seems like that would be more natural and if they are helping each other achieve a collective goal, they may end up actually being friends.
64. Per our comment above. **** has a legitimate, but not catastrophic, **** that remained below peoples' radar for years. It doesn't seem to rise to the level of justifying help from the district and that is frustrating. At times the Ray School has felt like a machine whose wheels start to grind re: your kid in all the wrong ways. Your student becomes an issue to be solved instead of a child to be helped.
65. In our family's experience, the support services have been great, but I am not opposed as a taxpayer to supporting more efforts if they are identified
66. Social stuff is hard and I'd love to see more student led initiatives that access a wide range of student voices, especially those who don't typically get heard.
67. Stronger connections in general would be helpful
68. I see so much pressure that kids put on themselves to succeed at young ages and it's heartbreaking. I wish we could make the environment we raise our kids in less of a pressure cooker. Just because you get an A rather than an A+ doesn't make you a failure.
69. Would have also liked to have added more focus on stress management, feeling valued, and non-school life prep as equally important

70. Study skills: as subjects get tougher, many students don't know how to study
71. Many teens are having a hard time with mental health these days -- perhaps because of the stresses of Covid. I'm seeing that very clearly with the kids I know at Hanover High. I don't really see them feeling centered, calm and happy. They seem stressed.
72. More time needs to be spent supporting students social-emotional health and well-being. This includes individual mental health supports as well as community building by strengthening relationships between students and between staff/students. Older students need to be kinder and more welcoming to incoming freshman.
73. kids report they love their friends and the nurturing environment at MCS
74. Social emotional learning learning opportunities and health and prevention efforts, as well as DEI skill building, need to be made available to everyone. It is not enough for students to be able to "opt in" to affinity groups. Staff need high-quality professional development in these areas, as well leadership that has clear and high standards for implementation across the curriculum. SEL and DEI should be woven into the fabric of all of the teaching and learning. Our district also needs to make concerted efforts to hire diverse staff.
75. Individual fitness is more important than team sports.
76. It is almost impossible to find therapists in the area. Schools should have a much stronger (MUCH STRONGER) mental health department- school initiates pressure to be successful in academics and athletics and does NOT compensate with any support for students who cannot cope with the competition and extreme peer/teacher/coaches pressure
77. We need way more support around mental health than what is provided if someone is presenting as functional but it is very clear that they are not mentally healthy
78. Kids are in a bubble they know nothing about the world they are NOT prepared to face the real world there is so much pressure(academic/ sports) that too many students are suicidal
79. My kid feels like a lot of these ideas are very important, but that it isn't the schools job to implement them.
80. The kids need more organized social activities planned for them- like dances and other fun activities
81. Everything is not "fine", but none of the things above (other than stress management) seem appropriate. Not all of this can be addressed at the school level, parents, families and the community as a whole need to be more involved.
82. I would love to see MCS offer a group to adopted students. There are so many of them (which is wonderful) and school would be a great place for a lunch group or other group where kids could have their experiences normalized, validated, and shared. In turn, this points to the need for more than one counselor at MCS. **** cannot do all that is needed in our increasingly complex social-emotional world.
83. Again, we've lived in various states and have attended various school models, but this school district has the worst school spirit. There are no school pep rally's to honor kids and the various clubs or sporting events. It's all about academics. We offer all these award ceremonies at the end of the year, which is only for those are getting awards. I heard so many new parents completely shocked about the attendance at the last high

school spirit event and that so many kids called out sick. How is that even allowed both by the school and the parents. When one of my other kids was in the high school a couple of years ago, they also complained about the same thing and how there were no school spirit events like pep rallies and how more than half of the kids would call out and not come in if there knew there were no classes and other event were being planned. It's a total shame that the school allows this level of absenteeism. Again, I'm not totally blaming the school, since 90% of this is on the parents. It definitely ruins it for those kids who care and eventually stop caring too.

84. #24. More consistent use of Schoology across teachers.
85. I could not limit that to 3. I could have clicked them all. I did click 'stronger student connections' and 'more focus on mental health'. The help my child is getting now has not helped her succeed socially. She is still unhappy, lonely, and feels bad about herself. Her grades are okay, but she still expresses feeling stupid and not good at anything. Feeling bad about the way she looks.
86. Far too much focus on emotional development at the cost of kids having a real physical education curriculum (MCS)
87. There relay is an artificial distinction between mental and physical health. They are integrated.
88. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
89. I don't wish to provide more information about my responses to the previous question
90. It starts at the top in our school. If **** * never shows up at any community events or kids after-school activities, what message are we sending? Community matters and helps one find a sense of purpose. We need to show up for these kids, that's how you connect.
91. Very concerned about the school food programming, and invite all administrators to eat the school lunch for a month. We can monitor your well being.
92. Stop turning schools into mental health clinics. The unintended consequence of this action is a victimology mindset.
93. It seems worth re-emphasizing that a focus on achieving a more balanced lifestyle might be more conducive to healthier students and overall healthier school environment.
94. Social life in middle and high school take a big toll on mental health. I wish more was done to connect kids with their peers, and there was more focus on stress management, friendship crisis managements, begining of date/relationships, aspects of healthy versus unhealthy relationships, etc.
95. So many of these are really important, but if I can pick only three, those are the three.
96. I'd like to see a more developmentally based approach to elementary education, with more curriculum flexibility, more targeted and more effective instruction, and more responsive scheduling for children and their families etc. There is a real opportunity to break free of some of the century-old practices that govern education and make it hard for many younger children to learn (and some older ones too)
97. College counseling is woeful. "Here kid, log into this computer system that we pay for and keep us up to date on your list." That is not counseling.
98. Studies seem to show there is a weak correlation between amount of homework and testing, and more homework causing increased mental health issues

99. High need area for the high school - there seems to be lacking a school identify, pride, etc. While this exists at the team level, we haven't seen it at the school level. Learn some lessons from the middle school! Leadership at RMS is excellent at fostering a fun and supportive culture. Every child is known by the adults in the building.

Q27: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q26: What are the current most pressing concerns for your specific child during the school day?*

188 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 107 answers

1. I-phones are wonderful in many ways, but we are creating a generation of kids that can't engage adults or their peers. Have a freshman mandatory class that discusses this and makes kids aware (phone addiction, reclusive, lack of interaction, possible depression, and relating to the greater world)
2. most teachers unsupportive of alternate conservative views, some as far as overt bullying of my student
3. Inappropriate sharing by teacher of her personal problems and issues
4. what is see missing from the previous question is that it assumes the student is struggling with the load, without also questioning whether the school could better meet the student. again, i see a hierarchical issue with the framing of the question. it looks like this technical issue is still not resolved, above, i did not choose any of the things you've listed, yet, i cannot submit the form without choosing them. please disregard the issues i marked in the question above.
5. After a difficult beginning in **** year (due to issues with the **** department and miscommunication that could have been avoided or treated in a more humane way) our **** has skyrocketed into a straight A student.
6. Some teachers seem to use movies as a substitute for teaching. Movies terrify my child and interfere with her learning, and are pedagogically unnecessary.
7. Wish you were not decreasing French
8. my kid is very resilient but the **** family problem was unfortunate.
9. Child has periodically had some challenges behaviorally, and from a parent perspective a first concern is whether the behavior might fix itself if the child was more challenged by what's happening class, but opportunities for enrichment seem to take backseat to the focus on remediation
10. The peer and academic pressure to perform at a high level of performance is unhealthy. Again the situation IS critical
11. General masking definitely reduces COVID but not everyone even the teachers were doing it.
12. Kids have ups and downs depending on the day but overall they have a great experience. I have **** kids in the schools & **** is not challenged enough in math in **** grade.

13. No child should say at the end of the school year “I survived and am alive” @ the end of the school. Not completing an assignment isn’t an option. Staying up way too late to complete their work. Someone should look into whether Honors classes are really serving our students well. There should be staff changes and/or staff reassigned to teach different courses especially *****. Do a parent survey about this class with current and other families.
14. Masks being optional is stressful for my son as he wears his mask consistently.
15. Academic expectations seem unclear to us and therefore we find it hard to support our **** - there has to be more communication with parents of 7th graders coming from MCS. We go from having regular teacher conferences to almost zero interactions with teachers and don't know how to best support our child. It would be good to have at least 2 meetings per year with teachers.
16. Workload gets too heavy during the second half of the year as teachers try to catch up
17. Recess is really important for focused learning. Outdoor classroom is amazing. I'm worried that as my kids get older, they won't get enough of this and will decrease their classroom productivity.
18. Without access to Special Ed academic and mental health services, **** school and home life would have been extremely challenging. Classroom teachers and Special Ed staff worked diligently to help **** succeed.
19. School is pretty easy for my child. He complains of a lack of opportunity to be challenged
20. Culture at HHS shows value is placed on sports and money. Equity among sports is lacking. Athletes get awarded certificates for participating in sports and doing well in school, but not the theater kids- no certificate for being in shows and doing well academically.
21. My student loved ****. A poor experience with an inflexible teacher with outdated teaching techniques has caused **** to self- assess differently. I’m curious to see how that will evolve.
22. Although my child has fortunately not had an pressing concerns thus far, diversity, equity and inclusion concerns for our children's future in district is a big concern for our family.
23. My child has been at RMS and the social and cultural atmosphere there is largely well-supervised and healthy. However, I am very concerned about the aforementioned unfettered toxic misogyny at HHS as **** moves into high school next year. It really must be addressed in a definitive and continuous manner. Not sure where these boys are getting these attitudes, but they need to be corrected directly and unambiguously at the school.
24. My **** said that one of **** classmates audibly makes fun of LGBT students and it bothers **** to see that.
25. All teachers are not seeing how Covid absences impacted overall learning and how Covid has impacted students' mental health. Skills of self advocacy need to be taught since the connection with teachers was lost due to no one staying after school during Covid, remote learning, etc.,
26. I'm concerned that she seems to have a LOT of free time at school (and can elect free periods instead of content), and isn't particularly efficient getting her homework done

- (it gets done, but it takes all night). Some increased expectations from the school would help us to provide a unified message and focus on achievement.
27. Masking has adversely impacted our child's social development. The obsession by some with DEI has created many unnecessary situations that have increased division and divisiveness in the school.
 28. We are very concerned with the increased use of computers at school and for homework and lack of (or very limited) restrictions on use of cell phones at the high school.
 29. Missing a category = academic boredom. Once again, nearly all of your survey categories are biased to those who might need academic support. For example, one-on-one tutoring could also be for a super advanced **** student who is ready to take high school **** in **** middle school years. That student at this point is handed an iPad and told to log on to **** because **** is too advanced for the offerings at **** school.
 30. One of many examples of a complete out of control teacher: After President Trump got Covid, my child witnessed a teacher shout that **** hoped that he died and loudly joined by other students in the classroom. These are the teachers who we have hired to teach our children?
 31. All students should be required to mask. All students should be required to stay home when sick AND alternatives provided to better support them for staying home. Especially at exam time.
 32. My child has had a hard time making friends this year, though **** has tried. I've worked with **** teacher and the nurse, and they've tried, but as a child with differences, **** consistently left out. There's not much you can do other than letting parents request one friend for students to be in class with next year. I know if my **** were in class with the one **** **** managed to be friends with that **** year would be much much better, but **** **** grade teacher can't even make the suggestion as class placement is all random (so I've been told)
 33. My child does relatively well academically but seems to be able to coast at times, and I wish I knew whether her teachers knew that or didn't have the time or bandwidth to really be able to assess that
 34. **** **** have specific learning disabilities; the school has been *AMAZING*
 35. Theoretically, I think that HHS's mindset of having students be self-advocates is great. However, some students are better at this than others (based on maturity, personality, etc.). Students that don't have this skill (or personality) are left behind. Being a self-advocate is something that has to be taught explicitly, modeled, and reinforced. I've heard it said that HHS is good for students at the top and students at the bottom, and those in the middle are largely ignored. Having had three children attend HHS, this has been my experience.
 36. Without accountability, students in some classrooms learn a great deal more than students in adjacent classrooms. This needs to change and teachers must be held accountable for teaching to a standard.
 37. Boredom is the biggest issue

38. There seems to be too much focus on DEI, using time that should be spent on academics.
39. More AP type courses, weight the GPA
40. A big no here for mask wearing. Child felt judged for NOT wearing one.
41. He's sensitive so don't put too much stock in this
42. Cliquishness
43. Every term, **** seems to have one teacher that is not flexible with **** unique learning style and it causes **** unnecessary anxiety.
44. Lack of required parental involvement
45. DEI initiatives seem to overlook disability.
46. not enough choices - add school related mental and social health concerns
47. My kids are mostly okay, but I think an increased focus on these issues is generally helpful.
48. bullying is present in the school and not properly handled, even when reported.
49. Drugs and alcohol was left off of this list, when I can imagine it is a concern for some.
50. My student still struggles with specific skills that have been a struggle since starting at the school.
51. Each of our children missed a lot of school this year due to Covid or thinking they had Covid - the stress of making up work has been intense. School has been supportive but it still has been VERY stressful
52. Serious dyslexia requires serious tutoring
53. My child has dyslexia and ADHD so reading and writing are really tough for ****.
54. My child cares that people feel themselves and comfortable. It would be nice to have guidance on DEI work to make sure we are doing it right!
55. My child feels that the teachers assign way too much homework to possibly get it all done. Even for 'homework free weekends', they assign a lot of work to be due say on a Tuesday, so technically you dont have to do it on the weekend but the amount of homework is such that you have to still do it on the weekend or it wont get done. Most of the time, homework should be a quick review of what has already been covered in class, the students should not have to self-teach at home.
56. Would like to see students have less screen time...use their textbooks more...require them to disengage from cell phones more.
57. My child wears a mask at school, and is one of only 2 in their classroom who does so; none of the teachers mask. I wish more voluntary masking was happening, especially now that the numbers are so high.
58. My **** lost all **** friends this year. It was a tough one.
59. My daughter's teacher is great. Find more great teachers.
60. my child seems to need a level BETWEEN honors and regular (true for multiple subjects)
61. The ban on remote learning was a huge setback for my child when **** continued to test positive for 10 days.
62. The academic pressure is relentless. There is also little space for electives and limited options for courses in general. Choosing 7 courses with lots of basic requirements is especially in freshman year.

63. Primary issues are boredom, lack of academic challenge, and my child's disillusionment with school because of lackluster, unaccountable teachers.
64. My kid continues to mask since cases have risen but **** a minority
65. I missed the **** **** **** due to covid and now im failing my classes and dont even understand my finals. I hate it and my menal health is crap bc of it
66. Insomnia and anxiety, hard to make friends if not doing sports or theater
67. Kids used masking protocols to bully and berate other kids
68. Behavioral concerns
69. The intensity of school makes it very easy for students who struggle with mental health to be negatively impacted. I know several students who have had to miss a class or even a whole school day due to suffering panic or anxiety attacks related to school.
70. As a sixth grader, he's still struggling a bit with not have one consistent cohort, and with frequent switching between classes and building connections with so many different teachers. He doesn't always know what's going on or who to ask for help.
71. Real issue is the quality of instruction. Teachers are absent frequently. Many assign busy work. Many do not have good command of their own subjects.
72. The school year has been quite disrupted by covid, but that's unavoidable. Our child has also had some minor issues with other students' behavior, but nothing unusual for children that age.
73. Kids are too restricted on the playground. Not challenged with hw afterschool.
74. Struggle to remain engaged because too much time is spent doing homework in class. Classes could be faster-paced and cover more material, especially in English / Social Studies.
75. Please allow only seniors to leave campus. Too much freedom and ability for kids to get distracted from schoolwork. Let's encourage study halls and ways to maximize their time during the day for their studies.
76. A student who has learning disabilities who does not have an IEP has to fend for themself if quarantined. The video restrictions are weird and they should be allowed to zoom in to their classes. Modifications to the demands on them are teacher-dependent.
77. pressure-cooker in terms of grades, college prospects, etc.
78. I believe **** **** didn't teach math in a way that best supported my child's learning. My child felt anxious about approaching **** when the understanding of different math topics was NOT achieved.
79. There is no perfect catagory of response but see above-- re ****. Generally, our particular Ray student would benefit from a more tender approach and some encouragement. Our RMS student does fine but can slip through the cracks academically if not carefully checked-in on.
80. Not enough intensity in most subjects
81. Majorly as well with Social Studies classes seem to be a struggle
82. Homework load feels unreasonably large sometimes, and in those classes with the most work it seems to primarily "busy work". Alternately, the **** teacher at the middle school let my student struggle for several semesters with no additional attention until we were forced to hire an outside tutor to supplement **** teaching.
83. My child struggles with occasional bullying by other kids in **** classroom.

84. Social and emotional well-being instruction is insufficient
85. On top of the mental health services deficiencies, schools lack integration of less wealthy families. There is a sense of entitlement that teachers should help reduce
86. My child has experienced racism from teachers and peers. When **** performs well academically, they assume **** cheated. When peers say racist things, staff don't support ****.
87. This varies widely among the student population. I don't teacher honors level students so I will speak to what I see in the greater mid-level student population. Their focus on their phones and being in constant communication with their friends is affecting their ability to focus on academics. I do not have a problem with student having phones, but when I see students watching TV shows, choosing music, or playing games on their phones (or computers for that matter) rather than the work that was assigned I am very concerned. There is no way for me to monitor this and so I have very little influence. Even if I "catch" them in the act, they simply switch back to the screen needed for class. It is a HUGE problem. Students also have too much time now; 10 minute passing time and a 40 minute daily lunch period seems to have made academics seem like something that is interrupting their social time.
88. The whole MCS staff needs yearly training on gender, so that every staff member understands gender identity and can comfortably use gender-neutral and gender-affirming language and practices!!!! 2)
89. I know it is due to state law issues, but I wish the school would require masking when infection rates are high. Masks optional, with peer pressure and frustration among the students means that few students wear masks. If the numbers are high as they were a few weeks ago, masks should be required.
90. I was torn between social and academic intensity or pressure. The academic social pressure is not coming from the teachers, it's coming from the students themselves and their peer groups. It's a very bizarre dynamic here. I've never seen it anywhere else. Kids bully each other and put each other down if they're not good enough.
91. Boredom is the biggest single problem my child faces every day. Teachers that seem to be just grinding through the curriculum with little attention to how it lands with the students are a problem. If students aren't engaged, learning is less effective. (Also to be clear, the covid-related issue referenced is that my child followed school policies about masking while watching other students and teachers ignore that policy.)
92. My child is not neuro-typical, and students discriminate against **** socially because they don't understand ****.
93. Parents allowing children to have phones early on (in elementary school) is toxic. School should address and discuss.
94. Too many videos and substitute teaching
95. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
96. It's hard to come up with three for each of these. 'Conflict with teachers/staff' refers to **** showing no/little interest at integrating or caring to engage in our child's school life.
97. I don't want my child to be indoctrinated with confusing gender ideologies

98. New challenge, all administrators that support students being able to eat multiple school lunches have to also eat multiple school lunches - ie. 2 servings of french toast sticks with double syrup, chocolate milk. Yes, morning breakfast with two juices and a sugary donut as well. All administrators should be required to eat the school lunch.
99. This is forcing me to select 3 even though I selected "everything feels just fine"
100. There are struggles with learning presumably because some of the classes my kids have taken were poorly taught with less than efficient and subpar instruction. In-class time seems to not have been optimized to give the best instruction possible so that excessive time is not required to decode the teacher's homework assignments.
101. I find this survey to create inaccurate answers ... if a person is to select "just fine" then we are forced to pick two other answers (asking us for 3 answers) then those answers are misleading as just fine means I do not agree with the others so I am forced to pick two others but don't feel strongly about those answers- this is a flaw of this study design- was it tested?
102. Too much DEI. Rude to conservative Christians. Hard to catch up when out sick.
103. See above comments on the urgent need to improve ELA instruction.
104. By physical health concerns I mean the level of vigor in exercise and how unhealthy the vast majority of the food served in the cafeteria is.
105. My child has developed guilt for being white. DEI is not being implemented properly; it is causing more problems not solving any.
106. I don't like the dog in the school
107. Hanover High School is a very hard place to be a new student.

Q29: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q28: What are the current most pressing concerns for your specific child outside of the school day?*

155 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 72 answers

1. Time spent to make up for lack of academic rigor takes away from other family time which is very frustrating.
2. I'd like to see far less homework. when each class gives 30-60 mins, that's too much in one night
3. Varsity athletes need to overcompensate for the time they spend training. More accommodations are needed.
4. Climate change, guns, Roe v Wade, decline into fascism
5. Middle school does not seem to prepare kids for the onslaught of homework at the high school. In addition, managing cell phones/social media remains a challenge for ALL.
6. Please work on these issues urgently
7. For us it comes down to needing to be able to see a schedule of due dates for assignments for our child so we can help her with time management. Sometimes we only find out at the last minute about major assignments and she is still too young to

manage her time perfectly although she works really hard at getting her work done. So we need to be able to have a look at her schedule and to know that assignment due dates etc are listed somewhere we can check.

8. Some of the DEI stuff may be counterproductive. My kids talk all the time now about how Black people are treated differently. I'm not sure this is going to help what I hope our long-term goal is for people to be judged and treated as human beings, rather than as members of different races. I'm not sure teachers are qualified to figure all this out optimally, or frankly that the committee is either. It'd be good to define clear objectives and to develop some metrics to help us assess whether the policies we're using actually work toward those objectives.
9. We have added on enrichment because there is no homework. I'd rather be working with the school and having him do some homework to build routines
10. Homework for my third child (non-honors) seems to be more manageable. That shouldn't be a main difference between honors and not.
11. Environmental / global warming and US and World crisis
12. We lost a loved one **** years ago, my **** and the **** of my student. I would like to express my thanks to the whole **** community for gently watching over my **** during these **** years. I wonder whether there will be such a supportive environment at **** **** **** or not.
13. Some HHS teachers don't fully understand the stress they are placing on kids and their suggestion is drop to a lower phase or drop out of honors is their only suggestion
14. It has been hard to have playdates and meet families.
15. My student has mental health issues exacerbated by school and social stress, but RMS has worked effectively with my child.
16. The sports take up way too much time. They need to be reduced at least by a third.
17. A later start time would be an enormous advantage to our kids - the teenage need to sleep late is strong in all of them.
18. Medications related to **** make my **** sleep 11-12 hours per night. When the bus comes at 7, that means **** either goes to bed at 6:30 PM or miss the bus. Luckily, I can drive ****. But really, an hour each way when we live a 15 min drive is absurd.
19. Social media and phones is such a challenge to teenage development and having authentic interactions and social development
20. There are numerous studies showing the connection between sleep and teenage brain development showing a later school start time to be beneficial. Current school schedules are based on an antiquated societal structure that assumes many children need to help their family with farm chores thus the early start and finish to the day and summers off. It would help both families and students to have school mimic the work day and to be year round with larger/more frequent vacation/time off.
21. There was no choice available for my concern, which is the availability and variety of non-sports after school activities. We don't do or care about sports. We do and care about science and arts.
22. Life balance and efficient use of time is hard for all of us, especially students. It would be nice if HHS could help parents in teaching their children this life skill. I've also found that

- certain coaches are less flexible than others in allowing life balance, and this often leads to conflicts with teachers, leaving students uncomfortably in the middle.
23. Kids in Hanover are busy with sports and other activities several days a week after school. The balance feel fine right now, but as the schools refine and execute curriculum administrators need to continue to account for extracurriculars.
 24. As a parent, I would strongly support linking athletics to the middle school rather than to the town, with consistent schedules/coaching/busing.
 25. Homework takes him hours every night. He barely gets enough sleep during the week. There is no possible way that he would be able to do an extra-curricular activities with the demands of schoolwork.
 26. Main concern: getting my children interested in activities other than video games or screens
 27. Why is it o.k. to miss school for athletic activities? Where is the priority? Why are teachers supposed to accommodate students absences due to family vacations, athletic activities?
 28. Perhaps I could have checked more. I realize you are not unaware of the challenges facing children outside of school. We've got a chance here. In these communities, where general affluence and education are prevalent, requiring parental involvement should be possible.
 29. add too - time for homework
 30. My child wants to do many things, but there isn't time if we want to ensure enough sleep.
 31. SAU 70 did a wonderful job staying open during COVID. THANK YOU. YOU ARE GREAT!!!
 32. My daughter's teacher is great. Find more great teachers and keep them.
 33. Too much homework and bus route (takes 1 hr to get home on a 10min drive).
 34. my child's own task prioritization is just as much a factor (i.e. choosing social media over schoolwork at expense of sleep)
 35. My child doesn't particularly like competitive sports but is active. I think he would be more active if there was an activity offered after school that wasn't a team sport- like trail running, hiking, adventures in the woods
 36. My child is struggling with the negative things happening in our world: school shootings, war, climate change, pandemic.
 37. Recent COVID waves hit the community hard, yet there was little warning and zero support from NH Dept of Ed.
 38. Way too much homework for some classes!!!! Methods Honors!!!!
 39. Not comfortable seeking academic support in school and struggling at home to solve homework problems
 40. There's a lot of pressure in this community to do lots of extracurriculars (which are often stressful, expensive, and take away from family time). That's a hard balance for us and our kids, and it affects them socially that they're not as active as others.
 41. Our child has had a very easy time with the reading and math homework. The plan to sacrifice specials time for additional phonics and math instructions strikes us as misguided. Parents should bear more responsibility. There is very little reading homework in the lower grades.

42. social and physical health are negatively affected by how much we are relying on electronics.
43. Some of homework looks to be more busy work rather than focused and well thought out by the teachers.
44. I think the mental/social health issues are covid-related. The isolation is hard on teenagers. My student is otherwise quite sanguine and doesn't "present" as having mental/social health issues but I fear that they could be flying under the radar, including mine.
45. Although the school knew about two significant family disruptions during my children's time at HHS (**** **** ****, and a year later a **** **** **** ****), no one ever reached out to my children or to me to inquire as to our well-being.
46. One of my kids had to choose between doing a sport this year and getting homework done. The commitment for a sport (and this was at a novice/JV level) was huge, and it was unfortunate that this choice had to be made. Homework was the choice.
47. Generally, finding the balance between extracurriculars, family life and academic work such that each is equally prioritized.
48. also extracurricular pressure
49. We often need to choose between finishing all homework or doing a few hours of non-school enriching activities (riding bikes, seeing friends) between getting off the bus and bedtime.
50. My 4th choice would have pressure of extra-curricular activities.
51. Everything is fine except there is no after school program!
52. Some sports require the kids to be back home every day after 730pm and offer zero flexibility in taking a mental day off. It is ridiculous and extremely concerning
53. Too much complacency about Covid now. It feels like the town and the schools have given up trying. It's still dangerous, still presents incredible challenges for logistics and isolation if caught, and the maskless hordes don't seem to care anymore.
54. Too much pressure to fit in through grades and activities
55. **** **** said that **** wanted more kids to be 12 season varsity athletes. That's too much pressure!
56. There is a constant stress about the kids getting covid and missing school or missing school for minor illnesses that are not covid.
57. I disagree that teachers are giving too much homework. However, if there are specific teachers who do this constantly then they should be spoken to privately. Also, who is saying there is too much homework? Students spend a great deal of time doing homework while also being on their phones. Traveling hours to sporting events and spending 16 hours on the weekends at drama practice or a tournament, etc. There are choices that have to be made and students want to do everything.
58. We are fortunate, but we see a need in our community for high-quality, affordable, nearby after school care available to all.
59. list should include, not enough time to be with family
60. My daughter has a homework schedule that works for her - she gets tired and can't succeed with it in the evening, so it has to happen before dinner. She wanted to play

- ****, but it stressed her out too much, knowing that she could not do **** and succeed with her daily homework. And she NEEDS a way to get physically active.
61. Students work same hours as adults do, and then they do all sorts of XC and hours of HW. Hours of HW is too much. Make time in school more productive and less hours and hours outside of school
 62. I worry about time to complete homework as kids get older and how intensive sports are.
 63. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
 64. Norwich is becoming about impossible to afford to live in. We are a middle class earning family and are finding it very difficult to stay. We **** and will likely find it difficult to ever afford **** **** **** here. If/when **** **** decides that **** making a change with **** ****, we'll have to leave this community.
 65. Economy is eroding our community and lifestyle.
 66. This is forcing me to select 3 even though I selected "everything feels just fine"
 67. When a student doesn't get adequate sleep, conflicts with family members tend to ensue.
 68. Too much homework.
 69. at times there are excessive assignments in terms of busy work- kids value work that is meaningful not just to have an assignment- and if a teacher is absent the due date should be delayed to accommodate questions
 70. **** feels very isolating for our child.
 71. My kid has no time for anything except homework. When I beg **** not to take all honors classes **** says "but then I'll be with kids who don't care."
 72. The pressure to get into college is real, and only getting worse...

Q31: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q30: What are the current most needed improvements related to the health and safety of the physical environment of our schools?*

191 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 117 answers

1. FIX THE SEPTIC ISSUE ON THE MCS GREEN! The asphalt around the front playground pools water which freezes in winter and creates hazardous walking conditions.
2. With everything known about how covid is transmitted why are the buildings closed up with no air flow in 90 degree weather on spring/summer weekends? Not to mention how HOT is stays inside when those buildings get closed up for 60 hours.
3. More founding and communication related to a disruptive and sometimes physically violent classmate

4. it looks like this technical issue is still not resolved, above, i did not choose any of the things you've listed, yet, i cannot submit the form without choosing them. please disregard the issues i marked in the question above.
5. nothing to say here...since parents rarely go into the High School. The other schools are fine!
6. The PE curriculum is great-wish there was more of that in later grades.
7. My ***** is worse indoors at school than at home.
8. Septic issues need to be addressed
9. I would feel better if we had common sense gun safety laws
10. keep those doors locked!
11. We would like to see more gun safety measures and please keep the air quality equipments up to date for reducing COVID
12. Athletic fields could be improved although recent warrant improved baseball & track. RMS fields could use flattening as it is undulating.
13. It is hard these days as a parent to not worry about gun violence and safety. We don't think there is an easy solution here and we don't want to traumatize the kids over it - but I do feel like we need some opportunity to discuss gun violence as a community of parents and school staff (of course we also worry about the safety of teachers and other staff)
14. I haven't been in the building for years, so I have no idea what it's like
15. Hanover high school wifi system is very bad. Worst is that there is no signal in the area, if you don't provide a good wifi, very hard to communicate.
16. Given the increasing impact of climate change, the school needs to do more to incorporate alternative passive energy sources to improve air quality throughout the building. High temperatures and humidity have a significant impact on teachers and students.
17. Septic system resolved at MCS
18. Building is old. Gets hot and cold
19. High Schoolers should get outside too! Love that outdoor learning is valued in k-8
20. Athletics are an important part of the hhs experience. I appreciate that many sports are accessible to students no matter what their experience level. I notice that many schools in NH have better/ more updated athletic facilities.
21. Its awful that we have to think about this, but the schools need to continuously evaluate their security in light of the active shooter threat in our country. Horrible times we live in! But we have to be prepared.
22. there needs to be lights outside of the gym. when leaving the gym at night it is pitch black and this feels unsafe.
23. Driveway behind school is an accident waiting to happen - intersection of teachers' parking lot with driveway and brick wall has restricted visibility and I have been involved in several near misses there! Students drive too fast back there!
24. The security posture of the SAU70 buildings is poor. Doors and windows are often left open.
25. I would add to the list MCS school grounds and septic issues
26. need a large indoor field house esp. for early spring training

27. I think that security cameras at the entrances is appropriate, but they should not be allowed within the building. I do not agree with you constantly videotaping my children.
28. First year at Ray school, and we haven't been in the building yet. So, can't really assess a lot of this.
29. IAQ is key. We need a plan for HEPA-level filtration in all occupied spaces ASAP. It's good for WAY more than COVID, especially in older buildings!
30. Again, not being in the classroom, I do not have an informed opinion.
31. Driving through drop-off areas in the am is chaotic, parents do not respect rules of the road and the setup is easy to turn chaotic. I don't have specific concerns about security but it's one of those things that you get complacent until there is an issue, which across the country many never imagined they would need. I have not heard from my student any issues about cleanliness, lighting, sound, so I am uninformed there.
32. Playground upgrades
33. The schools are very soft targets. Separately, the Ray School needs a cafeteria. It is sub-optimal that students eat in their classrooms.
34. A proper lunch room would be nice.
35. Marion Cross - back playground is a mess and unsafe.
36. Not sure why the facilities in general are not an option. We have broken fences, no trash cans at all, unrepaired holes in the lawn, and our play structure is cracked and rotting
37. In general, I feel as much should be taught outside as possible. Not related to Covid.. just in general.
38. There are no security measures that would keep our students safe if a gunmen wanted in. Please do not increase security measures.
39. Locally-sourced, homemade, and healthy school lunch would promote student health.
40. I would imagine most parents are nervous about their children's safety given the headlines; no one says "we expected it to happen in our town". It's scary.
41. Let's do everything we can now to prevent school violence
42. Athletic facilities are sub par compared to other towns
43. I am rarely at the school so I don't know.
44. We should invest some funds at the MCS campus. The building is getting run down and needs some care. When I see the well maintained grounds at HHS in comparison to those of MCS, there is a stark difference.
45. Some of this is very hard to answer because we have only been in the district during COVID and have literally never been inside our daughter's school. I really would like to actually be able to see her classroom next year.
46. poor facilities conditions at Marion Cross
47. Septic issue
48. I feel strongly against making our schools more "secure" with SROs, fencing, barriers, etc. I also oppose lockdown drills and think they create more trauma than they provide any actual protection. Focusing on the mental health of our students and community and working on gun control is the best place to put energy towards "safety".
49. MCS will likely need air conditioning at some point. Also, lack of a functioning septic system at MCS.

50. the school district needs to develop and implement a physical security plan that complies with DHS and DOD guidance
51. HHS should have by now a field house for all-season sports.
52. The sign out system for off campus is not effective
53. As I'm sure others might mention, Septic!
54. Effluent/poo on the green in Norwich part of the year.
55. Baseball field needs improving. I have never really been in high school - due to Covid - so can't comment on other angles.
56. Of course, I'm on edge about the recent mass shootings in our country and if / when it will happen at our schools.
57. As climate change is upon us, more needs to be done to manage the temperature in the school throughout the day. As a community, we need to get more creative with outdoor education.
58. In today's environment, budgeting for increased safety measures is paramount.
59. Let's give bonuses to teachers/staff that can double as resource officers.
60. Last year my child spent more time in outdoor classroom. This year they did almost none. Why?
61. Given the recent school shooting, I would like to know about security in our schools.
62. Ray is overdue for outside painting.
63. I am not qualified to opine. My child has not mentioned any concerns. I defer to leadership.
64. our track needs repair
65. I don't know that many security measures taken by the school can decrease the likelihood of gun violence if we do not provide more services to people struggling with mental health and change and enforce gun laws. Perhaps installing outdoor cameras at each entrance and have a hired security person in addition to front desk staff would decrease the likelihood but that does not address the root of our gun violence problem.
66. After weeks of trial and error, we figured out the optimum drop-off to be in the parking lot at behind the school.
67. lack of a kitchen to make school meals, and functioning septic system
68. Please, please, add some covered bike racks to all of the schools, and especially the high school.
69. Improving ventilation has become a universal to-do post Covid. Our systems are outdated.
70. Septic at MCS needs fixing
71. Septic system issues
72. The school lunches needs to be overhauled to provide healthier choices to support student health. There are too many processed foods, carbs, and sugars being offered and not enough healthy choices
73. The quality of the lunches served to the students is poor. This should be an option to pick in the health and safety section. Many of the choices are "carnival food" or processed foods. French toast should not be an option. The school menu needs significant improvement.

74. There are problems with vandalism and the bathrooms are pretty gross, but that's kind of typical.
75. The closest I had was to click cleanliness, though it is really about maintenance issues like peeling paint, gross bathrooms (not because of cleaning, but because of peeling laminate, etc), toilets that barely flush, mismatched carpets. MCS is generally old and not well maintained.
76. There is not enough space for the number of students we have and the activities we offer. We also need a facility for preparing food for school lunches.
77. Drop off and pick up are difficult. Lack of space and overly aggressive driving in the parking lot
78. The septic system is an issue that everyone hopes to see resolved soon. I'm aware that there are reasons for the delay.
79. school indoor rugs are gross
80. Too many kids leaving the school throughout the day. Too much loud music being played at the school (much of it vulgar), a dog wandering the school which leaves its dander around. Dangerous/unfair for those with allergies or animal anxieties
81. Why was "better performing arts facilities" not an option? Performing arts has to bend over backwards to negotiate for its own space. Co-curricular programs have to work around curricular ones in a way that Athletics does not. And they have to cede space to outside rentals in non-covid years. Our district does not prioritize performing arts the way it does Athletics and it shows.
82. Sadly, security and buildings/grounds safety/accessibility needs to be a top priority these days. Drills that are done in school for active shooters are not taken seriously enough by students and even by teachers in some cases who do not enforce that the students take part in the drills. How can we expect our kids to know what to do if they don't ACTUALLY practice the steps frequently? It is extremely important that this is taken seriously by all students and teachers. A drill should not be taken lightly and considered "just another drill." Everyone needs to know their role in case of emergency and be able to have steps in their mind to put in action if they ever need to.
83. with the recent very sad mass shooting events in the country and the easy availability of guns in NH, it is unclear what safety measure are taken in the school district
84. SEPTIC - a functioning septic that allows our children to play without the risk of exposure to e.coli
85. I think the outside classroom doors should be locked during the school day.
86. I think asking the students themselves this question would be more helpful. We parents don't have many opportunities to be in the school to know about the general environment.
87. I pick up my child at KAST at the richmond middle school and the lighting in the parking lot is terrible. The streetlight closes to the parking lot where cars linger is out. It seems like an accident waiting to happen, its hard to see kids there including those walking behind your car.
88. MCS needs a solution to the failed septic tank.
89. septic seems to be a major issue at MCS, not sure how parents can help

90. Classrooms, auditorium, and office spaces should be air-conditioned, especially during the height of spring and fall allergies and during COVID.
91. There is insufficient indoor space for fitness. Why is there no PE at HHS other than in 9th grade?
92. Student traffic flow/ need stronger security
93. The outdoor classrooms seem really cool when the weather cooperates.
94. Septic!
95. Athletics just got a million dollars to improve fields, but I can't turn on both sets of lights in my classrooms because they flicker, there are holes in the screens that let hornets in and a student was stung just a few weeks ago, the projector in one of the rooms has a constant notice on the screen that the bulb needs to be replaced but there is no money to purchase the correct bulb. The list could go on and on. This is another example of where academics is last on the list of concerns.
96. This question should NOT require 3 answers, since a respondent may feel everything is fine yet be forced to choose problems. The health and safety elements of MCS are being managed beautifully. A special tip of the hat to **** * and **** *!
97. Since security was mentioned, I wanted to state unequivocally that it's a good thing that we don't have police officers in our schools, and that should continue. No law enforcement presence should be allowed in the schools except to respond to dangerous situations.
98. Rip Road is a mess between 7:40-7:55, as is Lyme Road near RMS, and will only get worse if Dartmouth builds on Lyme Road
99. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
100. I've never been able to go inside, so I am not sure
101. Septic at MCS must be a priority
102. Recent tragedy a reminder of need for security
103. Child reports days that are "freezing" in the classroom, and now days that are above 80 degrees in a room. I've inquired, office in school is fully air conditioned - yet classrooms are not? Wonder about the correlation of Covid cases, and classrooms that have poor ventilation? Why are some pockets of a building with A/C yet those populated by large groups of students not? Why does an office have AC for 4 people, and a classroom with 20-25 people not? Equity?
104. The Bernice Ray school needs a re boot/attention to the all things that are supposed to be maintained by building and grounds
105. Defund athletics. Such a silly system in the US to spend so much money on HS sports.
106. Need a new playground at MCS
107. Given recent gun violence, it seems like every reasonable precaution and show of enforcement should be put in place to lower the probability of these now too-frequent incidents.
108. Pick up and drop off in front of the High School is really challenging.
109. mold in the building
110. Teachers leaving doors (back of the classroom/doors to the playground) open during recess/end of the day. Schools have open campuses. Safety concern.

- 111. The MCS building is in poor shape and needs renovating.
- 112. In the fall there are many teams practicing until 9pm as there is only one turf field. Would be great to have a second artificial surface to allow for more reasonable practice times
- 113. Indoor turf facility, air conditioning in all buildings
- 114. Schools (all floors, all spaces) should all be air conditioned.
- 115. Unhealthy food in the caf.
- 116. On-going septic issues at school need to be resolved.
- 117. I would want to ensure secure access into all schools at all times.

Q33: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q32: What are the current most pressing transportation, arrival, and departure needs for our schools?*

179 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 109 answers

1. **** * does an amazing job coordinating transportation and the bus drivers for our route are wonderful!
2. School start time was changed without appropriate notification, resulting in quite a few latenesses. When we were notified that many kids were now arriving "late" it was noted that the school start time was also still in the school website as the previous years' start time until parents notified the school. While this may appear minor, it was one of the first moments we realized, apart from the difficulties engendered by the pandemic, that we were lacking the effective communication from the administration that we were accustomed to. It seemed indicative of other oversights that became evident.
3. Buses are used for soccer practice to Dresden daily (to and fro), and buses to and from Wilson's Landing for crew, but a bus is very needed for alpine ski training practice after school
4. It takes almost an hour to get home on the bus. It is a six minute drive directly to school.
5. We took our kids off the bus after they complained that the driver was always yelling at the kids
6. High school students should start later so they can sleep later.
7. Especially for higher grades, many studies point out that starting school a bit later has great cognitive benefits for students.
8. My teenager does so much better when his first period is a free and he gets to sleep.
9. Taking care of the drivers
10. studies have shown kids learn better when they go to school later.
11. My children are among the first on the bus and the last off. They spend 1.5 hours per day on the bus.
12. Please add a transportation option for the King Road residents - currently there is no bus option for families on King, Hayes Hill, and Gates Road.

13. We need bike lanes on major school routes.
14. Later start!!
15. We wish the bus stop was much closer, say 1 mile from the house
16. We used to have a 7:25 boarding time on **** **, which was practical. It got changed to a 7:05 boarding time, which isn't for an 8:00 arrival. Its a 15-minute drive from here to the school. I think the bus rides should be no greater than 30 minutes for any student regardless of location, and the bus system should be changed to make that a reality. Otherwise the bus isn't likely to be used except by those with no other option, which really isn't fair.
17. busses should let cars pass when there is a place for them to pull over
18. parking for students needs to be free. some sports do not provide afterschool transportation and it is needed. (skiing)
19. Buses for each school,
20. HHS should start later, Ray and RMS are fine
21. I believe the science is clear: students learn better with later start times. While some parents will howl about inconvenience, I'd suggest that we optimize school for learning (vs. daycare), and if parents need early coverage, perhaps a study hall or similar could do the job without incurring large costs.
22. the k-12 students on buses is a concern. If each elementary school had their own bus, perhaps that would help? (at least separate the younger students from middle/high schools)
23. The buses seem to not be on time for pick up of students at the high school.
24. We absolutely love the **** bus driver "**** "
25. Daughter is picked up at 7 AM and dropped off at 3:45 PM. 2 hours on the bus each day is too much!
26. **** bus: 6:55 feels too early to leave for school
27. Parking options for pickup/drop off at all Hanover schools are not adequate. Not enough parking available for extra school activities, like concerts, special events, etc.
28. I don't love having H.S. and Elementary kids together on the bus; the bus driver is really good
29. Bus schedule answers are from when our kids were in Ray. First pickup and last dropoff, meant that kids would be on the bus 1+ hours for a 15-20 minute trip. Neighborhood therefore organized our own shuttling of kids to school as was too much time in transit to not be doing homework and getting enough sleep.
30. Bus should have a monitor. Driver should not be managing behavior while driving.
31. There should be more No Idling signs. Especially in the parking lots behind the school.
32. The ray school traffic flow is just entirely overwhelmed by the growth in student population and needs to be fixed. Also, studies demonstrate that kids need more sleep to succeed and be healthy
33. Pickup and drop-off at the Ray School work just fine. The middle school has an effective system, too.
34. While we need more busses, they are Not too crowded. The bus stop is too far away for the kids in the neighborhood to walk. The town needs to eliminate the trees causing blind curves in the roads. There is clearly a need for more sidewalks and pedestrian/bike

lanes. The school should work with the towns to clear trees to create safe travel for students.

35. There could be a traffic cop at the Ray intersection.. but usually it works out.
36. Consolidating the bus stops will be very helpful. My child gets picked up literally one city block from the next bus stop. We can see the next group of kids and can easily walk to their stop instead or vice versa. No need for the bus driver to stop twice on the same street.
37. RMS and Hanover High should start at 8:30
38. our kids have a bus stop too far from our house. it is not safe for them to walk home, so we need to provide private transportation for them. I feel if we pay school taxes, safe bus transportation should be provided to our home.
39. We commute **** and are often late because there is no bus service and **** is up late every night with homework. School day should start at 9 to allow teenagers time to get more sleep.
40. Read studies about how school schedules work around adult circadian rhythms not those of teenagers
41. There is an equity issue related to busing. MCS students have a much longer day and staff are required to have more duties.
42. We would use the bus but it simply comes too early to our stop (around 7:12 am)
43. There should be a sidewalk around the loop so my child can walk to school safely. We live close enough to do so
44. Much money is spent on buses that are barely half full. A fine line between longer routes which would fill the bus but extend the early morning and late afternoon drop-off. Maybe provide a stipend for parents to make their own arrangements?
45. SAU70 should consider joining the many SAUs that have moved school start to better accomodate the sleep/awareness biorhythms of pre-teens and teens.
46. We do not take the bus because my children would be picked up too early and dropped off too late.
47. Please work with HPD to ensure safety in the mornings especially along the Rip Rd corridor before someone gets hurt! Also, add a no left turn out of the Ray parking lot in the morning and afternoon rush hours?
48. Please keep the current MCS drop off and pickup. Being able to see and talk to other parents and teachers improves the community connection.
49. I don't feel like I have enough experience with school to answer this, so I am clicking on "Everything feels just fine"
50. the experts agree that high school students should start no later than 8:30
51. I wish it was more clear that the school day was going to start at 8:05 (versus 8:10 last year), but I don't know if that changes anything at all
52. I'm having a hard time getting my kids to the bus stop on time in the morning and it take a loooong time for them to get home in the afternoon because they have to stop at the middle school and high school before starting the drop-off route. Arg.
53. We need to decrease parent drop offs for our environment. I don't know how to increase riders, but in some countries, students must walk / bike (no car drop off) within a certain distance.

54. If the buses did not require such an early pick up, we would use them.
55. Start the elementary schools earlier, and the high school later.
56. Thanks to the **** for being there to welcome children and parents. Wonderful!
57. improve bus pickups and drop-off timings
58. I have driven my child daily due to constraints of available school transportation options
59. We drive to school every day because the pick up time is too early on our route
60. I think the bus system runs pretty well. I would like to see more encouragement for kids to ride their bikes and walk. It would also be helpful to have a traffic person/ police officer at the entrance of the of the Ray school during AM drop off and PM pick up.
61. Bus drivers are fantastic! The schedule is not optimal for where we live, as my children can get more sleep each day if I drive them to school.
62. I clicked safety of walking and biking, but I really mean that these things should be prioritized. The pathways and entrances for walking, biking and skiing should be highlighted, protected, and accessible. The route below the high school field should be easy to access. There should be a dedicated walkway down summer street. The district should work with the town to connect all of the schools via a greenway, then students could walk, bike, and even ski to school.
63. Practices are sometimes off campus and if parents work, coordinating a ride can sometimes be difficult
64. PLEASE make school start later!!!!!! it'd help the kids mental health!!!!!!!
65. High school should start later
66. My kids do not ride the bus but their peers have expressed concerns about student behavior on the buses.
67. Would be great to get more kids walking/independent coming to and from school!
68. Particularly on the outskirts of town, the bus can sometimes get really crowded.
69. Parking is ok, but the church parking lot is strained to capacity and the potholes are currently right at the edge of what is passable for smaller vehicles.
70. Far too many high school students driving SUVs to school. Restrict permits to electric vehicles or car pools.
71. the busses work well for us, but we are limited by transportation to other activities
72. 40 minute bus ride for 3 miles is too long, would require my child to get up very early in the morning.
73. The drop off area in the morning is congested that when we are walking the cars block the sidewalks and crossing paths. Drop off needs to be at another location that cars can drop off and leave another way.
74. No place to park at pick up and the bus ride is too long. We have a 6:50 pick up and a 4:10 drop off. My kids are in the bus for far too long.
75. increase bus capacity and encourage families to send their kids on the bus--school drop off line with dozens of cars is not climate-friendly
76. we would love to put our kids on the bus but it goes by our house at 6:45 AM and takes an hour to get to the schools-- normally a 12 minute drive. However, I applaud the district for the 8:00 AM start time. I started class at 7:10 AM in high school and was always exhausted. Also, a late bus would be a great innovation.

77. Not using the bus because pickup is too early (would have to spend 45 min on the bus)
78. We can barely make the bus work. The stop is over 1/2 mile from our house, and pick-up/drop-off is too early/late respectively.
79. Car drivers need to be more conservative driving to school close to the school. At the same time, I rarely f ever see students on bikes get off their bikes and walk it across intersections the way they are instructed to do so.
80. Deferred answer as my child currently drives to school
81. Paying \$35 a month to part at Hanover High does not seem like an equitable approach to parking. While we can handle the expenses, it's a lot for others. Also if you need to visit the school during the day, there are no spots for parents to park anymore. There used to be meters but those are not permitted spots. I understand the need for more parking, but maybe some of the spots at the Rochard Black Center could accomodate Hanover High visitors as long as they're staying for an hour or under?
82. I wish school start and stop times aligned better with the work day. It would be better if school went from 9am-4pm
83. everything feels just fine, had to check another box to submit survey
84. The Norwich buses seem to be late to pick up at RMS, and they are overcrowded and there are student behavior issues.
85. Student parking at HHS is totally insufficient
86. Not enough parking/ schools should start differ times
87. I'm still confused how it makes sense to start all 4 schools at the same time. What about parents dropping off multiple kids? Also, all the current evidence seems to point to starting schools later, especially at the high school level. That's more important than sports, after-school jobs, etc. We need to get ahead of this and be a leader.
88. Parking is a joke
89. More public transport! Stop building bigger parking lots and facilitating parents driving their kids to school. Encourage people to walk, bike, bus, and carpool.
90. Students driving in from Norwich are often late b/c of traffic on the bridge; rather than excusing their tardiness they need to take responsibility for leaving earlier in the morning knowing that the traffic is always heavy there. T
91. Again, this question should not require 3 answers. I think everything is fine.
92. Brain development studies show that the adolescent/teen brain have different schedules from the rest of us and tend to sleep later and begin their day later. Perhaps a slight delay in the high school start time might be beneficial.
93. No issues, had to add two, they negate each other
94. Our kids switched buses at the beginning of the year because their original bus was consistently getting to school late.
95. On these questions where you're requiring 3 answers, I'm having to check off things that I see as pretty small issues. Schools starting later and environmentally friendly buses are important to me. The pickup and dropoff lines can be annoying but are not a serious problem for our family.
96. I did not want to click on anything but 'not enough parking at the schools', but it made me choose 3 or nothing. You should be able to choose fewer than 3.
97. HHS should not allow solo drivers to have parking passes. Eco and social disaster.

98. RMS drop-off and pick-up is a terrible time for traffic congestion. Why clog the main artery on Rt 10 from the north in to at prime commute time? Figure a way to do this without using both sides of Rt 10 or use a secondary road? Lines extend to Kendal sometimes for us commuters just trying to pass through.
99. Parents drive too fast and not safely at pickup/drop off. I've seen one accident and several almost accidents
100. School should start at 7:30 and end at 2:30 or earlier
101. Wish there was a separate bus for elementary school
102. I don't really have concerns here, but the survey requires checking three boxes.
103. Only because I had to respond with 3. Please ignore the general safety of walking/biking and transportation. We live within walking distance.
104. As a community we need to find ways to rely on public transportation and reduce the number of cars entering and dropping single students. We need environmentally friendly transportation - green buses? Align with Advance Transit? Way to many parents dropping individual students. Can we look at length of the school day? Do we need 7:55-2:45? Can a school day be shorter with more community/recreation/child active activities scheduled?
105. There is abundant evidence that children do better with a later start. The school can provide optional (fee-based) early morning child care if necessary. But it's hard on young and older kids to have to be at school so early.
106. I work at mcs it seem not equal that norwich kids have to get the earliest busses (dropped off at school at 7:30 am) and then get the latest busses home (picked up at 3:30-3:45) from mcs
107. I feel each school should have their own buses.
108. We do not use the bus because the transportation times are far too long at close to 1 hour each way and bus stop is too far from home.
109. Everything is fine. I had to check two other boxes because the survey wouldn't allow me to move on without checking 3 boxes.

Q35: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q34: What are the current most pressing sustainability needs for our schools?*

150 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 65 answers

1. I don't have enough information to answer this question except that my child said his classroom always too warm.
2. Lack of A/C will become a bigger issue with rising temperatures. Generally, MCS is run down. Plumbing smells upstairs.
3. Should not have single use cutlery and plates etc in cafe.

4. it looks like this technical issue is still not resolved, above, i did not choose any of the things you've listed, yet, i cannot submit the form without choosing them. please disregard the issues i marked in the question above.
5. School buses should move away from dirty diesel! Schools should make a concerted effort to mitigate energy and water consumption, even as a pedagogical tool for our future adults who will live in a very different world.
6. Septic at MCS has been a huge issue, but I understand they are now pumping it. A more permanent solution is needed.
7. Everything should be looked at from a cost benefit analysis not just how we feel about it. Capital expenditures impact current tax payers while any cost savings in future years will only benefit future tax payers who are likely to be different.
8. Mold smells - nasty carpets - peeling paint- loss of trees near Ray School.
9. Typical definition of, "sustainability", is seriously flawed.
10. Environmental impact is not the highest value for a school system. Quality of education is. Trying to make the school system adhere to somebody's political preferences is unwise. Yes, we as a society ought to be forward-looking about our environmental impact. At the schools, teach our children Physics so they can perfect fusion power. That's what the schools can do.
11. I don't know enough about the various environmental impacts our school generates, but agreement on an appropriate set of measures and goals, a wholistic assessment, and then action plans would be the path I'd suggest.
12. Sustainability is important, but the focus should be on teaching and using whatever resources needed to ensure the success of each student.
13. The MCS septic system needs to be fixed!
14. Don't know enough to answer well.
15. The school lunches seem to create a lot of waste. The broken septic system needs to be addressed.
16. All this information is quantified in the school's CAP. I sincerely hope that this committee will use the CAP to help guide some of the decision making regarding the school's future.
17. Energy efficiency is BY FAR the cheapest way to use less energy. There are easy ways to make the schools more efficient. This is important because money saved on energy is money that can be plowed back into academic programs and supporting social cohesion. But the focus of SAU 70 must remain on education and not on secondary items. Institute some easy energy efficiency measures and use the savings to hire staff with the best qualifications to support our students academically.
18. Always good to try to find ways to help conserve.
19. Bringing in school lunch requires containers and generates waste.
20. Lack of reusable items & dishwasher in the cafeteria at the middle school (my direct experience) leads to a lot of waste each day! The district should prioritize moving to reusable/washable food service items.
21. Ray School- Huge amount of wasting paper.
22. Septic issues are still a concern.

23. It is difficult to assess this without being in the school or knowing of the current energy consumption patterns.
24. Norwich needs a town sewer. Septic doesn't make sense for this density at school.
25. I don't feel like I have enough experience with school to answer this, so I am clicking on "Everything feels just fine"
26. I would be in favor of efforts to reduce food-related waste at the Ray School.
27. Everyone loves composting. Why not compost the poo?
28. Reduce consumption in general - less plastic, paper, etc.
29. Schools need to make less food waste - either with leftover food or one-time use products.
30. Fix the septic issue with a LONG TERM solution.
31. My student brings home a ton of worksheets. Isn't there a better way to teach?
32. I support the teaching of climate change science, but my child comes home feeling guilty about being human. She is being taught that less humans are better. Please keep the religion of climate change out of the school. Children need to be empowered, not made to feel feeble, guilty, and overwhelmed with someone else's enviro-angst. Thanks. Otherwise, SAU 70 is doing great!
33. My child comes home with the notion that humans are evil with respect to the environment. I don't agree with this mindset and don't believe guilt for being alive is a way to raise children. Please check teaching climate change religion and stick to science. Generally, I support teaching the kids science and stewardship of the planet.
34. What happened to **** * proposal for HHS renovation?
35. The school should take the initiative to educate in every discipline about climate changes- bringing in through English, Science, Math, SS, Art, etc.
36. Greening transportation options is crucial. Make driving harder.
37. I think making sustainability part of the curriculum and way of life at the school will empower students to feel they can do something about the climate crisis
38. MCS Septic solution
39. I do not know what the school is doing on sustainability so can't answer that.
40. The waste generated by the MCS lunch program is problematic.
41. The school values all of the above things and has taken reasonable measures in these directions. Great work!
42. The schools aren't disproportionately contributing to climate change. Preparing the students to live in a changed world is unfortunately, the best we can do.
43. Fix the MCS Septic System!!!!!! I have lived her for 4 years and this is the most pressing problem and is hasn't been addressed in a useful way!!!!!!
44. It would be nice if the older teenagers at the high school could start later. This would be in keeping with what we know from science is most beneficial to them - older teens have later body clocks. Early start times are likely adding to their stress and anxiety.
45. FIX THE SEPTIC
46. Composting Toilets that don't take human waste to landfills but to agricultural needs of Hanover
47. I actually wanted to only pick "everything feels fine" in the sustainability question, but it forced me to pick three options

48. I honestly have not been in the building much over the past couple of years (HHS) so some of these things hard to answer
49. Upgrading to electric buses would be great.
50. Thank you for your efforts
51. Invest in real silverware plates and cups no more single use water bottles
52. Get a dishwasher at RMS! It's unconscionable how much gets wasted there every day.
53. Although I don't disagree with any of the above ideas; I am not sure that the amount of time and money spent on any of them is more important than other improvements needed in the facilities.
54. Please replace plastic tableware with washable tableware.
55. I have no means to measure how efficient or inefficient the school buildings are.
56. Everything seems fine, had to choose three
57. Solar panels. Small windmill for learning purposes, like the one on the waterfront in Portland, ME. Use no insecticides outside, or harmful fertilizers. Landscape with natives where possible. Research what makes our local pollinators happiest. This could be heavily student-involved, - **** **?* Biology??
58. Again - mandate car pooling for students. Or they take the bus. Far too many kids hopping in gas guzzling SUVs after school. Alone.
59. I don't have enough information to accurately assess what the most pressing sustainability needs of the school
60. Why don't we have solar panels on all schools? Why do we have gas busses? Why do we have a giant parking lot and parents dropping individual kids? Carpool? Smaller lot, less cars, more use of Advance Transit? Negotiate with Advance Transit to add a school based drop off point? Think big picture.
61. You need qualified professional people running the facilities department. Not a ****
62. Redo the leach field at MCS
63. MCS has so much paper use...lots of waste of paper, they should make goals to reduce paper waste
64. I feel like this isn't feasible
65. Everything is fine. I had to check two other boxes because the survey wouldn't allow me to move on without checking 3 boxes.

Q37: Do you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question or feel that we missed something? Please let us know below. *Re: Q36: Within the next five years, which large-scale initiatives are the most important?*

172 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 99 answers

1. Restore previous curriculum arc, integrating specials into academics; restore trust of our wonderful teachers, of whom many have taken early retirements within the past 3 years.

2. I do like the idea of school sport so kids can do sports right after school and not in the evening but its not a critical issue
3. As mentioned earlier, add subjects about drug/alcohol abuse and addiction. This should be state sponsored
4. i don't see a question about specials, above. i believe that specials are important to the quality of learning for students and the institution, as a whole. more attention to specials, please. it looks like this technical issue is still not resolved, above, i did not choose any of the things you've listed, yet, i cannot submit the form without choosing them. please disregard the issues i marked in the question above.
5. Language teaching id currently too euro-centric. As the balance of power shifts East, students need to be prepared for the new global dynamics.
6. Expand the Rec department
7. Language and music are so important
8. Swimming pool would be nice
9. We have a fantastic program, education, and awareness around environmental needs and awareness.
10. increasing supports and understanding of those students who are diverse in economic status and racial and socioeconomic diversity
11. Its not listed but some kind of safety and security measures would be helpful - for example, ease getting into schools during school hours.
12. Can't emphasize enough the need to hire a strongly diverse staff.
13. Integrated learning. More relevant open curriculum. Focus on the "Formative Five" at all levels"(grit, self-control, integrity, diversity, empathy). Non "numbers based" grading. Better and more creative ways for students to show their learning.
14. Diverse staff is a priority number 1. Please start advertising positions outside of our immediate area- there is WAY too much hiring of alumni.
15. The schools are not child-care institutions and should not function in that capacity at taxpayer expense.
16. Please add Drivers Education
17. consider moving Norwich 6th to RMS
18. Hard to comment when I have not been in building due to Covid
19. HHS should start at 9. All HHS students should be required to take personal finance.
20. What about large-scale initiative to improve quality of teaching staff and expand resources to meet the needs of all children in their elementary years ... equitable resources for all?
21. Indoor air quality wasn't an option but should have been!
22. Part of the workforce crunch here in the UV is because people have to care for kids. We don't have reliable childcare. Providing UPK and before/after school care allows parents to work!
23. I think a year round school schedule without a long summer break should be considered.
24. It's been some time since we've had our kids in the Hanover Rec programs, if they are not holding up, feel strongly there should be a solid after school sports program in place and should be school sponsored if otherwise not working.

25. I would like to have teachers' voices valued more in terms of the priorities.
26. Introduce Spanish at MCS
27. I want to reiterate that the focus of SAU 70 MUST be on providing the highest quality academic and social education. We can achieve that by putting our resources into great staff who are the most qualified to teach and mentor our students. High quality teachers are MUCH more important than new facilities. An effective curriculum that is well-supervised is MUCH more important than new facilities. Focus on the academics.
28. An initiative should take place for the HHS store relocate to the golf course. This would allow all three schools in one location. Also, eliminate the Wednesday early dismissal. And, offer more, drivers education courses. The State mandatory course is too costly to families and near impossible to secure a spot in the local courses. The State should eliminate these courses all together and adopt a proven similar to other states.
29. Yes to the languages! For elementary grades, pick one and offere more time.
30. Need school sponsored sports at Richmond school.
31. Drivers education needs to be made available to all students in the schools, the current system is not working
32. Too many good options to select but I choose the ones which save more families money and add to the diversity of staff at the school who can bring in varied lived experiences to add to the mix.
33. It is disappointing when athletes show up without a coach and need separate transportation due to lack of school sponsored sports
34. ASL would be an important language to offer as well
35. MCS is on the right track with two full day preschool programs!
36. Would be wonderful it Ray offered a PreK program, particularly because all the vermont schools are now offering them
37. We should focus on indoor air quality!! Not just because of COVID but also VOCS. Especially during the winter when windows can't be open
38. I have **** children that attended K-12 and have been a **** **** at the Ray School and **** **** at both the Ray and High School
39. Hanover needs school-sponsored sports in middle school! The reliance on the Rec. Dept. for sports opportunities is sub-optimal.
40. Introducing other languages is a good idea too. Please stop with the millions of dollars toward buildings. Norwich is negatively impacted by the monies voted upon by Hanover. Yes, Norwich votes but they must also pay for the Vermont Acts and "gold town" requirements. Everyone has been affected by COVID-19 and now inflation. Please just stop the hemorrhage of spending.
41. The SAU should be managing 5/6 & 7/8 sports not the Rec Department!
42. Accessibility, especially to outdoor spaces is lacking and is causing critical inequities in our school.
43. I don't know that it has to be school sponsored, but preschool and adequate after-school care are critical. Working through HPR for KAST, for example, has been great.
44. Norwich rec could also play a role in after school activities at MCS.
45. Septic system should be a top priority.
46. By "renovation to existing building" I ONLY mean fix the septic at MCS

47. I would like to see RMS have school sponsored sports. I DO NOT think full day preschool should be included in the school budget. This reduces funding for K-12 needs.
48. My previous answers should support these choices.
49. Curriculum alignment, professional development, and time for staff to analyze student data to inform teaching.
50. Please don't spend money on a DEI administrator or coordinator. Please invest in our teachers. They don't need more administrators, rather they need less administrators.
51. I am strongly against hiring a DEI director or DEI administrator to drive a DEI agenda that seems to be more of a religion and ideology that has not been validated with data or the test of time. Instead, I would spend this money on hiring and keeping great teachers.
52. transportation and coaching by parents of rec sports during RMS years was difficult for working parents
53. The middle school sports teams rely almost entirely on parental support (funding, coaching etc). Surrounding towns have a greater support system which makes it difficult for our kids to compete.
54. Less competitive after school sports at HHS
55. It would be wonderful to have school-sponsored robotics, STEM activities, etc
56. Offer more days of Music instruction - double hours for Strings
57. I want to study japanese but you dont have it!
58. Mcs playground is embarrassing
59. At MCS the most pressing issues are the SEPTIC, followed by renovation of the (dangerous and decaying) playgrounds, as well as access to the outdoor classrooms.
60. MCS septic system; SAU70 central scratch kitchen to improve use of local foods and meal quality
61. Sports associated with school would be incredibly helpful for working parents. Universal PreK would be AMAZING and lead the way for other schools in NH
62. I would love to see the language offerings expand rather than shrink. However, the most essential thing is that language specials are given adequate time so that actual learning can take place. To my (trained) eyes, the number of hours devoted to French was already close to the bare minimum. The proposal to cut those hours strikes me as misguided (though I appreciate the process and the good will of the people who came to the decision).
63. I want a strong, inspiring support staff but I want you to close your eyes and pick the most qualified candidate, whatever they may look like. Hiring based on physical characteristics we can't control is racist. Your response in this question is cleverly worded to push your agenda- as are many responses in this survey
64. HHS needs space for everyone to eat lunch in a civilized manner. Why any school would be built without a cafeteria big enough for at least half the student body is beyond my understanding.
65. Lets get some solar up on the high school roof when it gets replaced.
66. Again fix the MCS Septic System!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Preschool and aftercare a incredibly important resources for working parents. Transportation in the late afternoon to sports in untenable for working parents. Also Norwich residents should not be treated as non-residents for middle shool sports. Norwich rec defers to HPR for middles school age

- sports and its not fair to be charged more and given lower priority when we have an interstate school district and no other option for sports.
67. focus on budget and make smart adjustments. Reduce money spend on technology.
 68. Again, why were the performing arts ignored in these priorities? It illustrates my point above that they are undervalued at the school, which is tragic because they overperform and deserve more credit/resources.
 69. Please introduce Arabic as an optional language to learn
 70. Ray School and (probably) MCS need revamped HVAC with filtration.
 71. SEPTIC
 72. The most important thing would be to fix the septic at Marion Cross
 73. This was tough. I also wanted to choose hiring more diverse staff because geez it really isn't and also to change the start and end time for schools.
 74. I think the town rec programs work well for MCS and Paymond school students. One of our children had an extremely negative experience with a parent coach while at Richmond. After that experience, I feel very strongly that parents should not be allowed to coach in middle school. Middle school is hard and parent coaches can make a student's life simply awful. Teachers and other community members would be much better as coaches in that tender time. They won't have the motivation to keep a student off a team for personal reasons, like so their child can shine brighter. Plus middle school students should have busses take them to games and practices like the other schools in our area. It's not fair to middle school students to require parents to drive them to and from practices and games because it means that some kids with working parents cannot play.
 75. Add Spanish to MCS
 76. improving septic at MCS, academic rigor, and after school enrichment would be our top 3 suggested priorities
 77. A focus on equity and social justice should drive the strategic vision
 78. Thank you for your efforts
 79. Most of these seem important, thanks for giving such thoughtful ideas. A tough one to answer, in a good way. Sad to see the competing resources here, but seems inevitable.
 80. Also some new teachers need to be hired some of them aren't great
 81. Sewers at mcs! No more septic on playground!
 82. Swimming pool for sau70 students More than one language in elementary school and more diverse staff
 83. I am very stressed about the drivers education problem for our teens. It is nearly impossible to get training and I feel like this should be offered through the school.
 84. Based on this survey it seems like the powers that be are taking on too much at one time which means resources will be spread to thin, and nothing will get done well. Limit the number of goals.
 85. The elephant in the room is: We need SPANISH! Arabic, Japanese, and Mandarin are all well and good, but Spanish is by leaps and bounds the most spoken language in the USA after English, and employment-wise in our country, "bilingual preferred" is synonymous with English-Spanish!!!

86. #36. As an example of what I noted above, that there is a difference between athletics and other extracurriculars, you have listed a choice in #36 as "More indoor recreation and sports facilities," yet you offer not a single choice related to the performing arts at the high school, despite the need for large-scale initiatives. This is the shame of the school district, that the people who structure the conversation about resources do not even think to include extracurriculars beyond athletics in their planning. This is not the first time this has happened. Do better.
87. Public full day school-sponsored preschool will be a huge benefit to the community. Cost and availability of childcare for preschool children makes living in Hanover/Norwich and surrounding towns prohibitively expensive, thereby restricting access to people who can afford it. The school system NEEDS to be actively working to solve this problem. (The amount of stress and anxiety that would have been saved if we had all-day public preschool when my kids were that age is immeasurable.)
88. Driver's ed seems to be to be integral to the high school learning experience. No big deal. Just another elective. Not a big to-do to get signed up for and arrange private instruction.
89. After school care would go a long way in supporting working parents and building friendships and community.
90. I don't have enough information to decide
91. More support for our teachers, more educational assistants, MCS town green/water, improvements and additional green space playground
92. The school is dirty, tired, lacks ventilation.
93. I would like to see renovations at RMS that would allow Norwich students to come over for 6th grade. As it currently stands, there are some significant inequities for the Norwich students when they get to RMS and their Hanover peers are ahead with things such as technology use and peer & teacher relationships.
94. Our district needs a qualified facilities director. Someone that holds a CFM degree. A competent qualified person in ALL aspects of facilities management. And more maintenance workers to handle the needs of properly maintaining all buildings and saving the taxpayers money in the long term by actually doing preventive maintenance.
95. Not listed as an option, but one I think is vitally important: There is an EA shortage at the elementary school, and as a result the school is not functioning as well as it should. Raise the pay rate significantly and require more education and training. EA's are an essential part of an elementary school running smoothly and meeting the needs of all students, but the job is overlooked and undervalued. You can't depend on an ever-replenishing supply of overeducated housewives looking to make summer home rental money at a job that's on the same schedule as their kids'. Treat it like a real job, pay better than McDonalds, and you'll have better EA's with less turnover.
96. the Ray School building is too small for the current population
97. HHS needs air conditioning on all floors in all spaces. Make one year of language study a graduation requirement.
98. There was no option (above) regarding improving professional development for teachers and/or large-scale curriculum initiatives. That is telling, in my view. A school is only as strong as its teaching force.

99. Yes to middle school sports!

Q46: Did we miss anything that you think is important for us to know?
Please put anything here that is not covered by the other survey questions.

167 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 103 answers

1. I am frustrated by the lack of curriculum, lack of academic rigor, and political ideology promoted in the district that I am considering moving out of the district or putting my child in private school despite the financial/social/emotional hardship that will result. I am very disappointed and sad to be put in this position, especially since I moved here based on the district's reputation. Many parents agree that the district's excellent reputation is as much due to demographics and parental involvement as it is due to what goes on in the schools. Thank you for your time and consideration.
2. Honestly, ask us what we loved about our school and we'll tell you. This survey is a bear to fill out and has too many gaps. What we'd like is to feel as if we were an integral part of our children's education, which means not being told what is going to be changed just prior to doing it. Quite a few MCS parents in the past have worked hand in hand to develop a type of curriculum that educates the whole child from Kindergarten in the forest to integrating foreign language and other specials with the academics. It's a cop-out to say that drops in reading scores over the disruptions of the pandemic can only be solved by emphasizing academics flies in the face of previous successes by a curriculum designed by excellent teachers, administrators, staff, and, yes, parents that have exceptional qualifications as educators themselves. After nearly 3 years of isolation our **** grader FINALLY had the opportunity to read to the pre-K and K kids, as **** would have done in **** grade had the pandemic not thrown us a curve. Rather than bemoan drops in reading test scores, we should look to what made our school successful before, not simply chuck out the integrated curriculum and "buckle down" on extra academics. Our kids used to learn how to work together, to raise each other up. They need that environment again.
3. A long time ago there used to be plenty of opportunities to take advantage of course offerings at Dartmouth, Is there any possibility of reintroducing that?
4. more consistency in the quality of teachers and the curriculum (minimize screens at Ray)
5. often, people identify as more than one ethnicity, your form would allow for that. please provide useable forms! i mentioned a technical issue before, and see that the issue is still not resolved. this form has required me to fill in responses i do not hold, in order to be submittable. i will restate, i note that all of these questions are "downstream" stream questions, they question things below the level of the ones asking the questions... leaving the questioners out of the equation. this is a common flaw in surveys, where the questioners forget to include themselves within the systems in question, thereby assuring an incorrect assessment. i need to say that this is the exact same issue that was reported within the schedule creation process, for 2022, somehow,

the admin was left out of the focus. i ask again: are you sure that your administration is performing flawlessly? are you sure that admin is reporting issues correctly? or, as is the case with this very form, has admin been left out of the area of question, comment and focus? if so, why? and do you believe that you can arrive at a true assessment without including the guidance system in the process? personally, i don't believe that will be possible, forcing a wrongheaded solution onto the community. what a shame, as simply asking the full question could have rendered the correct answers. thank you!

6. I hope you will be working on helping the students navigate the difficulties of being a teen without finding yourself once again with suicidal teens and kids overpressured. Please wake up
7. MCS is a fantastic school to have worked in for my **** *. The staff is friendly and helpful, the Administration is personable and always there when needed, and faculty members are kind, excellent educators, and care a great deal for the school as a whole. I could not be more happy at MCS
8. i have multiply children with different genders
9. We are an LGBTQ+ family
10. Dear Dr. Badams: We are submitting these notes of concern about **** *. on behalf of a number of **** *. We deeply appreciated ALL that **** *. We have two recommendations. First, **** * teachers, educational assistants, and staff. Second, **** *. With thanks for all that you do on behalf of all of us in SAU 70, **** *
11. Thanks for doing this
12. The schools are not to be burdened by political activists' stances on social issues. The schools should focus on educational excellence. Political persuasions vary but our students need to be prepared to compete in a highly-complex and extremely competitive international arena, and for that, they need to learn science, math, language and history at a level that is competitive internationally, not just "best or second-best in the state of New Hampshire".
13. Course evaluations should be a requirement for all HHS courses. Teaching Assignments should change do not have the same teacher teaching the same course every year for years/ decades. Please institute a rigorous staff teaching evaluation program and hold

teachers accountable for the outcomes of all their students. There were many absences by staff at HHS this year which impacted student learning and there was no communication to parents/community on the impact this had on students. They were given free periods or just given a study time while their main teacher was out. Covid was/is a challenge but our children's education is important and we should know how many days they missed instruction. The block scheduling should be evaluated because Wednesdays just became an overly stressful day with each class meeting and huge assignments being given on a Tuesday due on Wednesday. It would also be a good idea to have staff trained in how to properly use a block period. Is it really necessary for a teacher to lecture for 60-90 minutes? That is not learning when there is no break. Please have more discussions with parents about the block schedule. I also believe having seniors only having 1-2 exams maybe a paper or being exempt from exams is the wrong message. These kids are headed to college where finals and papers will be required. 9th graders on the other hand are slammed with more 5 or more exams when they have not taken exams before this year. Graduation should be held after all students are finished with school and allow for the senior trip the week of exams for grades 9-11.

14. Our experience with the school district has been amazing! It is because of the teachers and administrators that have kept school open throughout a global pandemic that we feel seriously lucky! They are the real - everyday - heroes and our thanks are with them! Within the survey there is a lot to improve, but if you gave everyone a raise and ask them to keep doing their amazing job - that would be wonderful too! The buildings and initiatives are great, but it is about our community and helping everyone feel loved and comfortable which would be most precious to all of us! Not to sound too corny, but being nice and making everyone feel welcomed and worthwhile within our community would help alleviate the security threat we see around the country (I hope). Overall, we feel lucky to be a part of this wonderful community with these amazing schools! Thank you!
15. Please don't design the survey so that unanswered questions must be answered, this is a great way to infuriate parents! Honestly!
16. Thank you!
17. More robust music and art programs. Nobody draws, a basic skill that helps a child think critically.
18. I have 2 kids- one male on female. Didn't know how to answer question 45
19. Bullying (or as it's frequently called teasing) is NOT taken seriously enough. This was an issue for my child in **** grade. It was relatively innocent, yet it is still bullying. When I tried addressing it, the response from the teacher was dismissive and from the participating kids parents it was denial. **** was amazing when I brought the issue to **** but clearly the MCS teachers and staff are not on the same page. It is as if bullying could not possibly happen at MCS, when in fact it does indeed happen. While the incident blew over quickly, my child has continued to lack confidence in **** **** skills which was the subject of the bullying. As parents we do not want to think our child could be a bully toward other children but it is our responsibility of parents to identify it as such and teach our children that it is not ok. Blaming the child who is bullied and labeling them too sensitive is completely inappropriate, yet that is how it was handled. I

am aware of another child left MCS and went to **** because of the bullying. It's time to stop believing MCS is the white castle on a hill where things like bullying do not happen. We know better and we need to do better.

20. In the past, the schools have done a very nice job with open houses. Given COVID, I feel less connected and will appreciate when this interaction with the teachers will resume. It's an important aspect of the connection. Our kids have also benefitted from the sports programs, and some of the coaches they have had over their years have made significant impact on their confidence, which translates into broader aspects of their academic and even broader lives.
21. Throughout the **** years I had kids at the high school, there were many times (6+) that payments were not properly recorded. For example, a class trip fee or activity was paid for but not recorded and I had to provide a copy of the check. It was very surprising and disappointing that a more effective system was never out in place to properly record payments students give to the teacher. When my **** graduated, **** was told **** had no outstanding fees but then received a blank diploma. I went to the school to pay the fee and told the office my **** returned all of **** books. They sent me to the library to further discuss and it turned out that **** had turned in the book in question but the two systems don't talk to each other so once a fee is assigned it stays on the account even if the book is returned. More attention should have been given to this issue especially for seniors graduating and end up not getting their diploma at the ceremony excuse of some ineffective system that staff is aware of. The overall system for student accounts is poor and does not align with the rest of the quality of the school.
22. My major concern, as noted in previous answers, is that teachers are overloaded--they are asked to do too much and not given the time and resources to do what is expected of them. I feel that the administration is more driven by their own agendas than by listening to and supporting their own teachers and staff. Teaching is such a challenging and under-valued profession, and the Covid pressures have made everything so much harder for teachers. At the very least, they should have more support from their own administration.
23. I would like to see educating for sustainability efforts across the curriculum continue. Before Covid, there was some momentum and administrative support for moving the school in this direction. Small groups focused on moving the school forward with a vision no longer meet. The school feels like a large boat lost at sea with no direction or vision. With all the resources available to this school, HHS should be a leader in education and it is not. I hope this committee will create a document that is useful rather than vague. As someone who sat on the **** **** **** **** **** **** **** and as a teacher, I never saw that strategic plan used or even mentioned.
24. Sometimes it seems that the focus of our schools shifts away from the children who attend the schools. Our children need the best possible education - and that will come from hiring the best classroom teachers and holding them accountable for executing an effective curriculum. Those must be the priority of our schools - or SAU 70 will fail its most fundamental mission.
25. We have sports that are EXTREMELY achievement focused, and produce Olympians regularly. I would wager that these are much bigger sources of stress than what

happens inside the school. We shouldn't be afraid to sponsor and celebrate academic achievement.

26. 2 kids one boy one girl
27. Thank you!
28. Think about DEI as you aggregate the race and income data. Whoever built the survey needs DEI training.
29. I would fully support MCS 6th grade moving to RMS. The current model is not equitable for MCS students arriving at RMS in 7th grade.
30. My daughter has had an amazing experience at MCS. Thank you for all you do to create such a great educational environment. We appreciate it.
31. More gender-based violence prevention is needed
32. Overall very well done, thank you. One area that requires more attention is college counseling and how students that take honors classes are evaluated in class rank. Consider using gpa signing that gives more weight for honors classes. Our student are at disadvantage in college admission in selective colleges when this does not occur. This year was an excellent example of this happening.
33. Offering more non-college programs so student do not have to compete for the few slots available at Hartford.
34. need better and more consistent post-high school college or career counseling
35. We have only been in Ray during COVID and as a result, feel extremely disconnected from the school. We have never been inside, we don't know many other parents in our child's class. We would like a way to become more connected to the school and hope that there can be a safe return to on-site events next year. Our **** is very happy at Ray but we don't really feel part of the school community and with a younger child, don't have the time or bandwidth to do something like PTO.
36. Research VOCS and indoor air quality.
37. Better and healthier school lunch options. Very dismayed with the lack of nutritional content and quality.
38. BUDGET - SAU staff and budget too big. They get paid the most and have the least impact on the kids.
39. My children and now their children have gone through the Dresden schools. I have volunteered in the schools. We have had students who excelled and those that didn't graduate, those that were sports focused and those who were of the drug culture, those that are **** with the attached bias/bullying and the ****, and so much more. I have taught and continue to teach children through adult here in the **** **** and in ****. I believe I have good instincts and thoughts about education. Thank you for this survey. I hope it helps.
40. Our **** child is graduating from the Ray School - and all f our children have had a fantastic experience there. Thank you!
41. We have two students at MCS,
42. why is "hispanic/latino" the only choice for "ethnicity?"
43. Too much homework in high school. Please have some "homework free" holidays/long weekends/breaks. Often the teachers would just add more homework to breaks. We would have scheduled family time on these longer weekends/holidays, etc. and our son

- would have to be doing literally hours of homework. RMS has “homework free” times when teachers are not allowed to assign homework. Please start doing that at HHS.
44. We love the Ray School. We feel our children are safe, welcomed, loved and supported. Thank you so much for all you do.
 45. You guys are doing great. I wish the septic was as high a priority as the brand new baseball field we funded in March, but I guess I'm an outlier
 46. Consider not having 9th graders have PE every day. If your child is prone to prefer arts, that should be considered. Why are we not concerned with physical activity after 9th grade?
 47. Give teachers at MCS more planning time. Help retain the teachers that are there. Help prevent teacher burnout by working with teachers to find solutions to problems as well as more planning time.
 48. I am extremely grateful to the teachers and administrators of SAU 70. You make a great school. I want to help make it even better for the good of our kids and country.
 49. I really want to see the curriculum planned across the grades and schools so that every student receives the same quality and experience.
 50. Please check the DEI Religion that is unproven in its effectiveness at systematically using racism to compensate for systematic racism.
 51. I've had many conversations with other parents who have moved here who wonder why we don't hold bigger fundraisers for the school. I would be interested in learning more about that. Thanks!
 52. I do not require a follow up conversation with SAU70 staff, but I provided my contact information in case SAU70 staff would still like to ask additional questions.
 53. Honors classes are not helping the high school kids in their college application. Ruining GPAs and not getting prepared for AP tests.
 54. Teachers should be held accountable through high standards, review of their performance, and consequences for failing to meet expectations.
 55. Why take an honors class if no extra credit is given? Kids are working soooo hard to get A's in honors classes, while other students in regular classes are taking the easy road and in the end - colleges only look at gpa. Older students are even recommending to the younger kids to not take honors classes.
 56. When Covid cases are low, it would be nice to bring back outdoor events that allow parents to meet. The community connection has been lost in these 2-3 years.
 57. Sexuality!!!!!!!!!! It seriously plays a big part to mental health
 58. Thank you to teachers and staff for all you do.
 59. We are generally happy and hope that everyone's answers help us all improve.
 60. I have more than one child in school and this survey assumes 1.
 61. Parents could be asked to do more. I teach **** at **** and expressed willingness to visit or lend time to activities. I've never been contacted. The current reading gap should be a parent concern as much as a school concern.
 62. I'd like to express my support and satisfaction with **** **** and **** ****. They've both done an extraordinary job under exceedingly trying circumstances between the pandemic and distracting, misinformed attacks from the SB 544 crowd. Please extend my gratitude to them. We are all in their debt.

63. We moved to Hanover specifically for the academic rigor. Maintaining high standards is the best way to prepare our kids for the future.
64. FIX the MCS SEPTIC SYSTEM!
65. allow for parents to get more involved, even if their agenda doesn't align with the vocal minority of the staff
66. Didn't miss anything
67. Well, since none of the survey questions identified Performing Arts as a priority for the strategic plan, that was a glaring omission.
68. Please offer Arabic language and more mental health support
69. Celebration of other culture's holidays such as lunar new year, day of the dead, diwali, and etc...maybe celebration can include food/drinks from that culture. We are a multiracial family and seeing that the class only celebrate, halloween, sometimes christmas, and valentines day is interesting. Those are commercial holidays. We know it is difficult to celebrate everyone's cultural/religious holidays but it may bring more diversity/understanding in a mainly christian/protestant Caucasian student body.
70. I am shocked that the septic is not included in this survey at all as it clearly hasn't been in the strategic planning process considering how long it has been deficient
71. had child in **** but transferring to private school
72. Roughly the same for all 4 kids but I'm not going to fill this out x4
73. thank you
74. I'd like links to the videos my child sees at school especially when the video is easy available on YouTube
75. Dresden schools are wonderful, keep up the great work!
76. I generally think the schools do a great job and am pleased with the quality of education my student receives. I have heard concerning stories sometimes about students getting delays on being on an IEP, where a student has been **** and exhibited concerning behaviors, including injuring other students. Prior to being on an IEP, the parent was spoken to about their child's behavior by other parents. I also think teachers and staff could benefit from microaggression training. As a BIPOC, I have been subject to microaggressions by my **** teachers, which is disappointing.
77. I sometimes think Hanover High School focuses too much on differentiating between very hard working and high achieving students. I wish the focus would shift from figuring which child deserves to go to the most elite school to a more holistic and community-wide focus on how to help every child succeed. One tiny way I noticed this was in the graduation ceremony of one of our children. At that ceremony, I think I heard the name of **** high-achieving **** at least 8 times and from multiple speakers. Those **** **** also won the majority of the awards during their 4 years at Hanover High. At graduation, I kept thinking surely the teachers can reference other kids too. We know these **** **** are great but how about calling out some unexpected kids by name so they can have a moment in the sun too? I know it's likely too late for this year but I wish there was a way to ask all the graduation speakers who they're planning to mention by name and then make sure to have a more inclusive list of kids. It's a big world and it would be wonderful to celebrate all sorts of different kinds of kids, especially at such a pivotal ceremony.

78. A better school lunch option at MCS would be very helpful.
79. Many questions required three responses, so I could not simply select "Everything feels ok". It wouldn't let me submit that way.
80. Career and vocational training was not even mentioned in this survey. IT'S IMPORTANT!
81. Please urgently address mental health and extra curricular pressure. Work on social integration. Thank you for the effort to integrate minorities but it is time to integrate and welcome less wealthy families. Some students are true gems and struggle to the absurd need to "fit in" caused by the peer/ teachers/coaches pressure. This is urgent.
82. I can see the immense, thoughtful effort here. Nice job! Hopefully these results, or an appropriate sub-section, will be publicly available.
83. Please start to focus on mental health- serious focus- stop this competition frenzy- teach kids REAL life- values: kindness respect responsibility for their actions-
84. Don't listen to the budget cutters and fiscal hawks. If they want to pay less, they can move to a town where education is not a priority.
85. The curriculum at MCS should mirror that at Ray, and both should have as their number one priority to foster a love of learning, NOT to increase reading and writing scores.
86. I am not doing this survey twice.... I have a **** at **** and a **** at **** **** ****
87. I actually have ****.... a **** **** **** **** at HHS
88. ? re. School-community connections: Brining in more speakers and learning opportunities for families as a whole
89. Marion Cross appears to be at a point of crisis, with many teachers leaving, many beloved school traditions as well as priorities (foreign language and the arts) being de-prioritized by the new administration, and parents feeling shut out, in a way that cannot be accounted for simply by the pandemic. The new administration is out of step with the priorities of the community, the parents, and the teachers and rather than opening up conversations and getting folks on board with the new administration's priorities, they are quickly and with minimal notice implementing changes that have severe effects on the school culture and curriculum.
90. The staff at the Ray school are phenomenal.
91. Many of the questions have an answer of "everything is just fine" but then I can't submit the survey unless I've chosen three options. So, to submit the survey, I have to choose two options that I don't in fact think are problems. I'm afraid this is going to make your data hard to interpret.
92. Thank you for all you do. We know how much work it takes to provide a good education, particularly during COVID, and we're very grateful for the time and effort of all the teachers and staff.
93. You didn't miss anything that I think is important for you to know.
94. RMS library reading lists are unbalanced. Too much focus on LGBTQ+
95. You want my opinion, yet want my race, gender, ethnicity, and income. Survey is flawed as you have provided your narrow view of initiatives - yet not taken public input. A few stakeholders are the gatekeepers. Focus on DEI of your survey categories.
96. You need to be accountable to the taxpayers! From what we have seen over the years you are not. If you look at the last and current **** **** the problem is clear to us.
97. MCS needs new leadership

98. While the new block schedule at the high school has brought the important addition of a lunch period, there are other changes that have been problematic. Math should be taught 5 days/wk, not 3. The long block in math exceeds the feasible attention span and is less valuable than more short blocks. Advisory and Study Flex are not bad ideas, but do not need to meet every week. Students need time to complete homework and meet with teachers for extra help, or attend a club/activity they enjoy. Could Advisory meet every other week? Give the kids a free study hall on the opposite week?
99. I have **** ** and **** ** in the HS
100. Strong Catholic
101. I think there is a ton of potential in our school system. However, I know we are behind in best practice instruction (early literacy, time allocation for math, exploring for life after high school (college/work/community college)...and assessment
102. A respondent can't answer "Everything is fine," but must check three boxes to move on. Also, there is no selection for "Other."
103. Stop keeping secrets from parents. If a child is participating in LGPTQ+ activities during regular school hours, the parents have the right to know