



**Who
participated in
our Assets and
Needs
Assessment?**



Students



Families



Staff



**Community
Members**

What did we learn?



- Many students do not see a clear connection between what they are learning in school and their life outside the classroom.
- A significant portion of students (41.47%) feel the school communicates effectively with their family.



- A significant portion of staff identified mental health services (55%) and food access (55%) as key needs for students.
- The school has effective tools and processes to identify struggling students in areas such as academics, attendance, and behavior.



- Many parents feel that students can receive extra help with learning, attendance, and behavior if needed.
- While many parents (40.57%) believe the school holds events for families and the community, less than half (17.14%) attend them.



- Although there are some efforts for family and community engagement participation rates remain low.
- Only 21% of respondents said that families regularly volunteer at the school.

John Hanson Middle School



Priorities and Opportunities

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



Beyond the traditional school day, significant opportunities exist to extend learning through diverse, enriching experiences. Developing robust after-school programs that align with student interests and academic needs, such as clubs focusing on STEM, arts, or humanities, can bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, making education more relevant and engaging for students who currently struggle to see the connection.

Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power, and Voice



To foster collaborative leadership and shared power, an immediate action step is to establish a Parent Leadership Organization or revitalize an existing one, making sure at least 50% of parents are aware of it and encouraging broader participation beyond the current 35.85%. This group could serve as a central hub for parent voices, allowing them to collaborate with staff on key issues like mental health support, where both parents and staff identified a significant need, and addressing the communication gaps concerning student well-being.

Integrated Systems of Support



One crucial action step involves enhancing communication about mental health support and resources. Currently, there's a notable gap where over 45% of staff don't feel communication about student mental health is effective with families, and students themselves report difficulty accessing support for managing their feelings. To bridge this, the school should develop a comprehensive communication strategy that leverages parents' preferred methods, like email, and integrates information about available counseling and emotional support services for both students and families.

Culture of Belonging, Safety, and Care



To foster a stronger culture of belonging, safety, and care, the school should immediately work to enhance mental health support and communication for students and families, recognizing this as a critical need expressed by all stakeholders. Expanding comprehensive mental health services, ensuring clear communication channels about these services to families, and providing professional development for staff on identifying and addressing student emotional needs are vital first steps.

Powerful Student and Family Engagement



To cultivate a powerful culture of student and family engagement, the school should begin by creating a comprehensive communication strategy that addresses current gaps, particularly concerning mental health support. This strategy must prioritize parents' preferred methods of communication—email, phone calls, and text messages—to ensure information about student progress, school events, and available resources reaches them effectively.