



Thomas Stone High School - Community School



Who participated in our Assets and Needs Assessment?



Students



Families



Staff

What did we learn?



- Mentorship programs can play a key role by pairing students with peers who encourage consistent attendance. Incentive programs—such as rewards or recognition for good attendance—can further motivate students.
- Building an engaging school culture through clubs, events, and interactive lessons helps make school a place students want to be.
- Strong communication with families can help address common barriers to attendance, such as transportation or personal challenges.
- Offering academic support through tutoring and study groups can prevent students from falling behind, reducing anxiety about returning after absences.
- Engage parents to participate by incorporating modern tools such as QR codes, recorded presentations, and virtual viewing options. Offer both in-person and online access to events.
- Administration does a great job with professional development; however, it would be beneficial to observe how teachers engage with the same students across different classes. This could help identify why some students perform well in one class but struggle in another, leading to more targeted support and strategies.
- Students often feel unheard. While we administer baseline assessments, we don't always take the time to understand their overall well-being or what motivates them. As a result, they may not feel connected or invested in school programs. This lack of engagement can unintentionally reinforce disengagement and discourage positive behavior and academic growth.
- Offering accessible mental health support services.
- Teachers could provide more support by communicating with parents when they see a student is putting in effort but still struggling academically.
- Actively publicize events and initiatives to engage parents in the school community by offering more incentives, providing earlier notice, making information accessible, and sending consistent reminders.



Priorities and Opportunities	
Rigorous, Community-Connected Classroom Instruction and Expanded, Enriched Learning Opportunities 	Our school provides rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction that challenges students to think critically and engage deeply with real-world topics. We expand learning beyond the classroom through enrichment opportunities such as field trips, guest speakers, and hands-on projects. These experiences help students build meaningful connections between their learning and the broader community.
Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power, and Voice 	Our school promotes collaborative leadership by working closely with our Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) to involve families, staff, and students in school decision-making. We believe in shared power and ensure that all voices are heard and valued. This partnership strengthens our school community and supports a shared vision for student success.
Integrated Systems of Support 	Our school uses the PBIS framework as part of our Integrated Systems of Support to promote a positive and inclusive learning environment. Through our Cougar PRIDE initiative, students are encouraged to be Prepared, Respectful, Involved, Diligent, and Eco-Friendly, reinforcing consistent expectations and positive behavior schoolwide. These values are celebrated regularly to build a strong, respectful, and responsible school culture.
Culture of Belonging, Safety, and Care 	Our school fosters a culture of belonging, safety, and care where every student feels seen, valued, and supported. We prioritize creating a welcoming environment that nurtures positive relationships and emotional well-being. Through consistent support systems and inclusive practices, we ensure all students can thrive academically and socially.
Powerful Student and Family Engagement 	Our school is committed to powerful student and family engagement through ongoing collaboration and open communication. We offer events, workshops, and activities that connect families to student learning and school life, such as mental health support workshops and the impactful Hope Trailer presentations. By fostering strong partnerships, we create a supportive environment where students thrive both academically and personally.