

SAU70 2022 Survey Free-Text Answers

SAU70 Strategic Planning Survey June 2022

Based on 503 completed surveys, with 154 specific to HHS

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.

Question	Subject	Responses	Specific	HHS	Pages
2	Aspects Valued	187	117	38	2 – 4
4	Challenges	251	194	68	4 – 9
21	Assessments	222	161	55	9 – 14
23	Academic	212	153	61	14 – 18
25	Student Support	176	99	43	18 – 21
27	During School	188	107	41	21 – 24
29	Outside School	155	72	30	24 – 25
31	Physical Environment	191	117	28	26 – 27
33	Transportation	179	109	35	28 – 29
35	Sustainability	150	65	21	30 – 31
37	5-Year Initiatives	172	99	33	31 – 33
46	What We Missed	167	103	36	33 – 36
Totals		2,250	1,396	489	--

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 → 117 specific responses → 38 HHS responses

1. Perhaps a guiding mission statement for all aspects of the school.
2. Particularly please with the boys soccer program.
3. 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).
4. We should be able to access any curriculum online to see what our students are learning
5. Thank you for your planning skills and time in this effort. I think limiting to 3 responses is 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
6. 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.
7. 3 choices are not enough! Safety, social connectedness, mental health are also critical
8. **** 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.
9. we have been appreciative of special education, but find guidance counseling less satisfactory
10. Some of the teachers are life changing for the students.
11. 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.
12. Hanover schools have been great for our child.
13. Whenever we have raised our hand with a concern for our children, we have received helpful and prompt attention.
14. The support and the resources available at the high school are second to none.
15. 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.
16. 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.
 17. YA, as much as I want to choose all of those NONE ARE TRUE
 18. Wish for more diversity
 19. It's the achievement orientation and quality of the fellow students that really makes the difference for us.
 20. Academic excellence is VERY important and currently lacking
 21. I also value DEI efforts and feel they are part of the staff and curriculum and wellness; not a separate thing if done well.
 22. Those are what I value most but not what are most valued at school.
 23. 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.
 24. Children need social and emotional education
 25. Not enough diversity
 26. 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.
 27. Re: student mental health and wellness: a little too much homework
 28. The teachers in our district are highly trained and very professional
 29. 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.
 30. 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.
 31. 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.
 32. We have some awesome teachers! I worry about the direction of the SAU. Too focused on LGBTQ!
 33. mental health should be more of a priority.
 34. DEI within each of the areas I indicated is also very important to me.
 35. I think that those are all things this school district should work on. Personally, I find it lacking in all areas.
 36. 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
 37. It's a terrible question. Do you really want parents to pit indoor facilities against teacher quality? Question 1 will tell you nothing useful.

38. 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 → 194 specific responses → 68 HHS responses

1. 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.
2. I feel that the children that excel get adequate attention but the middle tier fare less well
3. some teachers do not foster open communication and support of opposing or alternate viewpoints, critical to intellectual debate
4. 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-agressions 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.
5. 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.
6. 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
7. Pressure on kid to keep up with others. Socioeconomic and academic pressure

8. Thank you for including lunch time in the schedule.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Please do a survey on how many students are still online after 11pm get some statistics share with parents.
12. 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.
13. There are advertised services to help with mental health however they are unhelpful.
14. 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.
15. why is it that we're not paying attention to the literature about later start times at RMS & HHS??
16. 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
17. With kids in multiple SAU 70 schools, it is difficult to answer questions like these - different schools have different issues.
18. 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.
19. 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.

20. 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.
21. I think there's 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!
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. Not providing more support for AP exams is a problem now that more colleges are SAT optional
25. 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.
26. Too much unnecessary busy-work homework.
27. 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.
28. guidance counseling lacks continuity and has been limited usefulness
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. The rigor at Hanover HS is intense and leads to heightened anxiety. There is a lot of "busy" homework.
32. It should start later
33. 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.
34. would have liked more choices - onsite sponsored after school activities and balance of time spent academic, extra, family and personal act
 35. 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.
 36. Teacher quality is very uneven. Evaluations and rigor of teachers are needed. Overall quality is good but there are some real duds!
 37. 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.
 38. 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.
 39. 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.
 40. 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.
 41. high school could start later
 42. Want to choose basicly all of them tbh besides last one
 43. 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.
 44. Grade 12 is actually pretty divided with groups not speaking to other groups
 45. missing class for sport activities
 46. Administration has its head in the sand when it comes to substance abuse on and off campus.
 47. 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.

48. 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.
49. Too much emphasis on sports!
50. Homework load seems excessive
51. The curriculum does not offer sufficient life skills courses
52. Too much pressure for after school clubs and sports resulting in fragile mental health. Substance abuse at the high school is concerning
53. We need more supports in place around mental health
54. 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
55. circle and the SEL curriculum are poorly executed and ineffective
56. 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.
57. Student mental health and wellness: a little too much homework
58. 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).
59. 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.
60. 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.

61. These things are known by most, ignored by those in charge of change
62. 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.
63. Too much homework
64. 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
65. More academic rigor for those that need it in 4th and 5th.
66. 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.
67. 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.
68. 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 → 161 specific responses → 55 HHS responses

1. 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

2. 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).
3. Inexistent communication abt my kid- You guys do too much about gender diversity - please for once so more about Socioeconomic diversity
4. 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!
5. 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.
6. World Language access, Tech. access
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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
10. 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.
11. I find the school involves parents too quickly in some situations and doesn't reach out to the students fast enough in others.
12. Please stop pushing your gender beliefs onto my children. And Black Lives Matter signs posted in the schools create a hostile environment.
13. 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?
14. 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)
15. 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.

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Counselors do not appear to be motivated to apply more direction in the early academic years
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. as coursework becomes more difficulty support center are less able to be helpful

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. So much emphasis is placed on academic success and athletics.
30. 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.
31. 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!!!!!!!!!!
32. Open campus at the high school gives kids too much freedom for poor choices; maybe reserve for upper class men or seniors only
33. For an environment of high academic achievement like Hanover, a lot of information necessary to excel (within reason) is not readily available.
34. 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.
35. Too much focus on political agendas, not enough on giving our kids a well balanced, strong academic foundation
36. 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.
37. 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???

38. 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 students' 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.
39. 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.
40. Hanover is underperforming. Compare to similar schools in northeast, they are sub par. Taxes are high. What's going on?
41. 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
42. 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
43. 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.
44. There is no information about what Hanover High courses are offered when during course selection periods
45. No available parking- too much pressure (teachers/coaches/ peer) for athletic expectations
46. Too much focus on minorities/ serious lack of concern for student mental health (not applicable at RMs)
47. I have not had the opportunity to interact with any of my students teachers
48. #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.
49. 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.
50. 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.
51. It's very difficult to find tutors or extra time for teachers to work with students if the student has a full schedule.

52. 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.
53. So glad they now have lunch at HHS. Keep that!
54. 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
55. 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 → 153 specific responses → 61 HHS responses

1. It might be nice to have more flexibility in tracks, so that one can tailor let's say an art class with the traditional academic curriculum. Right now it does not seem possible
2. 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).
3. 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).
4. Too much pressure for after school activities (clubs and athletic)
5. 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
6. 9th grade Social Studies curriculum should be an introduction to Social Studies and NOT so focused on history and note-taking.

7. 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.
8. please do something about Methods H have more than *****. Please access how inline this course is within the science departments' other course offerings.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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).
13. 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.
14. GPA needs to be weighted
15. 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.
16. Social studies at HHS could be have more standardized curriculum and assessment across teachers
17. Unsure how to answer this since every child has different unique needs.
18. it would be helpful to have support before or after school
19. 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.
20. HHS needs more courses in computer science, programming and coding.
21. Some more optional online summer work might be cool!
22. Amount of homework assigned is too much
23. 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?
24. Why aren't AP classes offered?

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. distinct disciplines seem archaic. modern education seems to be cross disciplinary and project based.
29. Please add more foreign languages.
30. 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.
31. GPA needs to be weighted based upon honors vs regular classes.
32. academic rigor differs depending on the teacher and more consistency would be an improvement
33. "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.
34. Would love more options to enhance learning, even for high achievers
35. 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.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. My daughter seems to share lots of work that seems that does not seem to have a purpose. She also does some fantastic 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
39. 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.
40. Underperforming schools. Have to do better
41. our tracking makes success in math and science a label of success in school in general. We need to be careful there.

42. I also want to add optional after school assistance.
43. 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.
44. 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!
45. 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.
46. Need more hands on classes about real life
47. It is not normal that the school does not have weighted
48. I would like there to be AP courses at HHS
49. 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.
50. #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.
51. 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.
52. 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.
53. 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.
54. AP classes. Reduce homework time.

55. 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.
56. 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?
57. I think the curriculum should be more accessible for students is pursuing their strengths and passion...so less time but deeper learning
58. 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.
59. Pressing needs: rigor without excess homework. Better communication with parents of upper grade students.
60. Hanover should offer AP classes which allow students to gain college credit which saves money at college
61. 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 → 99 specific responses → 43 HHS responses

1. 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.
2. There could be more fun events connecting students and staff, such as games, plays etc.
3. 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.
4. High school is the worsts place for mental health. This is seriously concerning
5. 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.
6. No phones in advisory!!!!!!!!!!!!

7. 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
8. we have found it difficult to find an affordable tutor option.
9. The counselors at HHS are exceptional but they seem overworked. There should be more counselors available to students on a daily basis.
10. 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.
11. If could, would have chosen all the above including stronger connection options too. and increased access & available school based counseling services.
12. 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.
13. Currently we have POOR academic counselors who are not engaged in their roles. Only one academic counselor always comes highly reccomended because **** does **** job.
14. advisory has been great to build connections
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. AGAIN EVERYTHING
18. 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.
19. 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).
20. While my counselor is very nice, I have almost no contact. I understand that they're busy, but it increases the feeling of disconnect.
21. Students and families have serious problems with class consciousness/economic diversity. Hanover pigeon holes poor kids with non-college educated parents into VoTech, affluent lids wonmt speak to them, it is awful to bear witness to.

22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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
27. stronger connections in general would be helpful
28. Would have also liked to have added more focus on stress management, feeling valued, and non-school life prep as equally important
29. Study skills: as subjects get tougher, many students don't know how to study
30. 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.
31. Individual fitness is more important than team sports.
32. 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
33. 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
34. 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
35. My kid feels like a lot of these ideas are very important, but that it isn't the schools job to implement them.
36. The kids need more organized social activities planned for them- like dances and other fun activities
37. #24. More consistent use of Schoology across teachers.

38. 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.
39. 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.
40. So many of these are really important, but if I can pick only three, those are the three.
41. 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.
42. Studies seem to show there is a weak correlation between amount of homework and testing, and more homework causing increased mental health issues
43. 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 → 107 specific responses → 41 HHS responses

1. most teachers unsupportive of alternate conservative views, some as far as overt bullying of my student
2. 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.
3. The peer and academic pressure to perform at a high level of performance is unhealthy. Again the situation IS critical
4. 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.

5. 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 him succeed.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.,
9. 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.
10. 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?
11. 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.
12. 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
13. 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.
14. Boredom is the biggest issue
15. There seems to be too much focus on DEI, using time that should be spent on academics.
16. More AP type courses, weight the GPA
17. Every term, **** ** seems to have one teacher that is not flexible with **** unique learning style and it causes **** unnecessary anxiety.
18. not enough choices - add school related mental and social health concerns

19. 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
20. 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.
21. Would like to see students have less screen time...use their textbooks more...require them to disengage from cell phones more.
22. my child seems to need a level BETWEEN honors and regular (true for multiple subjects)
23. The ban on remote learning was a huge setback for my child when he continued to test positive for 10 days.
24. 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.
25. 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
26. Insomnia and anxiety, hard to make friends if not doing sports or theater
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. 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.
30. A student who has learning disabilities who does not have an IEP has to fend for themselves 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.
31. pressure-cooker in terms of grades, college prospects, etc.
32. Majorly as well with Social Studies classes seem to be a struggle
33. Social and emotional well-being instruction is insufficient
34. 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
35. 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 ****.
36. My child is not neuro-typical, and students discriminate against **** socially because they don't understand ****.

37. 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.
38. 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?
39. Too much DEI. Rude to conservative Christians. Hard to catch up when out sick.
40. I don't like the dog in the school
41. 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 → 72 specific response → 30 HHS responses

1. Varsity athletes need to overcompensate for the time they spend training. More accommodations are needed.
2. Please work on these issues urgently
3. Homework for my third child (non-honors) seems to be more manageable. That shouldn't be a main difference between honors and not.
4. Environmental / global warming and US and World crisis
5. 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
6. The sports take up way too much time. They need to be reduced at least by a third.
7. A later start time would be an enormous advantage to our kids - the teenage need to sleep late is strong in all of them.
8. Social media and phones is such a challenge to teenage development and having authentic interactions and social development
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. add too - time for homework
12. Too much homework and bus route (takes 1 hr to get home on a 10min drive).
13. my child's own task prioritization is just as much a factor (i.e. choosing social media over schoolwork at expense of sleep)
14. Recent COVID waves hit the community hard, yet there was little warning and zero support from NH Dept of Ed.
15. Way too much homework for some classes!!!! Methods Honors!!!!
16. Some of homework looks to be more busy work rather than focused and well thought out by the teachers.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. also extracurricular pressure
21. 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
22. Too much pressure to fit in through grades and activities
23. **** **** said that **** wanted more kids to be 12 season varsity athletes. That's too much pressure!
24. There is a constant stress about the kids getting covid and missing school or missing school for minor illnesses that are not covid.
25. 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.
26. When a student doesn't get adequate sleep, conflicts with family members tend to ensue.
27. Too much homework.
28. 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
29. 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."
30. 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 → 117 specific responses → 28 HHS responses

1. nothing to say here...since parents rarely go into the High School. The other schools are fine!
2. The PE curriculum is great-wish there was more of that in later grades.
3. 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.
4. High Schoolers should get outside too! Love that outdoor learning is valued in k-8
5. 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.
6. there needs to be lights outside of the gym. when leaving the gym at night it is pitch black and this feels unsafe.
7. 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.
8. 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!
9. 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.
10. A proper lunch room would be nice.
11. Athletic facilities are sub par compared to other towns
12. I am rarely at the school so I don't know.
13. Baseball field needs improving. I have never really been in high school - due to Covid - so can't comment on other angles.
14. Let's give bonuses to teachers/staff that can double as resource officers.
15. our track needs repair

16. After weeks of trial and error, we figured out the optimum drop-off to be in the parking lot at behind the school.
17. Please, please, add some covered bike racks to all of the schools, and especially the high school.
18. There are problems with vandalism and the bathrooms are pretty gross, but that's kind of typical.
19. 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
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. There is insufficient indoor space for fitness. Why is there no PE at HHS other than in 9th grade?
23. Student traffic flow/ need stronger security
24. The Bernice Ray school needs a re boot/attention to the all things that are supposed to be maintained by building and grounds
25. 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.
26. Pick up and drop off in front of the High School is really challenging.
27. 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
28. Schools (all floors, all spaces) should all be air conditioned.

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 → 109 specific responses → 35 HHS responses

1. High school students should start later so they can sleep later.
2. Especially for higher grades, many studies point out that starting school a bit later has great cognitive benefits for students.
3. My teenager does so much better when his first period is a free and he gets to sleep.
4. Later start!!
5. parking for students needs to be free. some sports do not provide afterschool transportation and it is needed. (skiing)
6. 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.
7. The buses seem to not be on time for pick up of students at the high school.
8. Lyme bus: 6:55 feels too early to leave for school
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. RMS and Hanover High should start at 8:30
13. 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.
14. 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.

15. the experts agree that high school students should start no later than 8:30
16. If the buses did not require such an early pick up, we would use them.
17. improve bus pickups and drop-off timings
18. I have driven my child daily due to constraints of available school transportation options
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. Practices are sometimes off campus and if parents work, coordinating a ride can sometimes be difficult
22. PLEASE make school start later!!!!!! itd help the kids mental health!!!!!!!
23. High school should start later
24. Particularly on the outskirts of town, the bus can sometimes get really crowded.
25. Far too many high school students driving SUVs to school. Restrict permits to electric vehicles or car pools.
26. Deferred answer as my child currently drives to school
27. Paying \$35 a month to park 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 accommodate Hanover High visitors as long as they're staying for an hour or under?
28. Student parking at HHS is totally insufficient
29. Not enough parking/ schools should start differ times
30. Parking is a joke
31. More public transport! Stop building bigger parking lots and facilitating parents driving their kids to school. Encourage people to walk, bike, bus, and carpool.
32. No issues, had to add two, they negate each other
33. 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.
34. 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
35. 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 → 65 specific responses → 21 HHS responses

1. Should not have single use cutlery and plates etc in cafe.
2. 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.
3. Mold smells - nasty carpets - peeling paint- loss of trees near Ray School.
4. Typical definition of, "sustainability", is seriously flawed.
5. 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.
6. What happened to **** * proposal for HHS renovation?
7. The school should take the initiative to educate in every discipline about climate changes- bringing in through English, Science, Math, SS, Art, etc.
8. Greening transportation options is crucial. Make driving harder.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Composting Toilets that don't take human waste to landfills but to agricultural needs of Hanover
12. I honestly have not been in the building much over the past couple of years (HHS) so some of these things hard to answer
13. Thank you for your efforts
14. Invest in real silverware plates and cups no more single use water bottles
15. Get a dishwasher at RMS! It's unconscionable how much gets wasted there every day.
16. Everything seems fine, had to choose three
17. 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??
18. You need qualified professional people running the facilities department. Not a ****

19. MCS has so much paper use...lots of waste of paper, they should make goals to reduce paper waste
20. I feel like this isn't feasible
21. 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 → 99 specific responses → 33 HHS responses

1. Language teaching is currently too euro-centric. As the balance of power shifts East, students need to be prepared for the new global dynamics.
2. Swimming pool would be nice
3. increasing supports and understanding of those students who are diverse in economic status and racial and socioeconomic diversity
4. 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.
5. Diverse staff is a priority number 1. Please start advertising positions outside of our immediate area- there is WAY too much hiring of alumni.
6. Indoor air quality wasn't an option but should have been!
7. 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.
8. I would like to have teachers' voices valued more in terms of the priorities.
9. 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.
10. Need school sponsored sports at Richmond school.
11. Drivers education needs to be made available to all students in the schools, the current system is not working
12. 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.

13. It is disappointing when athletes show up without a coach and need separate transportation due to lack of school sponsored sports
14. ASL would be an important language to offer as well
15. 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
16. transportation and coaching by parents of rec sports during RMS years was difficult for working parents
17. Less competitive after school sports at HHS
18. I want to study Japanese but you don't have it!
19. 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.
20. focus on budget and make smart adjustments. Reduce money spend on technology.
21. 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.
22. Please introduce Arabic as an optional language to learn
23. 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.
24. Thank you for your efforts
25. Also some new teachers need to be hired some of them aren't great
26. Swimming pool for sau70 students More than one language in elementary school and more diverse staff
27. 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.
28. #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.

29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. HHS needs air conditioning on all floors in all spaces. Make one year of language study a graduation requirement.
33. 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 → 103 specific responses → 36 HHS responses

1. 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?
2. 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
3. Thanks for doing this
4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Thank you!
9. More gender-based violence prevention is needed
10. 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 clas rank: consider using gpa sighing thet 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.
11. Offering more non-college programs so student do not have to compete for the few slots available at Hartford.
12. need better and more consistent post-high school college or career counseling
13. Research VOCS and indoor air quality.
14. 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.

15. 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.
16. Honors classes are not helping the high school kids in their college application. Ruining GPAs and not getting prepared for AP tests.
17. 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.
18. Sexuality!!!!!!! It seriously plays a big part to mental health
19. 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.
20. allow for parents to get more involved, even if their agenda doesn't align with the vocal minority of the staff
21. Well, since none of the survey questions identified Performing Arts as a priority for the strategic plan, that was a glaring omission.
22. Please offer Arabic language and more mental health support
23. had child in Ray but transferring to private school
24. thank you
25. 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.
26. Career and vocational training was not even mentioned in this survey. IT'S IMPORTANT!
27. 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 it” caused by the peer/ teachers/coaches pressure. This is urgent.

28. Please start to focus on mental health- serious focus- stop this competition frenzy- teach kids REAL life- values: kindness respect responsibility for their actions-
29. 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.
30. I actually have ****... a **** **** **** **** at HHS
31. 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.
32. 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?
33. I have **** **** and **** **** in the HS
34. Strong Catholic
35. 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
36. A respondent can't answer "Everything is fine," but must check three boxes to move on. Also, there is no selection for "Other."