

SAU70 2022 Survey Free-Text Answers: RMS

SAU70 Strategic Planning Survey June 2022

Based on 503 completed surveys

Of the 503, 81 were specific to the Richmond Middle School

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	183	--

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
→ 15 RMS answers

1. 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.”
2. 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.
3. Well supported Arts programing
4. 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.
5. Teacher and staff is valued by me but needs improvement in the sau
6. I like the wide offering of sports in HS
7. RMS has done an incredible job transitioning my 6th grader (7th as of today!) to multiple classroom format, and identifying his strengths and challenges.
8. While I think there is room for improvement, I admire the dedication to these three areas of education, learning and student experiences.
9. 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.
10. This is specific to RMS
11. We support the forward progress SAU 70 continues to make across the board, including it's important DEI work.
12. I really value the culture of caring and community, and the thoughtfulness that goes into considering the needs of ALL students
13. We especially value the academic rigor and availability of honors classes.

14. 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.
15. I would like to add that both building and student's physical safety are also very important

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
→ 24 RMS answers

1. 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
2. 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.
3. School should start at 8:30 or 9am, not 8 am
4. 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.
5. Start time is too early. Some teachers seem to try to jam everything in during the last quarter and the workload becomes too intense.
6. 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.
7. Academic rigor seems inconsistent, some classes are quite challenging while others seem to repeat material students should have covered in 5th grade.
8. the intense competitive bubble of Hanover/Norwich - with too much talk/focus on grades and which colleges students are applying to.

9. Having different hours 1 day/week is inconvenient
10. We would prefer to have specific textbooks and whole year curriculum at the beginning of each school year.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. The middle school especially needs to have school sponsored sports. Having everything go through the rec center is really difficult on families.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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
17. 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.
18. RMS RESPONSE ONLY
19. Rigor could start earlier; self-esteem is built by accomplishing hard things.
20. Would love to see community support more of the DEI initiatives. It feels like a small group of voices are delaying anything from happening.
21. 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.

22. 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.)
23. Please! For the love of god. Stop with equity and intrusion training. It is a waste of time and resources
24. I feel that students are afraid to report bullying in fear of retaliation.

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
→ 29 RMS answers

1. Unfortunately, far too much turnover in Spec Ed at MCS
2. 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.
3. 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 to 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.

4. 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.
5. 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).
6. Missing question on accessibility and effectiveness of accelerated academic opportunities
7. 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.
8. Speech therapy
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. I can only speak about RMS and RAY school
12. I would have liked to move the slider between the answers but wasn't able to.
13. 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 do not seem to line up with the actual needs of the students in some cases.
14. "too little" in environmental sustainability because A) I don't know about this aspect, and B) one cannot possibly do too much right now.
15. "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.
16. 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.
17. Support for teachers? (Did you know they work extra every week as subs are not paid at a level that attracts people).
18. Really miss one on one teachers conferences
19. I would like parent teacher conferences with my middle school child, at least once a year.
20. 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
21. 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
22. 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!
23. 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.

24. 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.
25. The above sliders do not work. I was not able to change the values.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. I'm not sure how effective additional academic assistance is because we were not able/didn't know we could access it

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
→ 15 RMS answers**

1. 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
2. History classes need to expand offerings about global history (e.g. Asian, Latin American, African) in addition to European/N American history.
3. My impression is that some subjects can be more challenging, provided there are options for students who struggle to access more support.
4. 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.

5. More language options would be great. Also Latin should be available.
6. 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.
7. No available space in the most popular electives (e.g. woodworking)
8. 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.
9. Offer everyday Physical Education, even on a trial basis so kids could choose everyday or two days a week.
10. 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!
11. 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.
12. Additional options for faster-paced classes (or optional challenge assignments), especially in 8th and 9th grades, would be great.would be
13. 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.
14. Teachers and students will be happier and more effective if we can make classes smaller.
15. We'd like to see less focus on homework.

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
→ 11 RMS answers

1. 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
2. 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.
3. Stress management is very important and we see it taking its toll toward the end of terms.
4. 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.
5. RMS seems responsive to student mental health issues and I would encourage the school leadership to keep expanding these efforts.
6. 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.
7. More options for students to be active are needed.
8. Diversity related issues
9. 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.
10. 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 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.

11. 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.

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
→ 20 RMS 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. 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.
3. Masks being optional is stressful for my son as he wears his mask consistently.
4. 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.
5. Workload gets too heavy during the second half of the year as teachers try to catch up
6. 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.

7. My **** said that one of **** classmates audibly makes fun of LGBT students and it bothers **** to see that.
8. A big no here for mask wearing. Child felt judged for NOT wearing one.
9. Cliquishness
10. 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!
11. My **** **** lost all **** friends this year. It was a tough one.
12. Kids used masking protocols to bully and berate other kids
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Not enough intensity in most subjects
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.)

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
→ 14 RMS answers

1. I'd like to see far less homework. when each class gives 30-60 mins, that's too much in one night
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. My student has mental health issues exacerbated by school and social stress, but RMS has worked effectively with my child.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. As a parent, I would strongly support linking athletics to the middle school rather than to the town, with consistent schedules/coaching/busing.
9. Main concern: getting my children interested in activities other than video games or screens

10. My child wants to do many things, but there isn't time if we want to ensure enough sleep.
11. Not comfortable seeking academic support in school and struggling at home to solve homework problems
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. list should include, not enough time to be with family

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
→ 9 RMS answers

1. Athletic fields could be improved although recent warrant improved baseball & track. RMS fields could use flattening as it is undulating.
2. 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)
3. 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.
4. need a large indoor field house esp. for early spring training
5. In general, I feel as much should be taught outside as possible. Not related to Covid.. just in general.
6. HHS should have by now a field house for all-season sports.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. 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.

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
→ 18 RMS answers

1. 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
2. My children are among the first on the bus and the last off. They spend 1.5 hours per day on the bus.
3. 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.
4. We need bike lanes on major school routes.
5. 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.
6. Buses for each school,
7. HHS should start later, Ray and RMS are fine
8. 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.
9. There could be a traffic cop at the Ray intersection.. but usually it works out.
10. SAU70 should consider joining the many SAUs that have moved school start to better accomodate the sleep/awareness biorhythms of pre-teens and teens.

11. 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?
12. 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.
13. We drive to school every day because the pick up time is too early on our route
14. Not using the bus because pickup is too early (would have to spend 45 min on the bus)
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Our kids switched buses at the beginning of the year because their original bus was consistently getting to school late.
18. 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.

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
→ 8 RMS answers**

1. Septic at MCS has been a huge issue, but I understand they are now pumping it. A more permanent solution is needed.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. Always good to try to find ways to help conserve.
5. Schools need to make less food waste - either with leftover food or one-time use products.
6. 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
7. I actually wanted to only pick "everything feels fine" in the sustainability question, but it forced me to pick three options
8. I have no means to measure how efficient or inefficient the school buildings are.

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
→ 12 RMS answers

1. As mentioned earlier, add subjects about drug/alcohol abuse and addiction. This should be state sponsored
2. Its not listed but some kind of safety and security measures would be helpful - for example, ease getting into schools during school hours.
3. Can't emphasize enough the need to hire a strongly diverse staff.
4. The schools are not child-care institutions and should not function in that capacity at taxpayer expense.
5. Please add Drivers Education
6. HHS should start at 9. All HHS students should be required to take personal finance.
7. Hanover needs school-sponsored sports in middle school! The reliance on the Rec. Dept. for sports opportunities is sub-optimal.
8. My previous answers should support these choices.
9. 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.
10. Lets get some solar up on the high school roof when it gets replaced.
11. The most important thing would be to fix the septic at Marion Cross
12. 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.)

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
→ 8 RMS answers

1. 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".
2. 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.
3. 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?
4. I really want to see the curriculum planned across the grades and schools so that every student receives the same quality and experience.
5. We moved to Hanover specifically for the academic rigor. Maintaining high standards is the best way to prepare our kids for the future.
6. Roughly the same for all 4 kids but I'm not going to fill this out x4
7. I am not doing this survey twice.... I have a **** at **** and a **** at **** **** ****

8. Stop keeping secrets from parents. If a child is participating in LGPTQ+ activities during regular school hours, the parents have the right to know