

# SAU70 2026 Survey Free-Text Answers: MCS Edition

April – May 2026

Based on 688 completed surveys across all 4 schools. This document includes answers from the 126 completed surveys that identified Marion Cross Elementary School as the student’s school. Free-Text answers for the whole SAU and the other 3 individual schools are available separately.

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	--	2,873	2,749	547	--

Q08: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q07: Generally, is it challenging for you to attend the following school events or late schedule changes?*

109 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 104 answers  
→ 27 MCS answers

1. I am fortunate to have more flexibility in my job than my partner, so we can typically make things work. If I lacked this, it would be a challenge.
2. The expiration of and process to renew my fingerprinting has made it difficult to volunteer more often.
3. Fingerprinting requirement creates a barrier to being able to volunteer more.
4. With notice we can make daytime things happen, but very hard with little or no notice. We had a very hard time with the emergency dismissal in the fall and a pre-k student not being able to walk or ride the bus home.
5. I have other children at home so can't volunteer during the day
6. We have two \*\*\*\* grader and a \*\*\*\* grader and my \*\*\*\* is in Boston 3-4 days a week. Parent teacher conferences without childcare options are very tricky.
7. I responded for myself. We are lucky that my husband has a very flexible job, and can come to both things.
8. It seems that there are way more days off for teacher stuff than there should be. Also, the Christmas break was way too long this year. There is no reason that teacher days should always align with vacations either
9. Why aren't parent teacher conferences done in the evening? It's hard to take off work and arrange child care on a weekday.
10. In can be challenging for us to attend special events that occur during the school day.
11. School delay is more challenging than cancellation.
12. Two hour delays are extremely difficult.
13. The district now cancels and/or delays school for inclement weather as if this were South Carolina. It's inconvenient, disruptive to education, and embarrassing.
14. My wife and I both almost always work in person but can be somewhat flexible. Deleted starts are hard as is picking up so early in the afternoon but the Norwich Rec after school program has been amazing for our pre-K \*\*\*\* and a lifesaver for us to be able to still manage our full time jobs.
15. After-school programs are limited and expensive for under grade 3. Weekends are reserved family days, we spend all week rushing around and meeting deadlines. It's nice to have weekends off for family. For those that live out at the edges of Norwich evening activities can be a challenge with transportation, for parents that need to

work past 3pm after school extracurricular activities could provide coverage to that gap. Evening activities cut into dinner/bedtime.

16. Stuff with advanced notice is easier than last minute so we can move around meetings
17. Because we live in walking distance to school with an older child, she typically gets herself to and from school and afternoon activities. It is much easier to attend events that are planned a whole year out, like spring choral night, etc. There are lots of part time or not working outside the home parents, so we leave a lot of in school volunteering to those families.
18. I have a flexible work schedule, however, I have lots of meetings and I'm currently going through treatment for \*\*\*\*\*. Both of these things make pick up and extra activities challenging at the moment.
19. We have a \*\*\*\*\* to make the snow/delay options not tricky. Without this, we'd be scrambling each time since we have no other childcare options locally (ie. no family).
20. My children are my priority and if they need me, I'll be there!
21. In the mornings, we're always caught between letting our child get enough sleep, getting enough calories in them, and getting to school on time. Feels crunched in the way that an 8:30am start might ease some of that time pressure.
22. Afternoon pick-up was challenging before our child was in 3rd grade and could self-dismiss. Now that \*\*\*\*\* can self-dismiss it is easier. But getting \*\*\*\*\* to extra-curricular activities that are not at MCS is challenging.
23. The parent-teacher conferences are hard. We have to take off an entire day of work to meet with a teacher for only 15 minutes (which is usually shorter than that because conferences prior ran late/the next conference is knocking on the door). We rarely have time to cover any ground about our child and miss an entire day of work. The early release on Wednesday is always tricky.
24. Early release on Wednesdays presents the biggest challenge. I would encourage you to look into late starts on those days. Gives everyone a slower morning each week and interrupts workdays less.
25. The school schedule is similar to my work schedule and makes it hard for me to be a part of my child's school experience.
26. I would appreciate having a later start time for school. Mornings are hard for me and many other families.
27. We don't have childcare, so when the kids have a delayed opening or snowday, it is challenging with our work schedules.

Q10: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q09: Did the perceived quality of the SAU70 schools have an impact on your decision to live specifically in Hanover or Norwich?*

75 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 72 answers  
→ 21 MCS answers

1. We are paying twice the amount for a house to live in this area instead of Lebanon. We moved \*\*\*\* specifically for the public school district.
2. We moved to town for the school.
3. The quality of our child's education and our taxes do not align. The school is like a mystery to parents. No one has any idea what's going on. No papers even get sent home
4. I lived in Lebanon prior to moving to Norwich, and we were having a wonderful experience with the Lebanon schools. I honestly didn't believe that SAU 70 was superior so it did not influence my decision. I moved here for proximity to my \*\*\*\*-\*\*\*\*-\*\*\* family's location needs.
5. We moved here well before having children but great schools were a very important factor in staying!
6. We rent our home in Norwich and would like to buy a home here, but it isn't affordable for us right now. However a major reason that we continue to live here even though we can't afford to buy is the amazing education that our \*\*\*\* is receiving.
7. The pre-k and elementary school was the primary reason for moving here.
8. The pre-k program was a major driver as was Marion cross specifically
9. It is very expensive to live in Norwich but we did it so our children could attend MCS. Now that both our children are older, we are looking to find more affordable housing in Hanover. So far, that has not transpired due to the larger Upper Valley housing affordability crisis.
10. Even though we do not live in Hanover or Norwich, the quality of the schools had a huge impact on our decision to attend SAU70 vs our home district.
11. \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* and wanted my children to have the same education.
12. As a person of modest means, a high quality education is one of the only things I can give to my children that will impact their entire lives. It is important and our top priority.
13. I live in Norwich because I found an affordable home to rent.
14. Yes, the perceived quality attracted us, but perception isn't always reality.
15. The strength of the outdoor education, opportunities for movement, and the community aspects of the school appeal to me. I tend to be wary of composite

rankings in wealthy and well education districts but how the school functioned is appealing

16. It is the reason we moved here. But we are now considering other options for school.
17. We moved to the area in part because our \*\*\*\* got into MCS pre-K. It was a major draw for us.
18. We moved here because of the reputation that MCS has and its top school ranking. We have been pleased with how accurate that ranking is and the high quality of the school. We are particularly impressed with the administration.
19. MCS is a top-notch school and what drew us to Norwich. It has lived up to the reputation that it has.
20. MCS is listed as one of the top elementary schools in Vermont. That attracted us to this community and we have found it to live up to the ranking in so many ways.
21. We had family in the area.

**Q12: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q11: Generally, is living in Hanover or Norwich financially challenging for your family?***

**97 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 95 answers  
→ 24 MCS answers**

1. The property tax situation in VT is a significant concern. It needs to be addressed without compromising the quality of our schools.
2. Raising tax prices in Norwich are becoming an increasing concern and one that feels like it will only get worse. Coupled with increasing costs elsewhere, affordability is not a major issue but we have had to start to make some changes in order to accommodate
3. Property taxes combined with inflation (everywhere) and the continuous rise in the cost of living can make things difficult.
4. The rising tax rates are causing us to think seriously about leaving Norwich. It no longer makes financial sense for us to live here, despite having a very comfortable income.
5. Increasing taxes is concerning, especially for our community.
6. My mortgage and property taxes are much higher than they were in Lebanon.
7. Vermont tax burden is heavy and we worry about our friends leaving and community dispersing after kids finish high school. We have many friends planning to leave and we ourselves know we are making a financially irrational decision if we stay.
8. We are worried about the future tax burden in VT. It does not make economic sense for us to stay here, especially once our kids have graduated.

9. The increasing taxes are difficult to manage.
10. More and more of us are having to look at moving out of the state because of the increasing cost of our property taxes to include the school budget.
11. We are lucky to have found a house \*\*\*\* that we can afford. It is not financially challenging for us to live in Norwich \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*. But long-term we would like to buy a \*\*\*\* and it has been challenging to find something that our family can afford in Norwich or Hanover.
12. Property taxes MUCH too high
13. we moved here prior to the covid boom so our mortgage is reasonable relative to others in the community
14. We are a \*\*\*\* family and receive \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* as a benefit for our family. We really wish this could extend beyond MCS for our \*\*\*\* children for many reasons, one of which is we cannot afford to live in Hanover/Norwich but it will be where our children attend school and establish a community and peer network.
15. I'm living at \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* in order to live in Norwich - so my children can be in this school district.
16. The entire Upper Valley is too pricey for a \*\*\*\*-\*\*\*\* family with a modest income as a \*\*\*\*. We only are able to live here because we knew someone renting a home who offered us a reduced rent.
17. Groceries and cost of house repairs/construction have been the biggest issues
18. Taxes in Vermont are far too high
19. Taxes are crazy but I perceive value to be there. With expected changes to school district organization and funding, I am concerned that the bottom will fall out of our property value, I'll still be paying high taxes, and school quality will go down.
20. We are seeing, perhaps only anecdotally and not backed by data, more people lives elsewhere and choose to tuition-in to SAU70 / MCS.
21. Property taxes much too high
22. It is expensive to live in Norwich. We will make the sacrifice until our children are graduated and then move somewhere more affordable.
23. As a renter, it is very challenging knowing the cost of housing. If not renters, we would have to give up so much to possibly purchase a 'starter' home in Norwich.
24. It took us two years to find a house we could afford.

Q14: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q13: During this 2025-2026 academic year, how satisfied are you with your student's general school experiences?*

139 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 136 answers  
→ 30 MCS answers

1. \*\*\*\* \*\* is excellent
2. \*\*\*\* \*\* is an absolute treasure of a teacher, her creativity and motivation and investment in the school and students is a model for what great teaching looks like
3. Overall good experience - it was a bit hard at first because our child was \*\*\*\* at the school and was just getting to know \*\*\*\* teacher before she left \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*. Completely understand and support this, just saying it was hard for as the \*\*\*\* kid to then say goodbye immediately to a teacher they were developing a relationship with and then get a new teacher only to have that teacher \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\* \*\* \*\*\*. Totally understand staffing is hard - just saying it is challenging on kids when their main teachers \*\*\*\* so much.
4. Our son has been challenged in very productive ways by his teacher (\*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\*). She has incredible experience and brings her commitment to the students to every lesson and every assignment.
5. We are concerned that the academic program at MCS is lacking - much time spent on things like making a diorama but they kids don't know anything about basic science, civics, social studies etc.
6. Her teacher has done a very good job this year, though I'm thinking \*\*\*\* teaching talent is not recognized by the school because \*\*\*\* is so \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* is the best teacher our child has had at the school, but is \*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*. There are obviously many reasons that play into these decisions, but it is such a shame. The school seems to \*\*\*\* a lot of good teachers and staff.
7. The teachers don't seem to hold students accountable for turning in/completing assignments. Often work gets handed back without a grade.
8. 1st grade teacher is great!
9. The pre-K program at Marion Cross is absolutely fantastic. The teachers are great and our daughter \*loves\* her class, school, classmates, and teachers. It has been wonderful.
10. Mostly satisfied. Very unsatisfied about the follow through with children who misbehave and aren't held accountable for their actions.
11. There were a few instances of enhanced/accelerated math instruction that my child really enjoyed and benefitted from, but they were temporary. Overall I sometimes

wish there were more consistent opportunities and efforts for enrichment so that kids are pushed to their limits, not bored

12. great environment, great teachers, great families
13. We love the pre-k program and genuinely feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to have our children participate in it
14. My daughter has been at MCS for k, first, and second. Each of our teachers have been exceptional and have found ways to both connect with her, challenge her, and encourage her love of learning.
15. I really love the Pre-K teachers - they go above and beyond and my child loves them.
16. My kids have really wonderful teachers. They are super engaged and concerned with the individuality of my kids, indicating that they do this for each of the kids in their class! It helps that the class size is small for this, but these are particularly talented individual teachers!
17. I have a 3rd and 6th grader. The sixth grade team is exceptional, truly outstanding at what they do. \*\*\*\* is easily one of the best experiential educators I've ever encountered, and aside from brief hiccups here and there, I wholly believe my children are receiving the very best education possible.
18. Most of Marion Cross staff do not have enough trauma-informed teaching skills.
19. Overall, really pleased. Only challenge has been around EST/504 and helping with extra supports, takes a while to work through the system.
20. I think my child's teachers are fantastic. However, my child, and our family has struggled with feelings of inclusiveness given MCS excessive emphasis on Christmas in academic programming across teams and departments and lack of inclusion of other faith traditions. I have spoken to the \*\*\*\* about this, and some actions have been taken, but I think more can and should be done at the school and district level to ensure all cultures and faith traditions are considered.
21. \*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\* at MCS are absolutely extraordinary teachers. We are SO thrilled with how they manage their classrooms, and really meet children where they are.
22. I would say partial satisfaction if I could. I am satisfied with aspects of MCS.
23. Sometimes I wonder if teachers/school are resting on their laurels a bit with regard to ensuring that all children are learning. The lax approach to school accountability measures, testing results, and rigorously assessing whether children are actually meeting standards concerns me. Often, my 6th grader comes home with no idea how to do math homework, and it's up to us to reteach concepts from school. It makes me wonder if teachers rely on the fact that families will make up the difference if kids aren't getting accessing all materials in school.
24. MCS is a public school and works to meet the universal standard as set by state policy and law. Yet, there is always lingering dissatisfaction with this baseline given the population and expectations.
25. We are in extreme need of a screen time policy for elementary aged students. More and more research shows that extreme academic declines (across the country) correlate with the introduction of screens, and particularly personal screens (ipads, chrome books etc). Some of these tools can be useful, but combine device time

with teachers showing youtube, videos, (and now AI - yuck!) and the screen time has crept up to the point of concern. Please please please do not leave teachers on their own with this very important issue - set a strict limit on total screen time and encourage kids to use their hands (Handwriting notes is correlated with better academic performance and knowledge retention!!) and get outside!

26. We could not be happier.
27. MCS kindergarten is amazing! The outdoor component is engaging and lets kids be kids. The teachers are incredible. We have even found the administration to be approachable and truly care about every kid.
28. Just want to recognize Mr \*\*\*\*. He has had such a positive impact on my child.
29. I find the administration at MCS to be approachable and dedicated. They have gone above and beyond with communication and in helping our family feel welcome.
30. Socially our child has a small group of friends, yet we don't feel that the academics were challenging enough.

**Q16: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q15: Generally during this academic year, how satisfied are you with the following personnel or groups?***

**106 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 103 answers  
→ 26 MCS answers**

1. The board does not seem to listen to the school administration in making budget decisions. The SAU 70 office and board are not effectively communicating about the possible changes in Vermont education.
2. The MCS school board does great work. FWIW there do not seem to be many board members who have kids actually attending MCS
3. I never got a response from An email to the entire school Board. Just silence.
4. Not knowing about the school board is on me. I should be more engaged but the times the meetings are held are very difficult with young children. The MCS admin really needs to do a better job communicating with teachers and families.
5. It seems that there is no true joy coming from the school and it is so sad. The school could be really great, but moral is so low both inside and out. The kids seem to be doing well, but they would probably be doing well in a lot of places.
6. The school board's decision to fully fund preschool over MCS positions that serve grades K-6 was not in the best interest of the children and families in Norwich.
7. The \*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\* grade team worked really hard to cover for a prolonged \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* in a way that was great for the kids. Also appreciated the administration’s focus on finding the best teachers.

8. I don't have contact with many of the personnel I was asked to rate and as a result labeled them as N/A.
9. i'd like to see 6th grade at the hanover middle school
10. Out of the 4 years we have been at MCS, I would say that 3 out of those 4 primary teachers have been truly outstanding.
11. I thought the way the school board went about the budget, threatening to cut pre-K based on nothing more than a guess about the budget and a gut feeling of what taxes would be acceptable, only to then say "nevermind we're fine" was ... not thoughtful.
12. I was disappointed in the deep cuts initially requested by the school board.
13. I'm concerned that MCS seems to have been losing good experienced teachers in recent years, and why that might be. At the same time there seems to be at least one MCS \*\*\*\* staffer who seems to be chronically underperforming based on my understanding, yet it's not clear if any action is being taken to either improve this individual's performance or replace them
14. MCS has amazing teachers and support staff. Shout out to \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* who is the most dedicated and amazing teacher. Shout out to \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* who is also dedicated and amazing.
15. It would be great to get earlier communications about the school calendar (start and end dates) for planning purposes.
16. This year my child lost her \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* and the temporary arrangements that were made were disruptive. A functioning system would have found a replacement at the start and stuck with that for the stability of the children.
17. We are grateful to send our children to MCS since \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* there.
18. \*\*\*\* is great about responding to my phone calls and always kind when I need to pick up or drop off my child at the front office.
19. Generally speaking, I get very little feedback from the specials teachers, and the interactions I hear about from my kids are less "wow" than the homeroom teachers. This is not across the board - ie. art and music at MCS are amazing - but it's a little less consistently great.
20. When looking at budget cuts, let's look at the salaries at the top before making cuts at the bottom. We've taken away support services from children at MCS over the years while salaries at the top increase. It's not okay, especially when the job being done at the top is inadequate.
21. I follow school board meeting notes closely. I am amazed by the randomness and lack of rigor associated with school \*\*\*\* reports. How is it that the Board isn't requiring \*\*\*\* to report out on metrics aligned to a strategic plan, school improvement goals, or any sort of other rational accountability system? Instead, \*\*\*\* provide cute anecdotes about field trips, treat days, and other things. Board meetings are a way for the community to learn about progress toward school improvement. The supt and board should provide a structure for this.
22. I think our school board in Norwich for years has performed budgeting as an arbitrary financial thought-experiment with lots of real and imaginary numbers only

to turn a decision over after a series of rumors and public outrage. It's not really helpful to anyone.

23. The school board does not have children at MCS and seems very disconnected from the real issues on the ground.
24. Everything at the school level is fantastic.
25. The teachers and administration at MCS are awesome. We feel like we have won the school lottery.
26. Marion Cross has two outstanding \*\*\*\*. They are kind, responsive, and show every day that they care about students and families. We consider ourselves fortunate.

**Q18: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q17: Generally during this academic year, how satisfied are you with your student's experiences for the following academic subjects?***

**164 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 161 answers  
→ 34 MCS answers**

1. Why doesnt the Art come home? My child says the teacher loses his work?
2. A bit too much reliance on corporate Ed-tech.
3. Very little work comes home from any classes so the available data points are conversations with my students and report cards for all classes and then conferences for the core subjects. This makes it hard to assess. The playgrounds at MCS remain a real disappointment as they do not match what was presented three years ago.
4. I honestly don't actually know what my kid's schedule is or how often they do PE vs music or art or technology. Where would we find that information? I can't say I remember seeing that sent home ever so I'm kind of in the dark on what subjects they do in a week- I'm assuming all the ones you listed above?
5. We would prefer stronger and more foreign language instruction.
6. Tech has been eliminated which is really missing the boat for future jobs for these kids
7. At the beginning of the year my Autistic child didn't always know the adult covering recess and \*\*\*\* had no one to ask for help if \*\*\*\* felt overwhelmed or bullied. If an effort could be made to allow kids to know recess monitors that would be very helpful.
8. We honestly get very little feedback or communication from the school in terms of academics, so it is hard to know what our child is even doing all day. Therefore, it is even harder to give real feedback.

9. Guidance teachers should directly relate to parents the curriculum before putting it before the children. Parents should have the information BEFORE it's covered. Generalized info in the newsletter does NOTHING to prepare for the topics that sometimes come home.
10. I'm thrilled that there are no screens in pre-k and I'd like to encourage a model of little to no screens until middle school or beyond
11. My older child had a lot more French exposure during kindergarten, it's not clear to me if there's any French happening this year
12. My child has been allowed to "get by" for the past few years without learning some foundational concepts. We have had to re-teach him many things and spend a lot of time outside of school working on math so that he can get through his current assignments.
13. Less tech in classrooms
14. I've been impressed with the outdoor/environmental programming at MCS.
15. We feel there is less emphasis on STEM than we, and our child, are wanting.
16. They don't seem to be learning very much in French class. They've had 4 years of it and my child can barely speak a few words. That doesn't seem right. The \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* is not as good as the previous one.
17. Less technology please.
18. I feel there is too much screen time in school. There also seems to be excessive time spent in guidance as my kids see it as a joke and a waste of specials time.
19. See above, I'd love for MCS to have a consistent opportunity for kids who can handle, and benefit from, accelerated math. My kid enjoys French class, but after several years of French it's frustrating that they don't seem to have a lot to show for it in terms of being able speak and understand and read French
20. The Marion Cross playground is really unsatisfactory compared to Ray School and other area schools.
21. In terms of my one unsatisfied answer: one of my child had poor experience with \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* 5th grade all year, with very uncomfortable conversations related to sex, sexual orientation, and identity. While I understand some of these things may be relevant. I do not believe sexual orientations and promoting identifying as something other than what you are born as has no place at school. It is a place for learning.
22. Would love to see more language classes as the elementary level
23. If there is a technology program I have never heard about it. I was annoyed my student couldn't do homework during a \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* because of some sort of mis-informed "VPN lockdown".
24. Again, with the homeroom changes, my child didn't have social studies for part of the year, they had to make up math, by taking time from science. This seems unsustainable and is confusing for the children.
25. Not sure on the specific topics - I do know she loves art and music!!
26. French at MCS has been underwhelming. Despite a lot of hours spent, my kids don't seem to take a lot of ability home. (they can't report what they are learning, or really have any french conversation still, after many years!) Some of this may be due

to a lack of foundation from year's past, but that tells me there is room to revisit the basics rather than just move on in the curriculum. I disagree with the frequent use of chromebooks in the classroom, and letting kids play games and watch videos on them. Some teachers seem really on top of monitoring the kids doing non school related things on them, but others don't, and as a parent who really limits screens at home, it is frustrating to have looser limits at school.

27. The \*\*\*\* teacher gets rave reviews from my kids! Thank goodness:) They also love \*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\*, \*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\* have provided the perfect springboard for my oldest to launch into middle school. My youngest's 3rd grade teacher is communicative and knowledgeable about literacy, which has been challenging for my child.
28. I wish MCS could provide supplemental or alternative options for children that struggle with the standard instruction. I have a child that would benefit from a strength based approach or math games to sustain attention.
29. Screens are used far too much in kindergarten, I don't think they should be used in the lowest grades at all. Particularly using danny go as opposed to movement for brain breaks or the amount of videos for french.
30. I am really unsatisfied with math instruction at MCS. I think the school does not do a good job with children who have mastered material - there is absolutely no program for enrichment. My kids have not moved the needle on math performance through their school experience.
31. As far as I can tell, my kids still cannot speak a word of French. When \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* at MCS, kids actually learned to write and speak the language. If we are going to put learning time and community resources into languages, students and the teacher should be held to a higher standard.
32. My comments reflect specials / subjects offered to Pre-k.
33. I am concerned about the reliance on iready/myopath assessments and activities which my child tells me are not challenging, are boring, and not always correlated to what is going on in the classroom otherwise. I am also concerned about the overuse of stronger readers as guides or supports for weaker readers. Stronger readers are not challenged and my child repeatedly reports boredom because they are stuck reading to and with readers who are struggling with reading below her level, which is very frustrating.
34. I wish that the pre-k students had more opportunities to increase their literacy skills.

Q20: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q19: Have you ever considered sending your student to alternative education systems, such as home education (home schooling), private school, or tuitioning in to another school district?*

111 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 108 answers  
→ 22 MCS answers

1. We thought about it but it was not financially feasible for us.
2. We would not consider leaving MCS. We don't have enough information to make a decision about middle school.
3. The response options to this question don't make a lot of sense. We are concerned that the academic program at MCS is too limited and that our children are falling behind friends and family elsewhere in VT, despite being strong students so have looked into other options.
4. We love MCS but wish there was more focus on content knowledge.
5. I think the quality of academic instruction at Marion Cross has gone downhill in recent years with increased focus on testing and too much time on screens
6. A rising ambivalence toward academic rigor has us concerned and considering private school.
7. It crossed our minds when your son was facing some as yet undetermined learning challenges. Once he was diagnosed with \*\*\*\* it seemed like the school had a better understanding of how to help him.
8. We have thought about homeschooling although it would be tough to quit my job to homeschool. It costs too much to live here to quit my job.
9. It seems that academics are not emphasized enough and too much time is spent on devices and in celebrations.
10. Was at \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* prior to MCS and am much more satisfied with MCS
11. Supplemental language and math school.
12. If what is being taught causes confusion or harm I would not hesitate to change enrollment. I do wish more life skills would be incorporated, recess is essential for learning, kids learn through play, mental health is important but does not need to be the main focus, continue the positive reinforcement system and the teachings of VT culture and constitution and our rich history.
13. Yes, primarily for advanced learning opportunities. Would love to see opportunities for honors programs.
14. So much of the curriculum seems to be coming "from the computer" anyway (and according to our teachers - not modifiable! determined by the computer!) in certain



Q22: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q21: Have you ever used a supplementary private educational service for your student, 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. Note that related teaching or academic apps, such as DuoLingo, should not be considered for this question.*

116 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 112 answers  
→ 14 MCS answers

1. We wanted to continue more but found it challenging to schedule with other activities.
2. Additional tutoring in reading
3. I was tutoring our child by using the curriculum the school does. We finally got the school to provide support so I no longer am doing it at home.
4. Occasional app based fun-cational games like DuoLingo and typing, but nothing serious
5. Both parents in this family spend hours teaching our children math and ELA skills due to the lack of sufficient rigor at the school.
6. Occupational therapy, which included help with learning writing and reading
7. Summer tutoring, fairly casual
8. Some teachers have been unwilling to provide extra help even after formal requests.
9. My child is still too young -- and she's doing great from what I can tell.
10. Hearing from middle school families, we are considering math tutoring/summer studies because it seems our kids won't be prepared for the more advanced math curriculum at that school without.
11. only considered for literacy intervention for my youngest. We do a lot of work at home, but a person who isn't mom can often be more successful.
12. I'm not sure if OT counts--\*\*\*\* receives OT support outside school
13. Currently enrolled in OT for handwriting and strengthening ocular motion, crossing the midline
14. My child is \*\*\*\* and is still not receiving formal services at MCS, so we have to pay for outside tutoring. It's unacceptable.

Q24: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q23: For which of the following subjects have you sought outside tutoring for your student? Please select all that apply.*

52 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 48 answers  
→ 7 MCS answers

1. My child takes private piano lessons, I assume that's not what you mean by tutoring
2. Spelling!
3. Our kid takes piano lessons outside of school
4. Current school does not give enough homework.
5. \*\*\*\*
6. see above - considering math to prep for middle school
7. Gross motor/fine motor skills that underpin ELA

Q26: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q25: What was the reason for the tutoring? Please select all that apply.*

42 responses to “Other (please specify)”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 42 answers → 6 MCS answers

1. We want them to have exposure to a language that might be useful to them in the future. (I speak French and have never found it to be useful outside of a few limited situations)
2. Summer slide prevention
3. Enjoys singing
4. Teacher could not override "the computer"; maybe didn't understand the system?
5. To improve knowledge of one parent's native language.
6. gross and fine motor needs

28 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 25 answers  
→ 5 MCS answers

1. My child was not consistently held to a standard when doing graded assignments and class work/homework was often not sufficient to reinforce a specific skill.

Assignments were quite variable in difficulty. Sometimes extremely hard and others extremely easy. This is primarily concerning math.

2. Making up for deficiencies left over from previous school
3. Teachers seem to struggle with the tech for their classes? "Can't release new modules until "the computer" lets them? (\*\*\*\*) Problems doing homework on break because "the computer" doesn't like what location you are in! What happened to giving the kids work they can do anywhere?! Who is in charge - "the computer"?
4. Assessment of what constitutes struggling academics needs to account for root causes not just band-aids for behavior
5. The school does such a great job that there is no need for outside services.

**Q28: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q27: During this academic year, does your student participate in organized afterschool athletic activities of some sort? Please select all that apply. Note that we are not referring to subject-based camps that occur during summer or vacation breaks.***

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

1. My \*\*\*\* grader is autistic and getting him to participate is really challenging. My \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* graders have not shown any interest yet.
2. Our girls did not have \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* soccer \*\*\*\*. Instead the \*\*\*\* grade girls were tasked with leading the younger girls. That turned fairly toxic and my daughter now does not want to participate in soccer anymore. She had played every year before that and loved it. I hope we can get back to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* coaches for the kids
3. I don't know if Norwich Baseball is private or part of Parks & Rec
4. We have a sporty kid and supplement his rec play with a couple of travel teams. Wish we didn't have to!
5. No after school athletics for kindergarten.
6. Tried to sign my son up for co Ed sport but never heard back to see if got in or not through parks and rec
7. I'm grateful for the pre-k options in our town. Our \*\*\*\* has loved to participate in pre-k basketball and t-ball. We have not successfully gotten into the pre-k after school program but are grateful that exists and hope to get a slot in that as well.
8. Given child's age (3) this is not a priority at this time
9. RMS track and field

10. She's in the Norwich Rec Afterschool program - to allow for a later pick up -- and more time with children her age.
11. soccer, mtn bkg, skiing, theater
12. No, because generally not old enough

**Q30: If you wish to provide more information about your response to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q29: Generally during this academic year, how satisfied are you with your student's experiences for afterschool athletic activities?***

105 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 101 answers  
→ 12 MCS answers

1. I am not sure whether you are asking about school-related athletic activities. If so, I don't think MCS offers any. The town offers great activities but our child has been reluctant to join (not the town's fault).
2. The rec coaches have done a great job this year.
3. Team sports are brought down by students who don't want to be there, or who are involved in too many activities and splitting their time. Teams suffer for this as well as individuals.
4. We wish there were soccer options that aren't Lightning.
5. My only complaint is that I really wish 3rd grade mountain biking and Root Rockers did not conflict on Wednesday afternoons!
6. Most practices and games were canceled due to the weather or not enough players, or not enough available coaches, yet we still paid full price to the rec department. That doesn't seem fair.
7. Baseball is not available until student is 9 years old...
8. \*\*\*\* makes this so easy and wonderful.
9. Could be better about consistent days and times.
10. No question about non-sport, non-art activities. What about STEM?
11. There are very few local options for the kindergarten set. Ie for soccer, we have the option to drive to Lebanon which is too far to get to on time since there isn't a Norwich rec option. Additionally, it is such a rush to get our kids to activities in Hanover after school since they start on the Ray School timeline that gets out earlier. This applies for skiing mostly for my family, and is a reason that a lot of Norwich kids don't get to do these programs. Why are the schools on different schedules??
12. Love our towns rec program and what it provides to our small community. My dissatisfaction comes from club sports and private athletic programs. Some of these programs run private programs/teams within the sport season that the rec

department runs. What it means is that a number of children are not participating in rec sports and going the private/paid route. We can barely field teams in some sports. This does not help community.

**Q32: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q31: During this academic year, does your student participate in organized performing arts activities, such as music and plays, of some sort? Please select all that apply. Note that we are not referring to subject-based camps that occur only during summer or vacation breaks.***

78 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 73 answers  
→ 12 MCS answers

1. private piano lessons
2. I had hoped MCS would offer orchestra since my \*\*\*\* \*\* but turns out they only had band. It would be great if they could also offer orchestra. Our \*\*\*\* \*\* did and let kids rent for free the instruments so everyone could play.
3. We need more non sport activities through the school for kids to thrive in their area of interest or learn a new interest. Example lego robotics
4. Not applicable for kindergarten.
5. We are interested in this but options are limited for pre-K. We have been on a waiting list for piano and cello lessons in Lebanon.
6. I wish there were more opportunities for extracurricular related to the arts (choir, Theatre or musical Theatre, etc.) for younger kids (k-3) offered through the school/rec dept. I thought it was great that there was a play last year (the Secret Garden). And future years it would be wonderful for something like that to happen again and to also offer more involvement for younger students.
7. It was so great when \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* did the school play!! After school arts activities would be amazing since the rec dept is so sports focused.
8. \*\*\*\* last year's theater program, and though there were a few hiccups, I have heard, overwhelmingly, that parents wish we would do it all again. \*\*\*\* with the hope that it could lead you to new opportunities on this front. The children deserve performing arts, and \*\*\*\*
9. Upper Valley Music Center suzuki program
10. Weekly lessons at Upper Valley Music Center

11. I would really like my child to participate in music but what is available outside is too expensive. And the support at school is not great ...
12. No, age. She loved the holiday concert and we're excited for her to do more as it becomes available for her age group

**Q34: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q33: Generally during this academic year, how satisfied are you with your student's experiences for performing arts activities?***

62 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 58 answers  
→ 9 MCS answers

1. More would be great and more After school plays etc would be great.
2. Wish there were more in school opportunities instead of early AM or after school.
3. Do they have performing arts? I didn't think there was theater or plays at MCS.
4. We have been very satisfied with our music teacher, but she is not related to the school in any way.
5. We wish there were more opportunities for the plays and such through school
6. I think that he would be interested in this if he had a better sense of what was involved, more exposure to theater in school would be helpful.
7. We are lucky to have a lot of local musicians teaching. Arts for the older kids is a little trickier since Craftstudies and Artistree classes start at 3:30 which is hard to get kids to after school.
8. The options are appropriate for the size and budget of the school.
9. I wish that younger kids were given more performance and musical opportunities.

**Q36: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q35: Does your student currently receive mental health and/or behavioral health services?***

41 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 36 answers  
→ 12 MCS answers

1. Very expensive privately. A real barrier.

2. My \*\*\*\* has a 504 plan and sees an outside doctor to support \*\*\*\* in managing his ADHD.
3. Our third grader who is \*\*\*\* also suffers from anxiety and \*\*\*\* sees a therapist to help \*\*\*\* deal with \*\*\*\* fears.
4. \*\*\*\* counseling
5. \*\*\*\* has a group lunch once a week with \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\*, I believe to help with \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* receives \*\*\*\* medication that is administered at home and at school.
6. \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* (spelling?) is great!
7. IEP
8. \*\*\*\* was seeing a behavioralist - through Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) to work on slowing down and listening. This was a free program and helped my child significantly to slow down and to be safer.
9. My child's behavioral struggles aren't enough to cause trouble or have her qualify for school-based support, nor does the guidance counselor really have the bandwidth to support, so this is a very expensive venture. I'd love if the guidance counselor could do some more work on particularly girl interpersonal dynamics as they enter their tween years - the stuff that borders on bullying and is done without teachers/staff noticing. ie. body image, fashion teasing, etc.
10. My student has struggled with social issues at times. Generally I have found the guidance services at MCS to be lacking. They seem superficial and when my students had a real need to work through a singular issue with a counsellor, the \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* didn't have the time to work with my child
11. trying to get into more OT and speech therapy for executive functioning
12. Receiving support at MCS is an uphill battle. The MCS administration downplays concerns in order to protect the budget and because they don't have the support staff to help all the kids that need services. Again, unacceptable.

**Q38: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q37: To your knowledge, does your student have any of the following devices or social media accounts for their own specific, individual, use?***

23 responses to “Other (please specify)”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 19 responses → 1 MCS answer

1. Are you seriously asking if they use a "computer"?

62 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 57 answers  
→ 10 MCS responses

1. Yikes, no way. I have read Dopemine Kids and The Anxious Generation.
2. He uses a kindle fire for entertainment in the car when we are on long road trips. Very little if any use at home.
3. Our child has devices, a phone (not capable of calls), a watch and computer, but with completely limited access and certainly no social media or future access to social media.
4. He uses a chromebook at school and a laptop/ipad at home.
5. In 1st grade - doesn't have any of that stuff.
6. We are in favor of any and all limitations on access to these technologies and apps that the school can provide.
7. These create attention issues and other distractions for students
8. I firmly believe in no phones in schools and no social media for kids.
9. I would love to see the school lead a pledge for families to keep their children off of social media, and be phone-free, like has been present in the news of other communities.
10. We regulate use, but my oldest has the above noted devices either for creative/recreational use or school work.

**Q40: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q39: In this 2025-2026 academic year, New Hampshire and Vermont laws went into effect that generally banned individual smart devices “bell to bell” within the schools. The district’s policies were updated to reflect this legal change in late 2025. Have you noticed an impact of this policy and legal change on your student and family?***

43 responses to “Something else”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 41 answers → 10 MCS answers

1. My children did not yet have personal devices when this rule went into effect. We do not anticipate getting them devices until they go to college. We are SO grateful for this mandate and hope it will make our generation of parents and children MUCH more phone averse than the current middle and high school students and parents.

2. I'm child's too young so this isn't applicable to us but I'm very much in support of removing these devices
3. Positive effect on family due to our older children but not relevant to our kindergartener
4. While I agree with banning them during school, I do not like that parents no longer have wifi access at all. I think it creates a dangerous situation at Marion Cross during after school activities. There is no cell service and if there is an injury or a parent needs to be called it is very difficult.
5. Our first year and not really applicable to pre-K but I am very supportive
6. Since my daughter is in preschool this hasn't come up yet but I'm 100% in support of this.
7. Not relevant for our child's age
8. Not applicable for elementary?
9. My student is too young for me to have noticed a difference, but I am so glad that devices are banned during the day
10. Doesn't apply to my student.

91 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 87 answers  
 → 12 MCS answers

1. 100% this is the right call. I hope it does not change.
2. The less tech the better especially in elementary school. Even Steve Jobs (Apple) highly restricted his kids on screens at a young age because of its addictive qualities. I'd hope in elementary school they aren't on computers most of the time and instead do things on paper.
3. I am sure there has been a huge change and we are fully in support of the new rules. But our kids are just too young to have been meaningfully impacted.
4. I am all in favor of no allowing smart phones, personal tablets during school time. I would be in favor of a phone locker at the beginning of school but I know I am in the minority on this one.
5. I love the policy, but my child is too young for it to make an impact yet.
6. Our son is too young for this to show up much at school. Glad for the policy though.
7. We support phone bans in school.
8. As a \*\*\*\*\*, I do not support taking away devices- at least from much older students- in the classroom, but rather teaching them healthy ways of using them as tools to be successful humans. I don't want my sons misusing technology anywhere:)
9. Still in kindergarten, but we support bell-to-bell policies.
10. I feel that there should be very little technology in our schools. It is the people who make a difference and who I want my child to interact with, not a computer.
11. My student doesn't have any devices but one of his friends did and he found it interfered with their friendship. That has changed for the better with the new policy.
12. I wish that there was less technology in the elementary schools and more outdoor forest/learning time.

Q42: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q41: Generally, what are your thoughts on your student's daily time in front of screens, such as computers, phones, and televisions?*

109 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 105 answers  
→ 24 MCS answers

1. I am a bit concerned about the use of screens in lower grades and the reliance on videos in upper grades. Plenty of time for them to get this exposure on their own time or as they age.
2. I have no idea how much time they spend on screens at school.
3. Responsible use of technology is important, school can be a great place for this to be taught/learned, so conscientious instruction on technology use is not a problem in my view. I'm a bit more concerned when it seems that use of a screen/app is just a default without a lot clarity about why we're doing it, what it costs us. I have yet to hear an MCS student who says they would miss doing iReady, and I'm not really clear what great benefit the school gets from using it to justify the money spent and the time in front of screens
4. I honestly don't know how much screen time happens at school. My assumption is very little but now I'm wondering if I need to ask my kids more about that. I never thought screens would be huge in elementary school for obvious negative reasons.
5. The answers to this question don't really make sense and are not mutually exclusive but this is a "select one" question. Interpret data with caution.
6. I have no idea how much they get at school but I give them an hour a day at home on school nights.
7. We're a screen 'occasional' family but mostly screen free and do not want to see screens in schools
8. There wasn't an answer choice for question 35 that seemed to accurately reflect our situation. Our child has very limited access to screen time and zero access to any social media or YouTube streaming accounts. The educational computer time at school and limited television and Nintendo time at home seem appropriate.
9. I am always surprised to hear when the students are using tablets for learning. It would be helpful to have more communication from the school about how and why technology is used in curriculum for each grade. I found it particularly concerning as young as first grade.
10. In favor of more tried and true methods of learning.
11. I'm not opposed to technology. I just want it to be meaningful, intentional. I'm very unclear about why MCS students spend so much time with iReady. It is costly in terms of money and time that could be spent on other things. And what are teh

educational gains, what is the critical information that is collected? And what are the downsides of so much screen time instead of human interaction? I'd like the administration and school board to seriously explore this

12. Not relevant yet to my knowledge since my child is in preschool.
13. No consistent screen time is used day to day for our child
14. Not sure how I feel about the access to games at school, even if they are "educational" (for example Prodigy)
15. I wish the adults at the school were more comfortable with technology - right now feels like the kids are the ones that should teach the adults.
16. We use the tablet too much at home and are working to reduce screen time.
17. Though I want my child to learn to integrate technology safely and responsibly, my opinion is there is too much access, and I find it super irritating that the standardized testing is on computers with video game breaks which my kid really doesn't need! I also know of many kids (mine included) who are good at sneaking around during free time in which they're supposed to be working on projects and they're actually just playing games or watching dirt bike videos on their chromebooks.
18. I don't know exactly how much time 1st graders at MCS spend on computers. I know they use iReady. I am curious how much time daily/weekly they are on computers.
19. While way lower than in other districts nationally, we've still be a bit surprised with the amount of screen time at school. We don't expect "zero" but it should be close to zero in our opinion.
20. I don't have a strong sense of how much time my student spends in front of a screen at school. It felt like my student has significantly more time last year. The use of Prodigy for math, which really isn't a math program, led to a lot of conflict at home, as my child wanted us to pay for him to have an account, which we didn't want to do. I think there needs to be better screening of which programs teachers are using.
21. technology is used too much in lower grades.
22. In first grade at MCS, the students receive at least some reading instruction from an online video/instructor. This makes very little sense to me - we have wonderful teachers, I'd like to hear more from them and less from screens. My children come home talking about lots of screen use especially in French.
23. We set limits at home, but still would prefer to dial it back. I'm not a huge fan of the Chromebook at school. I'm a former educator and current technologist, and I don't particularly think that these devices are pedagogically necessary and think they can interfere with learning at times.
24. There is no evidence that technology has helped our children's education or learning. We think the educational quality and teaching quality has decreased because of the technology used at school.

Q44: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q43: 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.*

118 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 115 answers  
→ 25 MCS answers

1. This topic defies check the box type answers. It is incredibly complex and nuanced. My general belief is it should not be present in K-6 whatsoever. I'm open to considering limited use cases in upper grades, but the dangers are unknown at this early stage in its evolution.
2. we all have to learn about technology, including how to responsibly engage with it, so I would be supportive of thoughtful school-based exposure to these tools. But I strongly oppose just shoving tech into kids' faces without a clear plan and rationale.
3. While I understand AI is a tool that is here and will be part of our kids' adult lives at work, I do not believe AI should be anywhere near elementary schools. They need time to be a kid, figure out social dynamics, learn how to write by hand, develop their own thinking, and challenge each other's ideas. AI has no place in elementary schools with young brains that can't decipher truth from lies.
4. AI scares me. It's a foregone conclusion that our kids will need to interact with it. It's important that they learn the positive and potentially negative implications. I worry about us (generally) outsourcing our thinking to AI and the effects it will have on younger and future generations.
5. With a husband who works at \*\*\*\* and me having a 14 year tech career I think AI has its place and is inevitable but it is important to know its strengths and weaknesses.
6. No AI for this age group
7. I wouldn't say that ALL uses of AI should be banned, but the default option should be no AI in school, and it should only be allowed once there is an approval process and there needs to be some evidence of BENEFICIAL outcomes for kids, and not just a lack of proof it causes harm, as that will take time since it's so new. I think schools mistakenly allowed smartphones into classrooms and then as evidence was mounting of how detrimental they were, said the "ship had sailed" and there was nothing they could do, so it finally took state legislatures to get most districts including SAU70 to act responsibly in banning them. I hope we don't have to wait for legislation and increasing evidence of harms to learning caused by AI in order to ban/severely limit its use in classrooms. Same thing for Ed tech in general- I'm encouraged that there's mounting discussion that it may be harmful for kids to be

doing so much of their learning on individual screens, but I feel there's a generation of kids who have been harmed by smartphones in classrooms and overuse of Ed-tech, when there was never any evidence of safety or benefit of either of these things in classrooms, and yet they were embraced because they appeared to make things easier/more engaging/faster/more convenient. Please don't do the same thing with AI in our schools!!

8. AI investors are trying to manufacture an educational use case for this technology. The district should teach kids, not use AI.
9. AI is unavoidable. It's important to teach how to use it responsibly. It can be used to produce a lot of misinformation and it concerns me that this could negatively affect curriculum planning or other school functions.
10. TurnItIn is not a reliable way to police AI use. Students should be taught that information they receive online, including from AI, is not reliable unless verified by trusted sources.
11. For pre-K this doesn't really apply but I generally dislike AI and find most of it to be hype with little benefit in my own life. Given the world we live in however, familiarity with it will likely be necessary. At the same time, so much is changing so quickly, who knows where this all will go.
12. It is a scourge on society, education, and our brains. I wouldn't trust anyone who thinks otherwise. The school should do everything possible to prevent kids from using it.
13. AI isn't going away, a controlled school environment should be among the places where we can help kids develop healthy behaviors around AI. But there are not many other non-AI topics/classes that I would vote to jettison just so we can instead spend time on AI.
14. It would be valuable if students learn how generative AI works and pros and cons of using it. However, the technology is not ready for elementary or middle school kids.
15. AI is a reality of our world now. I think it's important for students and staff to learn how to use AI ethically and the pros and cons of AI (what can it give us, what can't it, what are the potential benefits, what are the potential harms)
16. AI should be taught to students so they understand how to utilize.
17. I feel like the staff have a long way to go before they can use AI effectively.
18. I worry about my child putting personal information into AI. They are not mature enough to make good decisions.
19. Students should learn without the risks of AI formulating their responses. Teachers are capable of working without it as well. The technology is not yet ready for wide use yet given the ethical, accuracy and privacy concerns not yet addressed.
20. AI is contributing to laziness, lack of collaboration, and reduced creativity and problem-solving.
21. AI should be used as little as possible, but older students should learn how to use it to learn with
22. AI is part of life now. Let's learn to live with it...safely.
23. No, absolutely not. No.

24. AI must have extremely strict guardrails and AI should be off limits until older grades (6th being the youngest with access to AI); Opportunities for kids' creativity is being massacred by AI and there is simply no reason to use it with young children. It is frustrating to see teachers using it to generate in-class activities and the like. The district must act immediately to get ahead of these challenges.
25. AI can be a powerful tool when used as a tutoring partner for example. But it is harmful when used to outsource one's thinking and creativity. Exercising and developing those faculties is what learning is about.

**Q46: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q45: We have heard numerous comments this year about the lunch programs across each of the four schools. Please let us know how you typically handle lunch for your student. Please select all that apply.***

**174 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 172 answers  
→ 28 MCS answers**

1. The breakfast options is wonderful and deeply appreciate the staff and team for supporting nutrition at school.
2. Not having menus available at the beginning/before the new month starts makes planning for the first week of every month challenging in our house.
3. School lunch or breakfast are rarely an explicitly planned meal, it's usually just the fallback when kids inevitably don't get organized in time in the morning to make breakfast and pack lunch at home.
4. Badly worded question/ answers again forcing us to pick seemingly opposite responses. My child eats the lunch but we have to supplement with a lot of "home food" because the lunch is not enough.
5. We need more fresh vegetables, fruit's and real food. It feels like even the teachers won't eat what's on offer
6. The lunch offered at MCS is slop. Promises to change every year and does not. GROSS.
7. Please increase local foods in our students lunches! We are the wealthiest county in the state, have ample local food growers to support, and a willing staff person and team of people wanting to help make a change towards more scratch cooking with healthy, local foods, please make this a priority!
8. MCS food could be so much better and healthier!
9. We do school lunch out of convenience and my child is happy with it but I wish the options were more healthy and balanced

10. My \*\*\*\* is vegetarian. The options for vegetarians are too limited. This should be a problem for more than just us, as many students might opt to eat more healthfully at school if there were attractive vegetarian options. Most of the school lunches are too unhealthy and are meat heavy (and low quality meat, at that). I have found the quality and healthfulness of school lunch went down significantly this year.
11. My child complains that the pizza is not good. I've heard this from other kids as well. Maybe a new pizza recipe is needed.
12. The menu is too repetitive. Need more variety. Need more protein.
13. My daughter loves getting school lunch. I do think that the home lunches that I pack her are much healthier so we typically let her get school lunch 1-2x per week as a "special treat" and I pack lots of healthy snacks (whole fruit, vegetables) to supplement
14. The menus are always late each month and aren't reliable. I also feel like the quality is not good. For example, my daughter occasionally likes the "chicken cesar wrap" but last week she said it didn't have any lettuce in it. I also wish the fruit parfaits were made with plain yogurt instead of sugary yogurt.
15. The quality of the food is appalling. Specifically we need to drastically reduce the amount of sugar being served to students with breakfast and lunch. Fruit juice, sugary cereals and vanilla yogurt are examples of foods to at should be banned from the elementary schools.
16. My child typically eats sunbutter and jelly everyday from the lunch program. I'd love to see more vegetable/fruit/lean protein options and variety. Although - I do love that it's free -- that has been hugely helpful for our family.
17. One child will eat the food but complains of quality and I have concerns about nutrition. One child refuses because he tried and did not like it.
18. My oldest is often too rushed to make his lunch beyond a snack. He is not a fan of MCS lunch but he cannot wait to eat Richmond's. Soup day was fabulous. Keep moving in the right direction of bringing healthy, tasty options to the kids!
19. I'm amazed at the options available daily at MCS. The lunch staff does a great job.
20. Pizza day--- every Friday-- tends to be more of a complaint than a "fun" meal. For some reason, my kids really don't like the pizza-- but will eat other school foods happily.
21. I appreciate that lunch at MCS is free and has improved over the past couple of years. I don't have a sense of the food quality; which had been very poor. I would like to know how much it has improved, as my son insists on eating it and doesn't want to take lunch from home.
22. more local food should be used. Eating and trying new foods should be treated as something to learn and share together. I like community aspect of universal lunch
23. The food is pretty terrible at MCS - my kiddos don't even want to eat the pizza. It's also pretty unhealthy, I really wish that the lunch option could be simple and healthy.
24. My kids say the lunch is awful, but faced with the choice to make their own lunches or get school lunch, they choose school lunch. Many days, they say they don't each lunch because it is too gross or they don't have time.

25. It would be worth taking another look at the school lunch vendor and the bid process in dialogue with the Agency of Education now that the previous \*\*\*\* is gone.
26. Lunch at MCS is shameful. We are the wealthiest school district in Vermont and we are letting a private equity company make a margin off of feeding our kids sugary junk. The other day breakfast was apple juice and Trixx - and this is after years of parents trying to enact change. There is a group of parents and volunteers willing and wanting to make change, but no one will be responsive to this group. It is conundrum and makes no sense. The other week the options were a bacon cheeseburger or a meat and cheese box. Processed meat on top of read meat with a side of potatoes. What is happening? Please be responsive to the group of highly engaged parents on this issue.
27. There seems to be a lot of high sugar food available at breakfast which we do not like
28. It is free...you get what you pay for!

**Q48: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q47: Please assess these aspects of our schools.***

**97 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 93 answers  
→ 14 MCS answers**

1. I'm not a teacher so can't speak from experience, but I've not been totally clear about why SAU felt the need to buy an ELA curriculum, when I thought that curriculum development was something that was naturally part of being a good teacher. Is the new program going to do things that SAU could not have otherwise done? We'll see. I worry that students may spend less time learning how to read longer texts and instead just reading brief excerpts
2. Academics seem to run fine at MSC, although homework is too gradual until 6th grade where it is much more intense. 5th graders should have more to get used to the load.
3. A little more homework would be good for helping build study skills and stamina.
4. My kid is in kindergarten, so the previous question isn't particularly relevant, yet.
5. Parents do not receive returned exams, so it is hard to give specific follow ups for my kids.
6. It's hard to answer these questions for pre-K. But I think the pre-K program is just right for my child. I appreciate that the emphasis is on learning social skills and play while also offering age-appropriate activities to help them prepare for kindergarten. My \*\*\*\* is on the younger side for \*\*\*\* pre-K room so I appreciate that \*\*\*\* isn't

being pushed to work on skills needed for \*\*\*\*, but that the activities are still open to \*\*\*\* if \*\*\*\* chooses them. \*\*\*\* often excited to practice \*\*\*\* letters and has learned so much, both socially and academically in the classroom. I'm so appreciative of all of \*\*\*\* pre-k teachers and \*\*\*\* "specials" teachers who \*\*\*\* talks about frequently at home and have also been essential to \*\*\*\* development.

7. It's a lot of emails from all the teachers and the weekly newsletter
8. A lot of curriculum seems gated behind computerized gates that the staff don't understand how to open.
9. This school is fantastic and an example of what all students deserve to have. Keep doing the great work! I would love for my 3rd grader to be assigned homework from time to time. My 6th grader has consistent, challenging homework, and I love it!
10. Small children (K-2) should have more focus on play, group work, outdoor time, and social development, and less rigorous academics.
11. MCS does not have the staffing to provide support to all the students that need it.
12. My 6th grader needs to have a textbook or other reference materials to support his math. He comes home with homework work sheets but no materials that he could refer back to to help him complete work. I can't tell if they are following a set curriculum or just doing things on the fly.
13. not able to make selections meaningfully.
14. My student needed both literacy and math supports. I found the literacy support at MCS to be terrific and my \*\*\*\* quickly and visibly benefitted from this. \*\*\*\* received quite a bit of additional math support too but \*\*\*\* didn't benefit from this as readily. It seemed to me that there was a robust literacy support approach in place but math support lacked a similar structured approach which I think it would benefit from

**Q50: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q49: When your last student graduates from high school, do you anticipate any changes for living in Hanover or Norwich?***

**51 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 47 answers  
→ 8 MCS answers**

1. Our youngest is 3. Hard to say at this point what the future holds.
2. We really like it here, but obviously if our kids end up settling outside the area, we may consider moving in order to be closer to them
3. These answer choices are just so odd. What about an option like "We're definitely leaving to be with family elsewhere"? Cost is not the only factor. You are really

going to have to be so very careful with the data you get from this survey - questions are worded badly, options are non comprehensive, not mutually exclusive, no "other" option is offered. etc. Perhaps you could ask a highschool class to work on a better survey next year - could be a great project.

4. We didn't move here for the schools. We lived here before having children.
5. \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*, I don't look forward to my children attending as I've found the culture of the entitlement and intensity of the academics overbearing- I hope to take my children out of the SAU 70 district for high school
6. Family has lived here since \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*.
7. We love Norwich and would prefer to stay here but long-term would like to buy a home which is currently much more affordable in Lebanon.
8. Currently, living at \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* to live here. When we \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* - we likely won't be able to afford to live in Norwich/Hanover.

**Q52: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q51: 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.***

**57 responses to “Something else (Please specify)”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 55 answers → 14 MCS answers**

1. Leadership at the school
2. A real playground (all season!) at MCS is lacking.
3. In general the school did a real good job. I would say the biggest room for improvement would be with the lack of high quality food. I travel a lot for work and eat in many different schools. Ours is amongst the worst food choices/quality I have seen
4. A fair number of behavioral problems for "COVID-era" kids
5. I feel too new to the district to judge this in the context of the school district as a whole
6. Lack of accountability for students who misbehave.
7. MCS school and grounds are in need of a lot of work.
8. Keep recruiting and retaining top teachers - pay them to stay!
9. The calendar is so disruptive. 50% of the school weeks are not 5 day weeks plus snow days/delays.
10. Concerned that sometimes ineffective teachers skate by without consequences
11. I greatly value the small class sizes at MCS and I am worried that this will change

12. Afterschool programs, support for working parents
13. Inclusiveness
14. tech use in kindergarten/1st grade

77 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 75 answers  
→ 17 MCS answers

1. I feel like most of what I hear from my kids relates to social concerns and challenges. Yes, math is hard, but I am less concerned about knowing division and more concerned with their social, emotional, and relational development and how it informs their academic approaches.
2. The three I choose, I think that if we have highest quality teachers and staff, and support the social and mental health of students, most other things will take care of themselves and set up students for success in the long run.
3. We're new to the area and what I've found is parents have mixed views on Hanover High School. Some believe it's great and others think they push the kids too far and you have to be the "type" of student who can handle that kind of rigor. I have no kids there yet but it makes me wonder what happens in the high school and if it really is that competitive and intense. From what I hear high schoolers stay up very late doing homework and that's a huge red flag. Teens need sleep and time with family and activities is just as important as school work. I hope someone is looking out for the teens over there and providing a real balance.
4. More rigorous content knowledge
5. Our child has had repeated issues with one classmate. Teachers don't seem interested or are unable to resolve the issue. They seem to expect us to resolve this conflict that only happens at school.
6. In terms of curriculum - I wish students spent substantially more time learning outside. For third grade, it seems rare that they are spending time outside as part of their curriculum. This is not what I expected we would get at MCS. I'm not sure the kids are getting much out of French class. Perhaps it is just the younger kids, I don't know. But so far (3rd grade), it doesn't seem like much learning is being retained from those classes.
7. Our experience is with young kids at MCS, where we think everything is beyond fine-everything is amazing.
8. Mold, leaks and plumbing issues still? Unacceptable.
9. See above, after having had a few instances over the years at MCS when my kid was able to experience some math enrichment, we've seen how much he thrives, so it's frustrating that it's just a thing that comes and goes rather than being consistent challenge over time. I worry about the ability to attract and retain the best, most creative and passionate and motivated teachers, given some staff turnover at MCS over recent years. And overall we should always emphasize the importance of social health and connectedness
10. Some staffing across district of teachers, \*\*\*\* ect... that lean very heavy into the LGBTQ+ and it has created a volatile learning environment for healthy students

being forced to accept distraction in the classroom and told they have to play into delusion has been detrimental to so many students at RMS. Having a representative from an outside organization talk with our kids about DV but making it only about male on female violence made a lot of our boys feel confused unlikeable and judged unfairly

11. More programs that run right after school - easier for children and parents. More resources for working parents to better support their children and each other.
12. I'd love to see more support for social dynamics for kids. Even when not as extreme to qualify as bullying, kids need guidance to focus on being nice because it is a slippery slope to making fun of others' differences into bullying. Weirdness should be celebrated. The buildings are dated and in constant need for upgrades, long deferred by budgets.
13. My youngest has been hit and/or poked multiple times this year by his peers, students who consistently behaved that way in previous years (\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* and witnessed it with my own two eyes). My oldest feels that some of the students with strong family "pull" and/or big personalities often get away with behavior that should be transparently and consistently managed. He is regularly badgered by \*\*\*\*, for example, who is a child who has been cited for bullying in the past but nothing seems to change. Kids need to learn not to harm others and that adults are holding people safely and accountably in all areas of the school. SEL is still important, especially important, at the 6th grade level.
14. Sports seem to be a big focus of living in the Upper Valley-- and though our kids love to play-- they seem VERY competitive at a young age.
15. As noted elsewhere, at MCS, there is a lack of inclusiveness of non Christian faith traditions. I think this is inconsistent across the four SAU70 schools, and that is a problem. Children should feel included and welcome regardless of which school they attend.
16. I think that MCS needs a better playground.
17. I wish we had a later start time.

**Q54: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q53: What are the most pressing academic needs within our schools? Please choose up 3 of the most important answers for you.***

72 responses to “Something else (Please specify)”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 70 answers → 15 MCS answers

1. continue and expand project-based learning and ensure access to outdoor education for every grade level

2. Letter grades are needed by later elementary
3. Additional attention to learning a second language. Higher quality language immersion/instruction.
4. No homework until middle school or high school
5. More geology and science in general - my kid really likes it
6. More STEM
7. I would like to see the social studies curriculum revisited. Perhaps the school could engage parents for some brainstorming on this. It feels very limited so far, and given the lack of diversity at MCS and in Norwich and Hanover this feels especially problematic. Our kids are lacking exposure to social issues outside of our bubble.
8. I feel too new to the district to judge this in the context of the school district as a whole
9. Change to Spanish or Chinese (instead of French) at MCS
10. make teacher tech knowledge part of their job performance requirements
11. Gym
12. Educational assistants in the younger grades and a support room
13. Managing technology; how it is used, protecting our young students and adequately preparing them for the future.
14. special ed and ot services expanded in lower gradees
15. Too many celebrations and days off

48 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 45 answers  
 → 8 MCS answers

1. Overall MCS seems to do well, but FWIW there seems to be more attention and resources available for remedial work than for enrichment/accelerated work, yet many students could benefit from being pushed more academically, in terms of keeping them engaged, stretching them
2. Appreciate current class sizes
3. It would be great if MCS had Spanish. Also an improved language curriculum in general; students are not learning French.
4. If the school maintained its current performance and policies, that would be great. Don't cut anything!!!
5. see above, my kid moves from MCS to RMS, my understanding is that there may be opportunity for some more challenging match experiences
6. I wish my pre-k child had gym this year. She really enjoyed it last year.
7. Opportunities for more challenging academics for students who are ready or you are going to lose them to boredom.
8. I think MCS has too many specials, which decreases the amount of time for academic learning. Could French instruction start in grades 5 or 6?

Q56: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q55: 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.*

31 responses to “Something else (Please specify)”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 27 answers → 6 MCS answers

1. Provide better quality food
2. I feel too new to the district to judge this in the context of the school district as a whole
3. MCS seems to have cut student support services way too much in the last few years
4. Better individualized academic progression - originating from the teaching staff
5. More awareness of what's going on beyond the bubble of the Upper Valley; inclusive of cultures, religions and political issues.
6. Advisory and small group learning pods

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

1. I worry about the effects of social media heading into the middle and high school ages, and anything that could be done at the elementary level to establish development that will get ahead of those issues (bullying, lack of connection) would be extremely helpful.
2. I could write a book here. MCS needs to do way better in this department. Our support services have been gutted and families with children that need support are feeling that impact.

**Q58: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q57: What are the most pressing concerns for your specific student during the school day? Please choose up to 3 of the most important responses to you below.***

**55 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 52 responses → 12 MCS answers**

1. He always wants more recess and interaction with his peers.
2. Wants better food quality. No more yellow government cheese and fake syrup
3. The current political climate creeping into the classroom in a one sided way
4. My student struggles with behavioral issues from time to time
5. Again, a fair number of behavioral challenges impacting class forward progress
6. My child would like to be challenged more academically.
7. Struggles with executive functioning can make it hard to get the most out of learning unless he has a teacher that pays attention one-on-one
8. The building and grounds need serious improvement
9. Lack of engagement - teaching staff letting them skate because they "aren't a problem"
10. Social issues with friends; not conflicts per se, but in-group/out-group/click issues
11. sensory regulation
12. Screen time

**40 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 37 answers → 6 MCS answers**

1. Please do not interpret my selection of "academic intensity or pressure" (or anyone else's) as meaning that there is too much intensity. There is not enough academic intensity for my child.
2. On numerous occasions for \*\*\*\* years my child has felt singled out and as though the classroom is unwelcoming to anyone with non-liberal views as preached to them through more than one guidance teacher. Personal political and religious views of teachers needs to be kept private.
3. Anxiety is so prevalent these days. The more we can do to equip our kids with tools to understand and address those feelings, they better they will be as they progress through SAU70 schools.
4. My child is in pre-k so this is not a major concern. But this is the biggest thing that we hear about from her on a day-to-day basis that is a challenge.
5. Math

6. The \*\*\*\* came up with a nickname for our child and greeted them with it each morning. The nickname emphasized the opposite of the mood that they struggled with. Intern, \*\*\*\* came to struggle to walk into school and go past the \*\*\*\*. It finally came to where we could not get \*\*\*\* to school. We shared this with the \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* as our comfort and trust of discussing this with directly with the \*\*\*\* is not there. \*\*\*\* as since stopped addressing them with this nickname. However, other students have at times picked up \*\*\*\* nickname and directed it at our child as they realize how much it makes them uncomfortable. \*\*\*\* created a significant challenge of self confidence for our child, and a very regular stress for us to work through before walking into MCS. We still do not go to the \*\*\*\* with this concern for targeting our child- trust is not there and never will be. I have shared this incident with the MCS \*\*\*\* and superintendent.

**Q60: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q59: What are the most pressing concerns for your specific student outside of the school day? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers below for you.***

**45 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar answers → 43 responses → 11 MCS answers**

1. Friend conflicts
2. Fitting all of the activities into to the day and preserving space/time to rest and get work done around the house.
3. Similar behavioral issues occure outside of school as well
4. None of these. 1st graders are still in building social skills and character phase.
5. Unstructured socialization with other kids
6. My student would like easier access to snacks. But he's 11, not sure we have to address his concern.
7. Mostly fine, but some issues related to ADHD and associated anxiety and self esteem issues.
8. having a planning focus
9. Diet
10. I have \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* - big change for my child.
11. Managing their ADHD

23 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 20 answers  
→ 1 MCS answer

1. Helping them build a plan for their future; DESPITE having both reliable and unreliable advisors - the idea that they need to be able to discern between the middle school teachers who should be ignored and treated as what-not-to-do lessons, and those that were actually inspirational and moving them forward. The same thing all adults struggle with - who was worth listening to? Who wasn't?

Q62: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q61: In recent years, the schools have undertaken several large-scale initiatives, such as introducing Pre-K at MCS, afterschool athletics at Richmond, district-wide Strategic Planning and Climate Action Plans, a new septic system and playground at MCS, new and renovated track and baseball fields for HHS, curriculum program adoptions at MCS and Ray, and ongoing curriculum development and standardization. Within the next 5 years, which new large-scale initiatives are the most important for you? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

72 responses to “Something else (Please specify):”. After removing “No” and similar responses → 67 responses → 15 MCS answers

1. Mental health focus for kids
2. Additional educational support (reading, writing and math services)
3. improve special education services, 504 services, and general academic support services
4. Not sure
5. MCS probably needs more maintenance / facility improvement budget
6. To priority for us: More spaces for preK at Marion Cross!! There are too many students that don't get a spot!
7. Recruit and Retain Teachers and Staff - Pay them to stay!

8. Better school meals
9. Teacher quality. Managing out teachers.
10. trauma training for all staff; this is imperative for an inclusive school environment where students are not ostracized for behaving differently due to trauma
11. Provide more support at MCS, including a support space
12. A support space at MCS
13. Expanding Pre-K at Marion Cross. There is a long and growing wait list.
14. After-school clubs
15. Drama, debate or performing arts in each grade

## 51 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 48 answers → 11 MCS answers

1. The MCS playground is, frankly, a joke. It is sad that Norwich kids don't have access to a school playground beyond a swing set in the front and an attractive playscape in the back that has very little to actually do and freezes over so is mostly useless in the winter. This was not money well spent.
2. Improve the climate for students from underrepresented groups including racial, ethnic, and gender identities.
3. More indoor sports facilities would ease scheduling pressure and eliminate (maybe!) some of the late night practices
4. MCS could use a facelift!
5. In an AI world - building social skills is essential.
6. I wish our federal government was more committed to pre-K/early childhood education; given that it is not, the more we can do to expand it in our district the better.
7. The MCS side playground smells like sewer gas. There is no sand in the sandbox. The “new” playground is pathetic.
8. The child care crisis in the Upper Valley impacts all of us. A pre-k program for Hanover students would benefit the entire community. After school care, including for pre-K would also be very beneficial for the community. We are grateful to have both in Norwich.
9. Supporting teachers with young families who cannot afford to live in Hanover/Norwich by increasing retention incentives, i.e. tuition free attendance to all SAU70 schools. Those who have that benefit at MCS then have to face the tuition cost of Richmond and HHS (on a teacher's salary!!) in order to keep our children with their peer groups and not have to return to their home district at such an important age for social connection and belonging.
10. Dysregulated children and disruptive children go to the \*\*\*\* at MCS. There is no plan for children that struggle with behavior (and it's very hard to get MCS to look at the why behind the behavior because special education evaluations and services are expensive). My child has \*\*\*\* and ADHD and part of me wishes we'd never moved to Norwich. MCS cannot support their learning profile. My child has not been met with support and care at the administrative level (\*\*\*\* has downplayed our

concerns for years). My child has spent years being removed from the classroom for disruptive behaviors, hours in the "\*\*\*\*" doing worksheets and being separated from peers, punished multiple times and not allowed to attend all school celebrations, and it's been on us as parents to advocate and push for evaluations and services all along. We as parents have had to say many times: something else is going on here, don't you think? Not once has the school recommended an evaluation; we have asked each time, sometimes multiple times without a response until we sent our request via certified mail. Unfortunately, this delay has systematically hurt our child, because they went years undiagnosed (or misdiagnosed) when really \*\*\*\* and ADHD were at the root of the behavior. MCS needs to do better and support students that struggle with \*\*\*\*, ADHD, anxiety, depression, giftedness (sounds like a gift, but it isn't always), etc. A sensory friendly support space would be a good start. Educational assistants at the K-1 level would also help set them up for more success. Alternate options during sensory shutdowns would also be great (a math puzzle instead of a worksheet).

11. I really think there needs to be a re-think on Pre-K at MCS - how is it fully funded and not available to all residents?

**Q63: Are there any survey questions you think we should ask in the future? Please list any questions, and possibly answers, below.**

**33 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 31 answers  
→ 9 MCS answers**

1. Would be great if you would allow people to select multiple grades in the same school if they have multiple kids there as this is a long survey so I just won't be filling it out for each kid in each grade vs just 1. It seems like you're losing out on data then if you think I'm just responding for a 3rd grader vs other grades at MCS as well. Would be nice to just see some questions that are more general - like write out a few sentences about what's going well and what can be improved.
2. As a data scientist, I would really, really encourage you to review this questionnaire very carefully and interpret results with extreme caution. The data you get will be extremely limited in validity by the poor wording of questions and nonsensical/ mutually exclusive/ non comprehensive answer choices.
3. You could ask more questions about satisfaction with opportunities for input and engagement from/with parents.
4. How is the school handling children who are misbehaving?
5. Questions about the leadership- \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*. More school culture questions.
6. I think you should ask about specific teachers. Why are parents not asked about teacher performance? Why do you move them from grade to grade to hide them?

7. How can we incentivize teacher retention if teachers with families cannot afford to live in Hanover/Norwich?
8. Ask about parents volunteering in the schools? Ask about what parents need?
9. You should ask more about how parents feel about chrome books for elementary students and technology use within classroom

**Q64: 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.**

**71 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 69 answers  
→ 15 MCS answers**

1. You all are doing a great job. It is apparent the mission of supporting students holistically beyond academics while caring for the staff is apparent. More can and should always be done but thanks.
2. Overall great experience here!
3. I wish schools would take greater advantage of the incredible outdoor environments that surround us to facilitate learning. Time outside and in the woods seems inconsistent and based on teach preferences and comfort. I wish this was more of a staple across teachers, schools and grades.
4. I am tired of having to make lunch for my kids because of the low quality food at MCS. Even a little bit of positive change would be encouraging. We need better quality ingredients
5. I was only able to select one grade when I have 3 kids at school.
6. Don't change the school times.
7. Thank you for the work you do!
8. You need to look at technology. The teachers don't understand the programs you use. Go back to paper curriculum if it's too hard for them. Don't give out homework in software if they don't understand how to modify that for vacations or other normal complications. They are having a hard time figuring it out. Maybe give them a couple years and have them do it on paper again in the meantime.
9. Include the number of questions in the survey email - and have a status bar as you work through it. It's hard to know if we have enough time to finish it if we don't know how long it is.
10. We think MCS is amazing and are truly grateful for this wonderful institution/school system!
11. Thank you for doing this survey and your wonderful leadership of our district! I answered questions because you asked, but overall, we're very very grateful for everything our public schools do here.

12. MCS has one teacher that parents worry about having, \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\*. \*\*\*\* is considered a wasted year. Can you do something about \*\*\*\* before my son has to experience that. It is our number one worry.
13. MCS has one teacher, \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*, who if not good for kids and should be encouraged to move on. This year \*\*\*\* was \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* and kids were better because of it. Please do something about \*\*\*\*.
14. As a VT resident, I am concerned about the impact of the statewide education reform efforts on Marion Cross. From what I have read, MCS could have its state financial support heavily slashed and would also be penalized financially if voters approved a school budget above a certain level. I worry about that this will mean cutting staff or services, which I would hate to see. What is being done or can be done to mitigate this?
15. Very thorough!