Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary

Who participated in our Assets and Needs Assessment?

292 Students

171 Families

47 Staff

What did we learn?

Use Bullets to Summarize Student Feedback

- Transportation needs
- Getting extra help with behavior
- Need to see more of their culture reflected at school
- 61% felt they could talk to an adult at their school. 72% said the school is welcoming
- Need help getting clothing and/shoes
- More neighborhood activities
- Help with feeling sad, worried, scared both for student and family

Use Bullets to Summarize Family Feedback

- Almost 60% "sometimes" go to events hosted at the school-while 29% "always" go
- Volunteers-always 10%-sometimes/60% rarely
- Student mental health
- ParentVue concerns
- Staff help your family feel included; 63% always
- School welcomes everyone-77% always

Use Bullets to Summarize Staff Feedback

- Students need help with mental health
- As a school we can improve how we engage families, it's a we thing, Therefore, we as a collective need to make changes
- We need more extracurriculars
- Need more small group interventions (maybe more PDs to support how we run these)

Priorities and Opportunities

Rigorous, Community-Connected Classroom Instruction and Expanded, Enriched Learning Opportunities

- Partner with local organizations to expand academic enrichment opportunities during and beyond the school day, especially for students with low attendance and academic achievement.
- Integrate culturally relevant instruction, particularly highlighting the diverse backgrounds of Jenifer's students (e.g., Hispanic Heritage Month partnerships).

Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power, and Voice

- Strengthen student and family voice in decision-making by utilizing needs assessment and survey data regularly to inform programming.
- Involve student leadership and family representatives on the Community Schools Steering Committee.

Integrated Systems of Support

- Address the top identified needs: transportation support (59.9%), clothing/shoes (57.9%), and mental health services (52.8%).
- Leverage community partnerships and county resources to build a coordinated referral system for basic needs and mental health support.

Culture of Belonging, Safety, and Care

- Cultivate a schoolwide climate where students feel emotionally and physically safe and cared for, particularly those who express feelings of sadness, worry, or isolation.

Action Steps:

- Train staff in trauma-informed practices and build a peer mentoring program that fosters belonging.
- Celebrate student success beyond academics—recognizing kindness, attendance, and growth—to promote a strengths-based school culture.

Powerful Student and Family Engagement

- Families are interested in English classes, access to basic resources, and consistent communication about how to support their children's success.
- Students and families are more likely to engage when they feel their needs are heard and addressed.