

SAU70 2025 Survey Free-Text Answers

May – June 2025

Based on 592 completed surveys across all 4 schools. Free-Text answers for individual schools are available separately. This document only contains comments from parents who identified themselves as Marion Cross parents.

Select portions redacted to eliminate potential identifying information for individuals or inappropriate language. Each redacted word is replaced by four asterisks: ****.

Only free-text response questions are included in this document.

Some respondents wrote free-text answers similar to “No”, “None”, “NA”, and “Nothing”. Answers like these are not present in this document; these are the differences in counts between “# Responses” and “# Specific Responses” below.

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Total	--	2,844	2,356	418	--

Q09: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q08: Did the perceived quality of the SAU70 schools have an impact on your decision to live specifically in Hanover or Norwich?*

**142 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 103 answers
→ 22 MCS answers**

1. We built our house in Norwich before we planned on having kids.
2. When we were looking for a house (2022-2024), Norwich was our first choice town by far because of the school system. We were unable to find a habitable place we could afford.
3. The fact that our younger child can enroll in the public preschool is a big reason we live here.
4. When we chose to move to Norwich, prior to 2020, the SAU70 schools had a reputation for academic excellence, which was a major draw, in addition to the community having a wonderful reputation as a great place to raise a family. I have not found that the elementary or middle schools are providing the level of academic rigor I was expecting.
5. It was one reason for choosing to live here but we would not stay solely for the school system
6. MCS is a huge reason why we would stay in Norwich.
7. I also choose this district for the early language French classes. I was very disappointed when those were scaled back.
8. Specially live in norwich for schools
9. We moved here because of family reasons (grandparents) and we decided to live in Norwich for MCS. We are considering moving after the kids age out of MCS for tax and job opportunity reasons.
10. We were renting in Norwich and the schools and community were a big reason we decided to buy a house and stay
11. We are very concerned about the redistricting talk going on in Vermont. We will look elsewhere for living if it is decided that Norwich will no longer go to Hanover for middle and high school.
12. Moved to Norwich so my child could have access to better education free from bullying
13. Moved to Norwich so my child could have access to better education free from bullying
14. The renowned quality of Marion Cross was the single biggest factor in our decision to move to Norwich.

15. We moved to this area for a job. If not for the quality of the schools here, we would very likely have chosen a more affordable town to live in.
16. MCS is hands down the best school that I have been a part of. I especially appreciate the administration.
17. Yes, we moved to our current residents for the school district's reputation, specifically MCS. However at the time MCS was led by a different administration, which operated significantly different the current administration team, **** and ****. With the shift in culture and feeling of safety that the current administrators have created for students, families, and teachers- I could not currently say that I would again move here for the school. My family has very little feeling of safety and trust with MCS's current leadership and the trust that the school board continues give to them. Where have our teachers gone?
18. #8: it's because of the **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** family member
19. We moved from **** VT to the Upper Valley so that our daughter could attend school at MCS then hopefully Hanover. Housing remains difficult, so we reside in **** for now.
20. We love the community of Norwich and particularly how the community supports the success of its school and children.
21. The quality of the school district and a child who is **** **** **** and also has a learning disability, led us to move from a nearby town
22. We wanted to be in Norwich because of Marion Cross

Q11: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q10: Generally, is living in Hanover or Norwich financially challenging for your family?*

156 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 127 answers → 26 MCS answers

1. The property taxes increase significantly every year, this is concerning.
2. It feels like Norwich has become a gatekept town. Most people can't afford to live there (unless they were there before prices skyrocketed), but also can't afford to tuition their kids into the school system. MCS is barely attainable for this two-professional family. The middle and high schools may turn out to be well out of reach.
3. Taxes are so high that I most likely won't be able to afford to live here after my kid is finished with the school system.
4. If the school does not provide content / input that is appropriately challenging enough, we may need to supplement, and the cost of such supplementation is

occasionally prohibiting. But we are a special case since I've got two profoundly gifted children.

5. The new tax rate and 2025 assessment are the financial issues
6. Big unexpected issues, like a new water heater, cause financial stress, but otherwise we are ok
7. We luckily got our house before cost increased. We could not buy a house here now
8. The tax burden is hard to manage.
9. Housing is expensive
10. There are limited job opportunities in the Upper Valley, so we both have to work remote and travel a lot. It is a very expensive place to live and raise a family.
11. We certainly spent more money than we otherwise would have to purchase a house in order to stay in Norwich
12. I am a single parent living on one income. While I'm currently able to manage housing, food, and routine expenses, the high cost of living in Norwich—especially housing—means there's little room in my budget for unexpected costs or emergencies. After-school care and summer care adds another layer of financial pressure, and without a safety net, I have to be mindful of expenses.
13. Taxes
14. We were able to move here before house prices skyrocketed.
15. The tax issue / threats to school budgets scares us and has made us start looking at real estate in other towns
16. Because of the high cost of housing near town, we live far away/not on a bus route which adds more expense and complication getting kids home from school
17. I am a **** and **** mother. I pay an astronomical amount in rent to ensure my children get to attend this school each year. Their education is my top priority, but I make immense sacrifices to ensure their academic success.
18. Our Norwich living expenses feel quite tight, but possible to manage while we limit our savings. The difficulty comes from feeling like we are the only family in town without a doctor, lawyer, or professor earning the majority of our income. However, we know this is just a feeling, and not a reality, and make do!
19. We may need to move to another state due to the unaffordable taxes in our town. It's so sad to me.
20. The long-term uncertainty over property taxes is something we think about. Also, the exorbitant cost of home construction projects has affected our ability to renovate our home.
21. The cost of living here is becoming more and more of a challenge each year, especially as property taxes have skyrocketed, on top of the challenge of rising prices more generally. Our household income is not low by any measure, but I would say the financial challenges of living here are a daily stress.
22. Kid came home from first grade asking when we were going to Paris.
23. As previously mentioned, housing is scarce and a bit too high in Norwich, so we've decided to remain in **** for now.
24. Taxes are high, if I weren't taking advantage of the school system I'd likely live elsewhere

25. we rent where we live in Norwich and it is a tough market to buy a house
26. Housing is very expensive and we don't live on a bus route bc houses closer to town were too expensive. This means I wild time and money trying to get my kids to and from school. I wish buses better services students that live farther out. I often can't get my kids home or where they need to be after school bc of lack of bus service.

Q13: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q12: From previous surveys, we have heard that a majority of parents want more updates about their specific child. What would you like to know? Please select up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

**134 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 113 answers
→ 20 MCS answers**

1. Results from seasonal benchmark tests
2. Since there are no metrics such as test/quiz/other grades that come home, it would be extremely helpful to have a sense of where our kid's weaknesses and strengths are besides what we can glean from two teacher conferences and a couple of unevenly filled-out report cards.
3. More individual feedback regarding the individual's academic performance compared to peers, strengths and weaknesses, and how the individual is doing socially with other classmates.
4. We would also want to know about behavioral issues
5. would love to know about any issues in between parent teacher meetings
6. Son never shares anything about school— it's helpful to know what is going on
7. Usually just get emails when things go wrong. I feel like there is a fear to say kids are doing well and top of the class. Ie no apex here is odd? I had that in elementary school. I wish we celebrated those academically doing well as much as we do those good at sports at a young age.
8. We have been able to get as much information as needed by requesting extra meetings with teachers, but it is not built into the system automatically.
9. Our child lives in **** and has been exposed to past **** abuse, which has affected **** sense of safety and stability. Because communication **** is limited, regular email updates from teachers about behavior and schoolwork are especially important. These updates help ensure our child receives consistent support across ****.
10. Everything is fine! But I also chose the types of communications I would value if more was possible

11. I think it would be helpful to have a bit more information on how the student is performing academically and also how they are doing socially. The report cards are pretty opaque. Sometimes the teacher gives a 2 if they're below grade level, and sometimes the teacher gives a 2 if the class hasn't gotten to the material yet. It's really hard to understand when all the teachers do it differently. I also would love a glimpse into how they are doing socially.
12. While I'd love more frequent and detailed communication about my child, I know how busy the MCS faculty and staff are, and wouldn't say that it's a real issue for us.
13. MCS teachers work really hard to keep parents updated about what kids are learning and provide helpful questions to guide conversations at home.
14. If my child is struggling or experiencing difficulties at school, I'd like to know about that sooner rather than later, so that I can have an opportunity to discuss these issues with the teacher and to take any appropriate actions at home, sooner rather than later.
15. I would love to receive short, detailed information about my child and what they are learning. Sometimes the communications are either too long or not very specific.
16. Everything is fine as is but sure more personalized updates sounds great
17. So much is set by the end of elementary school, I'd like to have more information to help my child academically and socially. Once a child gets to middle school it's much harder to make major changes in either of these areas.
18. I know many of my peer parents always seem to want more information, I wish the updates were brief and to the point. When they are long I just don't read them and it wastes time for the author and me
19. Given how quickly mastery can change, It is really hard to know where our student is at any given time. There have been some concerns, but it's unclear whether they continue to be concerns or have been resolved. When a student is tracking behind in a subject and has been identified as such I feel like we should be getting bi-weekly or monthly updates on the progress until the student is on track and meeting expectations.
20. I specifically like to hear progress reports in areas of challenge for my student.

Q15: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q14: What is your preferred method of communication for updates about your specific student's academic performance, such as grades?*

106 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 76 answers
→ 17 MCS answers

1. Powerschool has been frustrating to use. Looking for my kids reportcards was like looking for a needle in a haystack. The report cards were not appropriately labeled. I had to click on every report and then guess which applied to which time period.
2. Documents sent home get lost. The software systems are often a pain to get into, and change frequently just when you've learned a system.
3. PowerSchool log-in has been difficult to navigate at times. Using a platform that safely maintains private information is important.
4. Accessing report cards through PowerSchool can be confusing. It's often difficult to locate the correct report card for the specific year or semester we're looking for, which can be frustrating when trying to track academic progress.
5. PowerSchool is terrible, I have trouble logging in every single time and it is difficult to navigate
6. Schoology usually works for me, but I've had issues with my password from time to time. I am fine with the existing system, but an email would be easier!
7. Sometimes I find PowerSchool difficult to use/navigate. And old reports seem to vanish?
8. Powerschool is a bummer. Wish a hard copy came home
9. information should be available with the fewest possible clicks. If it can be in the body of an email please don't make us go through one or two links plus a password.
10. Please do not make me sign up for an external app that I have to download, forget my password because I only log in 2x a year, etc.... all in email is perfect.
11. i'd want this to be sent somewhat securely for privacy reasons (even so my child doesn't necessarily see unless the teacher or my child wants to share with them)
12. I wish there was an easier way to view report cards. I have had difficulty logging into PowerSchool and difficulty getting tech support.
13. I would most prefer to talk with our child's teacher at pick up, meet them in town, have a phone call. There are too many email communications from administration that are redundantly pale and long.
14. Email is the best option of the above choices. I'd also like a bit more in person communication. Possibly longer, more structured parent/teacher conferences; or, adding one more conference time throughout the year.
15. no reason report cards can't come home. but I get it, they'll live online.

16. Please resist the proliferation of many apps that we must track and sign into. Email works perfectly fine and there is no need to complicate it.

Q17: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q16: Would you find it helpful to receive regular updates from any of the following personnel or offices? Please select all that apply.*

96 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 72 answers
→ 15 MCS answers

1. Already receive very regular communication from ****, classroom teacher so just don't want those to go away
2. The level of information we receive is good.
3. Special ed teachers also
4. The Who's Wise Words newsletter from the MCS **** is really helpful.
5. Honestly, we get VERY little communication about anything, other than the weekly newsletter which is not specific to our child
6. Info on projects and due dates would be helpful.
7. More update from special education/support teachers
8. I appreciate the weekly school-wide newsletter, and that it covers different subjects. Our teacher-specific emails augment these weekly updates wonderfully.
9. I'm apprehensive about asking teachers and staff to do more for our children but I would love more communication
10. Feels like we do get regular emailed updates from school/teachers
11. My child had a **** **** MCS teacher this year and they sent notably fewer communications than the other teachers in the grade. May be nice to have a "norm" across the grade level.
12. It would be valuable to hear more from the superintendent and school board. The **** **** does a fantastic job of communicating with families.
13. guidance counselor
14. I think of all three of my selections as my child's teacher. I find the homeroom teacher parent/teacher conferences to be very valuable. I find almost no communication from specials or other required subjects. Specials in particular feels like a copy/paste exercise and I find that the communication currently included to be of no value.
15. Can we do a quarterly update from the teacher + slightly more regular updates from the ****? weekly is too much

Q19: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q18: How often would you like to hear general (not specific to your student) updates from your: (Primary/homeroom teacher, Teachers for required subjects, Teachers for electives/"specials", Principal's office, Superintendent's office, School Board, Coach(es))*

67 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 42 answers
→ 7 MCS answers

1. I don't want to create extra work for people. "As needed" would be fine for things like the Superintendent's office, school board, and coaches.
2. Please use email for general updates, as documents sent home with our child often get lost between the two households.
3. I think the frequency of updates is great once the school year gets going. Two areas I think could use improvement (as a new family) are: communication before the year begins and general updates about how things work at the school. I would have liked to hear from MCS in late July/early August letting us know what the start of school would look like, and what supplies or guidelines would be helpful. Then similar, I did not realize that *any* snowdays would result in the year being extended at the end, that Halloween costumes aren't allowed, or that you wouldn't have access to any class contact information unless you sign up for the PTO directory. I learned all of them shortly before they happened, which was fine, but would have appreciated a basic "here's how things work" message at the start of the year.
4. Monthly is probably sufficient, but weekly might be an easier cadence to maintain.
5. I actually do feel like some teachers at MCS communicate very effectively, while others don't do as much.
6. Coaches are volunteer parents I am grateful for their contribution and don't want to add more as I fear it would stymie their willingness to volunteer
7. General information isn't as valuable to me. I do appreciate "calendar of events" type communication. But, I mostly value comms specific to my child.

Q21: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q20: Generally, how satisfied are you with the following personnel or groups? (Your child's primary/homeroom teacher; Your child's other teachers; Your school's administrators, such as the principal; Your school's front office; SAU 70 Office, such as the superintendent; Your school board)*

126 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 102 answers
→ 14 MCS answers

1. It's a pain to go into BoardDocs to look at Board Agendas and minutes. It would be helpful to include Board related information in some of the routine correspondences we get from the MCS ****
2. We've had significant turnover and have lost great teachers that are still in education and didn't necessarily move from the area. It's concerning and in most areas when people leave, it's not the job, it's leaders/managers. This points to the **** and school board.
3. I'm concerned about the teacher turnover at Marion Cross and wondering 1. why we aren't able to retain talent--and some concern that we do not have records of exit interviews. The record number of new teachers is troublesome. I have heard rumors that there are folks attending Marion Cross who do not live in Norwich and wonder why we aren't asking for proof of residency. I don't feel like there is a track for gifted students
4. There is a **** grade teacher at MCS who is unqualified, unacceptable and should not be teaching at MCS. The children deserve better.
5. Some of the support staff is excellent and some seems inexperienced and not great at implementing and creating IEP plans/services
6. Although we like my child's homeroom teacher, **** grade, it seems as though classroom management is a constant struggle for them. My child thrives with structure and has hated most of this year, sadly. He is very upset at the possibility of his **** **** teacher moving up with the **** grade group for a second year. I hope the administrators will take family concerns into consideration and not solely focus on the **** grade team's desires to reconnect as I believe children have been complaining (for years) about **** ****. It is unfair to force the **** graders to have **** two years in a row. **** is a lovely human, but the children's voices matter and should be upheld in any decision-making process around which teacher moves up or is positioned for **** grade ****.

7. I feel like certain specials teachers at MCS are not great (especially in ****, where my kids do not appear to learn anything!) They enjoy **** and ****.
8. We have been “satisfied” with our students other teachers except for the **** teacher who continues to be problematic, and for the **** **** **** **** in **** grade this year.
9. I think it is time for a **** change at RMS. The **** is out of touch with students and families. They do not respond well to family concerns. There is very little transparency. It’s time to bring in a new perspective.
10. The quality of staff and educators and small classrooms make a huge difference. MCS offers a broad variety of subjects from an early age, and is a special community.
11. Most unsatisfactory is MCS specials. I wish the bar was a bit higher. And, there was more interesting engagement with the kids. Specials at the middle school are truly amazing. So, within the district there is as model to follow!
12. There are members of our school board with serious bias against kids with disabilities, neurodivergence or learning differences. There is an elitism that pervades. They need to be educated about civil rights.
13. I wish the school board communicated more with everyone. i think they believe it is enough to hold meetings and publish minutes, but it would be helpful to know what the pressing issues are or where they may need input. Otherwise, its very unclear.
14. My concerns are that the school board has decided to join political lawsuits and make decisions based on their political beliefs rather than what is best for the community and students.

Q23: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q22: In today's political environment, there may be an increasing need for our schools to give timely updates on new laws and regulations being discussed, and/or become more involved in the political process. In addition to national events, other current discussions at the state and local levels include district consolidation in Vermont, statewide open school enrollment in New Hampshire, local funding mechanisms, and mandated NRA-created firearms annual training for K-12 students in New Hampshire. What are your thoughts on this? Please select all that apply.*

91 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 71 answers
→ 12 MCS answers

1. PLEASE provide more updates on these things, thank you!
2. As a resident of VT, I find it difficult to follow the issues that are being discussed in NH. I would appreciate having more information on these from the School Board.
3. I appreciate that the school joined the lawsuit against Trump ****! I tried to find a way to contact the central office to express my appreciation but didn't find a convenient email address
4. I believe our school system should advocate for every student's right to a quality education. I am deeply concerned by current federal policies that seem to undermine students and promote division, racism, and intolerance. It's important that schools stand firmly against these harmful influences and foster an environment of inclusion and respect for all.
5. I especially concerned about how changes will impact kids with disabilities and LGBTQ+ children
6. Bathroom sharing for transgender children is a poor decision and caused much confusion in the school for children having to put up with boys in their bathrooms, but people are too polite to bring it to the attention of the school.
7. I think it is helpful when reminders of school board dates are included in the weekly newsletter. Sharing of information about VT/NH proposed law is very important to me.

8. The NRA thing sounds crazy.
9. I feel the less the better in the sense that my views are not in the majority. For example MCS sent out an email with survey about an LGBTQ+ flag. The survey was not-anonymous. I support the club having the flag up when they meet, I don't agree with the school flying the flag given it opens up a conversation about what other flags are allowed/when.
10. I do not want my kids shooting guns at school, **** ** Hampshire nonsense...
11. Please focus on educating the students and leave your woke, liberal nonsense at home.
12. Thrilled that sau70 is taking action and suing the federal government to secure funding for public education

Q25: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q24: It is a ongoing debate for how much time to allot to each subject in school education. Current New Hampshire laws and regulations allow for a maximum of 5.75 hours daily for academic instruction (Vermont has no specific maximum). The remaining time of the school day is for lunch, recess/recreation, Morning Meeting, transitioning from subject to subject, etc. Elementary schools may use 30 minutes of the 5.75 hours for additional recreation (recess). For elementary school, please indicate your preferences for how much time to give to each subject on a typical non-Wednesday day, noting the 5.75-hour daily maximum for academic instruction. Current general estimates for these times are noted for both the Marion Cross and Ray schools, with some minor variations by grade and class. Note that, due to the complexities of scheduling and many different kinds of electives, we will not be asking about this for the middle and high schools.*

85 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 66 answers
→ 22 MCS answers

1. I am unfamiliar with the content of the weekly MCS assemblies. If they involve guest speakers, students presenting for other students, etc., then I would support keeping the current schedule the same.
2. The choices are hard because I'm torn between my own child's interests and the standard. I think the best way to balance these will be offering electives / choices, so that for example, some kids can choose to take 2 art classes a week instead of 1, etc.

3. Very satisfied with MCS schedules
4. As someone without an educational background, I have no way to assess how much time to allot to each subject in school education. If this is something that is debated, I would leave it to the educators and educational pedagogical experts to make this decision; not parents. How should we know what's a good amount of time for science vs social studies??
5. More applied science and social science
6. Would like to see the language program grow. Students used to be fluent by sixth grade - that's impossible based on the instruction now and it's discouraging to see.
7. child in middle school
8. No idea
9. My child is not getting a lot out of the French curriculum and it feels like wasted time. But maybe that is individual to him.
10. More outside classroom time for each grade in MCS - especially the older grades!
11. For 5th or 6th grade at MCS, please consider some time spent on technology, tools, and safety.
12. I think French at MCS is a waste of time and actually reduces kids interest in a foreign language. I would prefer kids at MCS study Spanish in 6th grade matching the curriculum at RMS. I suggest Spanish because it is easier for a wide range of learners including those with dyslexia.
13. The overwhelming number of school assemblies and celebrations is too much. It impacts structure, consistency and often results in a redundant, underwhelming activity that could have been used for more engaging classroom or creative content.
14. I think the frequent school wide assemblies at MCS create a wonderful culture for the school.
15. MCS has a fantastic schedule for the students including the required academic subjects as well as important specials (guidance!) and regularly scheduled assemblies that give a great sense of community.
16. Just spit balling.
17. For MCS - my children find the art block a little bit long. Not sure if 2x/week would be better. My child consistently requests more science time. I find the in-class pellet jar celebrations to be modestly too frequent and it would be nice if they were more educational (e.g., less wearing a costume and more a learning theme)
18. This question was hard to answer. I wish that MCS/Ray were separated. Many of my answers are not as accurate as they could/should be. I also find it hard to believe that we have more French/Spanish than Science and Social Studies.
19. Simply put, I feel my child should be given more opportunities to love learning. I want my child to be given pathways towards engagement and learning that move them out of the increased time in ELA and math (80+ minutes a day/each subject). All children should be invigorated with healthier opportunities at receiving 2nd language learning or be given more time to explore the arts and sciences. Children being driven towards having higher test scores in math and ELA is by no means helping them understand that learning is fun, creative, and boundlessly filled with opportunity. I want a balanced curriculum that will allow a child the time, space,

rigor, and leadership that fosters and believes in providing all children opportunities to love learning. I do not feel that MCS's current arrangement of increased ELA and math time, with decreased language/PE/elective/the arts is fostering an environment that our children deserve. I point directly to **** **** for this imbalance with his discomfort and distrust in creativity, trusting what he doesn't know, and teachers.

20. Overall, I think that kids need much more time outside, and more time for movement
21. Our kiddo goes to MCS, and it feels reassuring that special subjects are given a good amount of time weekly/ twice weekly, and that outdoor time is prioritized. Love this.
22. Would like to see more rigor and purpose in the language program - it's kind of a joke

Q27: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q26: Currently, the Marion Cross School requires French and the Ray School requires Spanish for all students. What are your thoughts on this?*

4 responses to “Don’t teach French or Spanish, but this world language instead:”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 3 answers → 0 MCS answers

110 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 96 answers → 24 MCS answers

1. I fully support the requirement of learning a foreign language during elementary school. However, the learning experience is highly instructor-based and varies. Having two language classes (French and Spanish), or letting students choose, would improve their learning experience of a foreign language, and hopefully improve the chances that they'll continue to learn it in future grades.
2. Specific language isn't as important as quality instruction and amount of exposure. Currently the amount of time for world language is insufficient, but previously students actually gained some amount of proficiency in elementary school and I think the district should aim to return to this level for whatever language is chosen at each school.
3. Offer both at both Ray and MCS and let kids choose either from the start
4. I chose this district because of the French classes
5. Id rather they learn one language well

6. I really like the focus on French in Marion Cross. I just heard several people in the neighborhood speaking French and it offers a good regional focus
7. I don't think the French curriculum has been particularly well executed since we've been at MCS. I also think Spanish would be much more useful. I studied French in school and have found it to be much less useful than Spanish.
8. Add French field trips to Montreal for MCS 5th or 6th grade.
9. It would be helpful if the IMS program operating out of MCS aligned its language instruction with the language taught at MCS. Currently, MCS teaches French, while IMS offers Spanish. Aligning these languages would provide consistency and better support for young students.
10. Language should start in 6th grade.
11. I love the idea of teaching a world language but feel exposure to other cultures is more important at this age. The focused language instruction can wait until middle and high school!
12. I want instruction and exposure to a world language. I am not partial to French or Spanish. It could be another language, but whatever it is I would prefer the school focus on it.
13. Find a really great teacher of ANY LANGUAGE who actually enjoys teaching young kids without technology.
14. I don't have strong feelings on this
15. It seems a little hopeless
16. I have no strong pref on the languages. Good exposure in elementary and frankly teacher dependent.
17. Offer children choice and exposure to get them excited about taking on language learning in middle and high school. Let's teach them math, reading, SS, and Science at the elementary school in their native language.
18. I would also not be opposed to offering multiple world languages and not focusing on one specific language.
19. offering a language is important
20. I don't give a hoot what world language you teach. Just stop decreasing the minutes that children have the opportunity to actually engage and learn something.
21. Spanish seems a lot more useful, generally.
22. I would like to see Spanish become an option at MCS given the prevalence of the language in US and other societies
23. My children have learned no French in their many collective years at mcs
24. French is a culturally important language to this part of the world and can be used for travel to and across our closest international border. Please continue to teach French at MCS. I have no opinion on what the Ray school chooses to do.

Q29: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q28: Currently, Richmond Middle School offers, but does not require, full sequences of French and/or Spanish. What are your thoughts on this?*

6 responses with “Offer only this world language (Please specify):” → 2 MCS answers

1. Require 1
2. No opinion

67 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 51 answers → 10 MCS answers

1. If both MCS and Ray had the same language, it would make sense for the middle school to double down on that language
2. It is scientifically established that younger you start learning a language, the more easily you learn.
3. Language should be required in middle school
4. offer option of french or Spanish
5. Unless MCS switches to Spanish, it makes sense to offer both French and Spanish in middle school. If MCS switches to Spanish, drop French in middle school and invest in a high quality Spanish curriculum.
6. I don't have strong feelings on this
7. French and Spanish are good
8. Language learning should be required since it is required for college admission. Kids should be prepared for this by making it a requirement even if they or their parents don't necessarily realize this at the younger age.
9. I would like to see this be a requirement versus an option.
10. I am not sure why we would change the current instructional system.

Q31: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q30: Currently, the World Languages Department at Hanover High School offers full four-year sequences of French, German, Latin, and Spanish, with periodic single courses for Greek, Italian, Russian, and linguistics. Which world languages would you like to have taught for a full series of classes at the high school? Please select up to 4 of the languages below.*

19 responses for “Other world language (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar comments → 16 responses → 5 MCS answers

1. Russian
2. Swahili
3. Portuguese
4. Korean
5. No opinion

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 35 answers → 3 MCS answers

1. Latin should be periodic
2. Latin is the root of many languages and important for vocabulary and brain development.
3. more languages! basic latin should be required for science learners.

Q33: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q32: What are your general thoughts on March Intensive (MI)? March Intensive is an annual Hanover High School program that involves all students focusing on week-long specific learning experiences. These activities range from local activities to regional, national, and international travel. In March 2025, there were 56 MI offerings, which included 43 local activities, 9 overnight regional or national activities, and 4 international trips. Please select up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

136 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 121 answers
→ 20 MCS answers

1. I don't know anything about it and shouldn't be forced to answer or there should be an option of “I don't know”
2. As my child is still in elementary school, this is the first I have heard of MIs and I don't have enough information to provide a useful answer for this question.
3. Equity is not to build a school that offends no one, but to build a school that everyone can find things they love. When you try hard to offend no one, you become mediocre for everyone.
4. I don't know much about MI but it sounds like a great opportunity and I hope it continues
5. I don't have enough information about MI to make an informed decision but was required to select answers in order to move on with the survey.
6. Know nothing about it
7. I don't know what that is
8. My child is at MCS so I don't really know much about MI yet.
9. I don't know enough about MI to respond. I do wonder about how equitable this practice is though.
10. I don't think I have enough knowledge of this program to give an educated answer to this question. It seems expensive and time intensive to organize
11. I don't know what that is as a parent of an elementary school child

12. I don't have a high school student and am not familiar with MI. Sounds like a good idea.
13. It would be nice for every child who is interested to have one regional/national OR international travel experience during high school, regardless of ability to pay. For families who can pay, they should. For families who cannot, having some ability to cover some of the costs (scholarships? Fundraising?) would be helpful.
14. Lots of these kids has pretty over the top lifestyles as is. Do they need the school to show them paris? Maybe. I dont know.
15. I don't know much about the March intensive - but the high school neighbors have given me the impression its more of a good time than a learning experience
16. I believe that the world travel is in direct contradiction to the SAU 70 Climate Action Plan.
17. I do not have a Hanover high school student so do not have direct experience.
18. This does not currently concern our family, but I love the idea.
19. Fundraising for families that can't afford some of the MI options should be part of PTO
20. MI is amazing. But, I think the early years (9th and 10th) have too many missed opportunities with so-so programming. They all don't need to be extensive travel. But, they should be more impactful.

Q35: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q34: Have you ever used a supplementary private educational service for your child, such as one-on-one tutoring or group-based lessons, for subjects also taught in school, such as math, reading, or writing? Please select all that apply.*

**104 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 90 answers
→ 12 MCS answers**

1. Currently we as parents do our own supplementary tutoring during off school hours, and for one day of the week. And I'm so very grateful for MCS to agree to let us **** for one day of the week, where we learn at more advanced level. I have a profoundly gifted child, who I feel is not appropriately challenged at school. I wish the school had gifted programs to allow students to accelerate certain subjects.
2. History, literature, and world language are areas that seem to be too light at MCS and I am looking for online supplementation for my child outside of school

3. Because our language program has been cut so much we've considered alternatives.
4. Music and art
5. Occupational therapy for motor skills and executive functioning.
6. Kumon
7. We do have dreambox for our kids, not because we are concerned about the instruction they are getting in school, but as a way to give them screentime that is educational and fun.
8. I wish the school provided the best practice interventions for literacy- ie. use Orton Gillingham and engage support of the Stern Center to make the best reading program that supports all types of learners.
9. Need more supplementary options outside of school day (e.g. afterschool support).
10. With the bus.. 7-4:00 day is long enough
11. Middle School math is an absolute dumpster fire. One of the most often complaints is how bad the curriculum and teaching is.
12. Our schools don't offer enough rigor for academically talented and motivated kids. The school district's misguided notions of equity make it cater to a lower common denominator.

Q37: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q36: For which of the following subjects have you sought outside tutoring for your child? Please select all that apply.*

14 Responses to “Other (please specify)”: → 2 MCS responses

1. Engineering & Coding
2. Art

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 35 answers → 3 MCS answers

1. Music is an exception because you normally have to take individual lessons outside school if you want to learn an instrument. Engineering and coding is the particular interests of my own child, thus we are supplementing (not regularly, but occasionally). In ****, my child is SIGNIFICANTLY more advanced than **** grade level, therefore we are supplementing with **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** ****. Reading and writing is done one day a week where the dad reads texts that are interesting and complex with the student together, and then the student writes something about it. The kind of differentiation that is needed in school and has been

currently filled in through our current supplementary learning, is differentiated "input", instead of the pure "output" differentiation.

2. music lessons - i'm told that other neighboring schools do private music lessons as young as 4th grade.
3. Please improve the curriculum and hire math teachers.

Q39: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q38: What was the reason for the tutoring? Please select all that apply.*

22 responses to "Other (Please specify):". After removing "No" and similar answers → 21 responses → 3 MCS answers

1. Tutoring was for their father's native language, which isn't taught in SAU70
2. More time to develop skills in music and art
3. piano and voice lessons because of her interest and aptitude; **** and tutoring because of our religion

48 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 32 answers → 3 MCS answers

1. I've already provided the input in the previous two fields.
2. she is doing voice lessons to serve her further interests in theater. but the music program at MCS is already fantastic for an elementary school.
3. My child had struggled with reading, writing, and math. We considered seeking out additional tutoring, but it turned out **** has ****, so we've been treating that.

Q41: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q40: Evidence suggests that later school start times are helpful for student health and academic achievement, particularly for older students. Certain states and districts have implemented later school start times across the country. However, this has implications for after-school programs and bus costs. Current school start times across the SAU are around 8am – 3pm. What are your thoughts on this?*

89 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 81 answers
→ 15 MCS answers

1. More sleep + a un-hurried morning = healthy and happy child that is ready to learn
2. I don't have a point of view on this
3. This is about early childhood development and health. Even an 8:30AM start time would be better.
4. Research shows that later start times benefit older children. We could keep earlier start time for elementary school but have later start times for middle school and high school if that is what the research supports.
5. A later start to the school day would make it more challenging for me to manage work as a single parent. I would be amenable to a later start time for high school students who are more independent.
6. Follow the research that is best for kids.
7. I think having schools start around 8:30 would be beneficial for children's sleep- especially for kids that take the bus.
8. Parents need afterschool care already.... Later start seems unnecessary
9. Please don't make it later than 8AM.
10. It would be much easier for me to get my child to school on time if the start time were later. Many families work jobs that would allow us to bring our child to school on the way to work. I feel that MCS children are dropped off by the bus way too early and then have to wait for 40 minutes for school to start.
11. data shows kids need to sleep in!
12. Data clearly shows that teenagers bodies need to sleep later. We should be doing what's best for their health.
13. Start all schools at 8:30

14. This is absolutely biased, but given that we live 15 minutes away it would help to have some additional time in the morning. This would likely have impact on other commuters as well.
15. High schoolers should have a delayed start allowing them to have more time for sleep which many studies show is beneficial to learning and development. It honestly seems irresponsible to not do this.

Q43: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q42: For your family and child, what would be the ideal approximate school start and stop times?*

**42 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 32 answers
→ 7 MCS answers**

1. I was shocked when we moved here and this wasn't already in place because of the stellar record in other areas of the school district.
2. Earlier is easier, but if later benefits kids' learning we would make that work.
3. For MCS keep current time, move RMS and HHS back 1/2 hr- 1 hr
4. 8-3 for elementary school; 9-4 for middle and high school
5. what does the data say is ideal?
6. My kid is in elementary, so 8 seems good. I'd prefer 830 starts for middle and high school.
7. A little later would help sleep time. But, I wouldn't like to go too late. Then sports cut in even more. And, there's less time for homework.

Q45: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q44: From previous surveys, we know that the early Wednesday dismissals cause challenges for many families. The early Wednesday dismissal is to give time for all-staff internal meetings, curriculum work, trainings, and professional development. Do you have any suggestions for these early Wednesday dismissals?*

67 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 60 answers
→ 13 MCS answers

1. Any of these alternatives to Wednesday early dismissals are good. Whatever you decide, PLEASE do not implement half-days like other districts have done. Those are much harder to work with than the current setup.
2. A mid-week early dismissal is very challenging for parents who work.
3. Wednesday or Friday is great. Don't start later.
4. Bring skiing back on Wednesdays in the winter
5. It would be awesome to have organized activities for Weds afternoons. I hear that skiing was available before - something like that would be great.
6. Late starts would be fine too. Just need enough time to plan for these changes.
7. A later start would be better for us on Wednesdays, but a Friday early release would also be helpful.
8. Different day of the week would be fine too. Early dismissal on Friday would be nice!
9. Wed or Fri. Don't start the day later
10. I much prefer a later daily start for students and time for staff to work together before school. I bet they are tired and not at their best at the end of a student day.
11. I would much prefer "early release" days on Friday, allowing families more weekend time.
12. Starting later would be better than ending early. But really, every day should have the same schedule and the staff meetings, development, etc. should take place after school hours, like almost every other school in the country. I've never heard of another school district that takes time out of the school day for this.
13. It really isn't a huge deal, but it does help to keep schedules consistent and, presents a challenge in child care for some families.

Q47: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q46: Does your child currently receive mental health and/or behavioral health services?*

32 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 21 answers
→ 4 MCS answers

1. Our son has a regular lunch with **** and other kids.
2. Our child sees a LICSW weekly.
3. more offerings for school counseling would be great since our community has insufficient providers for child mental health
4. My child has developed a serious mental health issue ****. **** home room teacher has been incredible in supporting ****. The MCS **** has not. I have asked for and not received help or advice or connection to resources from ****.

Q49: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q48: If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, do you supplement this plan with private services?*

33 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 23 answers
→ 5 MCS answers

1. Our child has a 504 plan.
2. I think this process should be easier and more supportive of parents who often feel dismissed and "crazy". The district should implement best practices in readings and have better support for students with a variety of needs.
3. We have not pursued an IEP or 504 plan yet as we've been able to meet his needs through other interventions, but I believe our child should qualify for it, and we may pursue it in the future. **** sees an Occupational Therapist outside of school, which we pay for privately.
4. I worry about the services provided, or not, to children who struggle as they enter RMS and HHS. I think this is an area of weakness for our middle and high schools.
5. Wonderful staff working on that program.

Q51: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q50: To your knowledge, does your child have any of the following devices or social media accounts for their own specific, individual, use? Please select all that apply.*

24 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 23 responses → 6 MCS answers

1. eBook (like a kindle)
2. Imessage
3. Kinzoo, Pinterest
4. iMessenger (texting)
5. NO KIDS SHOULD HAVE THESE. They are highly correlated with depression, disordered eating and suicidality.
6. Roblox. Meta VR

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 45 answers → 12 MCS answers

1. Smart watch is not cellular enabled; can only text parents (via wifi)
2. My child's smart phone is not calls and he only uses it supervised at home.
3. I would like to see smart phones and watches banned at school as much as possible. Our family would strongly support anything the school can do to limit their use, as well as the use of social media.
4. I am seeking to delay my child's use of social media until after age 14 due to documented reports linking early social media use with negative effects on mental health. Studies have shown that younger users are at increased risk of anxiety, depression, and lower self-esteem, as well as exposure to cyberbullying and harmful content. Delaying social media use can help protect children's emotional well-being during critical developmental years.
5. We do not have a television in the house, so our child is allowed to watch supervised TV on their tablet.
6. I support a no smart phone / no social media policy until age 16 and a no phones in school policy for all ages.
7. We do not plan to introduce a smart phone to our child (if at all) until they are around 14-16. We also do not use social media in our home.
8. They zoom and play roblox
9. We follow Jonathan Haidt guidelines

10. see above. the school should actively be discouraging families to allow social media use among kids. it creates a culture of the kids not participating being left out, and those that do participate suffer higher levels of mental illness. screen time should be limited in favor of in person socialization!
11. I am deeply concerned about how to keep my kids off social media until they have a fully developed frontal lobe. Nothing has harmed kids and society at large more than social media in the past 50 years. I believe it has to be a community-based movement—keep all the kids off social media so there’s no pressure for any one kid to have it. I want the school to lead the way on this and help parents coordinate to keep all our kids off social media.
12. I want a phone ban in the all day schools

Q53: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q52: What are your thoughts on AI (artificial intelligence) technologies, such as ChatGPT, for use in school or for school projects? Please select up to 3 of the most important choices below for you.*

**96 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 90 answers
→ 16 MCS answers**

1. I am also concerned about the environmental impacts of AI and think those should be much more front and center in these discussions.
2. Children need to be taught age-appropriate AI literacy/usage/ethics skills. I fully support teaching them about prompting, evaluating responses, spotting fabrications, and so on. I vehemently oppose children using it to complete school work. They need to wrestle with and learn human skills now -- critical thinking, the cognitive process of writing, locating information -- to be successful in the future. AI can (and absolutely will if allowed) circumvent and shut down the development of those skills. Not to sound alarmist, but people who do not grapple with and internalize the effort that sustained thought requires will not be able to think and solve problems for themselves.
3. I love using AI in my own work and life. BUT I don't think students should use AI when they are actively constructing their knowledge and building thinking skills.
4. AI is here to stay and is part of the future; to ignore it does our students a disservice. We are better off training our teachers and students to use it appropriately than sticking our head in the sand and hoping it goes away.
5. AI is here to stay, like it or not. My fear is that students will use it to outsource their thinking. They need to be trained on how to use AI as a tool, not a crutch— for

example, after writing an essay, using AI to analyze it and offer suggestions for improvement

6. We can't avoid AI. Therefore we should train students and teachers about how to ethically and responsibly use it rather than ignore it.
7. Students need to learn how to think and reason and be creative, and AI use for school work has a strong risk of taking away that necessary skill/brain development. However AI is already so prevalent in society that having some education around use/misuse and the ethics/risks of AI so they are informed and prepared for the world may be helpful.
8. My main concern is that AI interferes with learning rather than supports it. I worry that using AI will prevent students from developing their own skills in critical thinking, problem solving, research, etc.
9. AI, seems like a solution to a nonexistent problem. An environmental disaster
10. AI tutoring is a potential benefit. How do we continue ensuring we work on learning to think critically?
11. Do not hold students back by restricting tools that will be a part of their future, instead teach them to use the tools responsibly.
12. AI has no place in the elementary schools but high schoolers should be trained in its appropriate use, and the potentials for misuse as well as ethical concerns.
13. My child is at MCS and I have been taken back when they have come home and talked about the account they sign into, using their firstlastname@han... and directly engaged with an AI tool to have it create images, talk, work with. I would like to know the schools policy of acceptable sites/programs where it is allowable for minors, who are giving their first and last names to a program? This simply does not seem safe or age appropriate in any way.
14. Anyone who thinks kids should be using AI to do school work is out of their **** mind.
15. Kids need to learn how to use AI for future careers. But, bring in smart guardrails to help them.
16. Schools should proceed with extreme caution on AI and only use it in necessary circumstances. Of course students must know what it is and be familiar with it, but schools should be extremely wary of AI teaching tools and increasing screen time which could have negative effects.

Q55: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q54: Please assess these aspects of our schools (Intensity of academic focus; Intensity and pressure to succeed; Amount of regular homework; Current Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives; Availability of documented curriculum and similar resources; Availability of additional academic assistance).*

68 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 60 answers
→ 6 MCS answers

1. Regarding "availability of additional academic assistance", I'm specifically referring to advanced learning in subjects for gifted / high achieving students.
2. My children haven't been sufficiently challenged in subjects in which they excel. With such small class sizes and relatively few (if any at all) behavioral issues, teachers should be able to reach every child where they are, including the ones who excel.
3. Would appreciate an option for summer school to help maintain and improve skills for elementary school students
4. There are always more DEI initiatives especially given our political climate right now. I hope they don't go away.
5. My child is only in elementary school, but I have heard that Hanover High is a high pressure environment. I'm more concerned about my child's overall psychological wellbeing, and I worry about how they will handle that kind of an environment.
6. Would love more information on what is going on at school - e.g. how much time are students spending on tablets? why? what apps have been purchased to support learning? why? how are classes being differentiated?

Q57: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q56: What are the biggest current challenges adversely affecting quality of life in our SAU 70 schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you.*

53 responses for “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” answers and similar → 52 responses → 10 MCS answers

1. Gifted Program needed
2. Too much teacher turnover. I'm tired of hearing it's everywhere in education. Teachers leaving MCS are still teaching - they've just left our school. This was never the case for MCS.
3. Teacher and staff stress and burnout, self in the face of the political situation. They need support.
4. Before / after school activities to support parents working 9 tp 10 hr days when commute and lunch is considered within an 8 hour work day. could include homework support or more rec after school.
5. I wish there was more discipline at the elementary level. The long tail of COVID - there are behavioral issues that are tolerated and it affects my child's learning/sense of belonging
6. impact of national politics, lack of sewers in Norwich
7. Need to ban phones in school please.
8. Lack of wealth equity among resources for students outside of classroom
9. More time in outdoor classrooms
10. Middle School sports transportation

76 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 70 answers → 11 MCS answers

1. Please provide screening and gifted program starting from elementary school.
2. For mental health wellness, I'm referring to increased anxiety among elementary school children - which seems to be more common now than it used to be.
3. Many parents work 8 hour days, plus at least one 30 min break for lunch plus time to commute to and from the community. Many parents do not have local family support and/or cannot afford hired support.
4. The playground situation at Marion Cross is really disappointing. There are virtually no structures for kids to climb, swing, run, play, jump, etc. I understand that we needed some ADA equipment, but that is ALL we have now, and we have 300 kids

who need to burn energy and develop gross motor and social skills who would benefit from some real playground equipment.

5. My kids are not getting enough content knowledge
6. We are so incredibly pleased with MCS but can't yet speak to these questions regarding the upper level schools.
7. More discipline. More enforcement of rules. Less allowing children on the playground to say things like "We play by my rules unless the teachers are watching"
8. Being a long time resident of Norwich, why are so many teachers continuing to leave MCS? What is the median years of service for current teachers? Do you know why teachers are leaving? For a school that self-advertises as the #1 elementary school in the state, why can it not retain teachers? The pay/benefits are pretty good. Parents are positively engaged. The community at large supports quality education. What is the school board, SAU admin, and MCS admin missing? I will be honest that it is disheartening and difficult to see so many teachers leave MCS for other schools and communities. Why?
9. There are many fantastic teachers in our school system. However, there are also some teachers that do not seem to enjoy teaching or connecting with student students. Those concerns should not be ignored by leadership.
10. Our child is multiracial and we understand that we reside in a predominantly white area. Still, with the current political circus and requests for reduced DEI in an already largely homogeneous population, I think more should be done to attract diverse staff. Hopefully the curriculum will remain inclusive, historically accurate and honor both curiosity and intellectual sparring when needed.
11. The new playground and lack of effort to finish the front playground is a huge letdown. I applaud the efforts to make the space accessible, but it does not encourage a lot of physical play and risk taking in other children. And no plan regarding the front playground has been communicated so it is just a shell of its former self. In the grand scheme of things, these are relatively small concerns - MCS is a wonderful school with amazing teachers and that is what is important.

Q59: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q58: What are the current most pressing academic needs within our schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers below for you.*

66 responses to "Something else (Please specify):". After removing "No" and similar answers → 63 responses → 6 MCS answers

1. Too early to know - my child is in kindergarten

2. Need a gifted program.
3. Addressing the use of social media and its negative impact on student's mental health in higher grades of elementary school
4. More emphasis on social studies.
5. Stronger phone/social media rules - along Haidt's guidelines
6. Math curriculum should not be self-paced such that students wind up, teaching a lot of the curriculum to themselves and feel like a ship in the wild wilderness

48 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 40 answers
→ 6 MCS answers

1. Electives are currently not provided in the elementary school we go to. We feel that elementary school is the perfect time for exploring interests and develop creativity. Electives such as engineering, robotics, coding, art, crafts, origami, woodworking, sports, digital music making, gardening, cooking... will be great addition to the school life.
2. My children haven't been sufficiently challenged in subjects in which they excel. With such small class sizes and relatively few (if any at all) behavioral issues, teachers should be able to reach every child where they are, including the ones who excel.
3. Our school no longer offers electives and it's a shame. MCS has changed too much and our kids stress about testing and administration focuses too much on the data. Step outside the office and from behind the screen and get involved in the community. Offer electives and more creative time so kids have other opportunities to learn.
4. Day-long summer activity programs. Many parents have limited time off work which must be reserved for Thanksgiving, winter, February, and April breaks. This leaves little time off for parents to take for the 8 weeks of summer. More academic / athletic / artistic school base summer programs would be very welcome. This would also allow students to maintain community through the summer time.
5. We are so incredibly pleased with MCS but can't yet speak to these questions regarding the upper level schools
6. More science!

Q61: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q60: What are the most pressing student support and service needs within our schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

28 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 26 responses → 3 MCS answers

1. pull out academic services for not just the kids that need catch-up, but also the advanced kids.
2. Changing the great culture of "using words to cut down others"
3. We our progressive liberal family, but the emphasis on LGBTQ plus initiatives in the school has become overwhelming for some students. Those students that are also allies are now ironically feeling alienated and marginalized.

38 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 28 answers → 2 MCS answers

1. I feel that the current setup in schools (I can only speak of the elementary school) puts emphasis on leaving nobody behind, but not enough emphasis on helping everyone thrive, which means to (1) find out what each kid is really capable of, and (2) provide differentiated teaching that matches each kid's level. For (1), many grade-independent assessments can accomplish that. For (2), a simple pull-out format similar to current IEP service would be a good enough start.
2. We are so incredibly pleased with MCS but can't yet speak to these questions regarding the upper level schools

Q63: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q62: What are the most pressing concerns for your specific child during the school day? Please choose up to 3 of the most important responses to you below.*

53 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar responses → 52 responses → 6 MCS answers

1. DEI as it relates to non-Christian holidays and cultures. There appears to be an assumption that everyone is either not religiously affiliated or Christian. There is no regard for any other religious practices or observances or the growing discrimination towards minority religions (particularly Islam and Judaism) in the US.
2. Creative and language academics are lacking. Our specialist teacher don't get enough time with our students
3. My child was overlooked this year b/c they weren't a behavioral issue and they weren't behind academically. Even at the elementary level they could articulate being a good citizen/student meant less attention
4. could use some more challenge at times
5. Overstimulation
6. Math Program is not good

53 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 44 answers → 6 MCS answers

1. My child often feels excluded from activities and shunned by peers. Classmates don't want **** on their teams in PE, for example, and are quite vocal about it.
2. My child wasn't that academically challenged this year.
3. Our child as ****, and I don't think that all elementary school teachers are equally equipped with how best to help him in the classroom. Some teachers have been excellent, others not so much.
4. We are so incredibly pleased with MCS but can't yet speak to these questions regarding the upper level schools
5. My child has ADHD so general learning and social relationships are the most pressing issues for ****.
6. These are not our daughter's direct concerns, but rather concerns my spouse and I hold for the direction of education in our country.

Q65: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q64: What are the most pressing concerns for your specific child outside of the school day? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers below for you.*

34 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar responses → 32 responses → 5 MCS answers

1. behavioral challenges at home/with family
2. I am concerned about the emphasis this community places on school sports. It seems as if sports run the school system and not the other way around. This will have a direct affect on my children as they move through the system, and my family.
3. healthy eating habits
4. My son isn't interested in many athletics. And, at the elementary level, there aren't many other organized options like drama or music or other structured programming.
5. Math program

31 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 23 answers → 3 MCS answers

1. Managing ADHD.
2. We are so incredibly pleased with MCS but can't yet speak to these questions regarding the upper level schools
3. My kid is 6

Q67: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q66: In recent years, the schools have undertaken several large-scale initiatives, such as introducing Pre-K at Marion Cross, after-school athletics at Richmond Middle School (beginning winter 2026), district-wide Strategic Planning and Climate Action Plans, a new septic system and playground at MCS, beginning the rollout of electric buses for Hanover in the next school year, new and renovated track and baseball fields for HHS, and ongoing curriculum documentation and standardization. Within the next 5 years, which new large-scale initiatives are the most important? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

52 responses to “Something else (Please specify):” → 10 MCS answers

1. Finish the playground project at MCS - it is not what was advertised and is insufficient for the size of school and ages of students
2. introduce gifted education; introduce electives
3. Moving Marion Cross 6th grade to Richmond Middle School
4. Move MCS 6th graders to RMS so they all join at the same time.
5. Move MCS 6th grades to RMS and expand building if needed
6. Supporting after school activities such as clubs or interest groups that allow kids to continue to grow academically after school
7. Realize that 'hiring' staff may not be as important as 'retaining' good staff to parents/students.
8. Disallowing phone use from bell to bell
9. Reducing/eliminating the use of smart phones among children and teenagers
10. AI will change the world and education needs to figure out how to integrate it

49 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 41 answers
→ 4 MCS answers

1. (1) Introduce talent screening assessment between grade 2 and 4. (2) Introduce math groupings by level. (3) Introduce ELA groupings by level. (2) & (3) or provide services on a pull-out basis mostly one-on-one.
2. I was shocked that there wasn't any school sponsored before and after school care. Felt like gender discrimination, to be honest, the assumption that someone (usually the mother) would be able to leave work early and pick up the child. We've lived in very many places, including the Southern United States and I've never even heard of a school system without afterschool options.
3. I think MCS students should move to RMS in 6th grade.
4. Indoor Sports Facilities are needed

Q68: Are there any survey questions you think we should ask in the future? Please list any questions, and possibly answers, below.

49 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 43 answers
→ 8 MCS answers

1. It is already very comprehensive. Thank you for the opportunity to share these inputs.
2. Do your children/ Does your family feel a sense of inclusion and belonging at your school(s)? If not, what could be done to improve your sense of inclusion and belonging?
3. Consistency of before and after school programs if offered is critical. Currently offered programs are great but they change with the season, change within grades, and sometimes there is an hour or 2 gap between the end of school and the activity or the activity is not on school grounds. this makes it challenging for students to attend and working parents to support. Additionally, many do not live close to town, so the gap (in distance or time) is challenging logistically.
4. Cell phone use during the school day
5. Alignment of Norwich students going to middle school with Hanover students
6. How will SAU navigate ridiculous provisions by the government that threaten freedoms, science and basic ethics?
7. Ask about a smart phone ban?
8. It would be great to ask about the connection between the PTO and the community. It seems like the PTO relies on the same few volunteers yearly- and it would be great to have more community members share the work.

Q69: Did we miss anything about these issues, or anything else, that you think is important for us to know? Please put anything here that is not covered by the other survey questions.

72 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 63 answers
→ 12 MCS answers

1. Do more for Ray and MCS kids to help transition to RMS
2. On the question about gender, it doesn't allow you to choose more than one. For example, people can be female/non-binary and should be able to choose both.
3. Consistency of expectations across each grade, consistency of teachers grades. I'm surprised that Ray teaches spanish while MCS teaches french. Seems like low-hanging not-great inconsistency poorly setting up the 7th grade merger, but perhaps this is a nonissue
4. There is a missed opportunity on this survey that there was no mention of cell phone use during the school day. The data is clear, and I am surprised that the school district is not making an effort to eliminate cell phone use during the school day, for all ages.
5. PREK is wonderful. Appreciate the daily/full day format, timing, and skilled teachers. Child is learning and developing far beyond what is offered in area daycares! Very appreciative of school-based/located aftercare programs. Thank you thank you! My children love to go to school and they are safe. I appreciate all you do for them.
6. Feels like my kid gets lots of great experiences at school. Teachers do amazing work. Kids feel loved and important. Thanks y'all
7. MCS has lots of guidance curriculum on feelings. it would be nice to have more on character development as well - grit, resilience, brain development to help lead into why some of these things will help kids later (e.g., brain development science shows x about delay of social media)
8. Thank you for giving the opportunity to share my views. I look forward to hearing about the results.
9. I would have appreciated to see questions also focusing on school leadership, not just teachers. Our family, including our child, has very little trust and a sense of safety with the **** **.*
10. I think a big issue that I have noticed throughout my children's time at Ray School and RMS is that there isn't equity in the treatment between boys and girls. I think that boys are being left behind, and are being often treated in a way that is unfair with different expectations between boys and girls. For example, in groups of kids are talking in class when they shouldn't be, it is often the boys that get punished and the girls Transgressions are overlooked. This has been said to me over and over

again by multiple boys in the Ray and middle school. I think that survey question should include something along gender specific equity.

11. No, this is an excellent survey, which I appreciated giving time to. Thank you!
12. Healthier food in the dining room. Less processed food. No chocolate milk. Only cereal should be Cheerios.