

SAU70 2026 Survey Free-Text Answers

April – May 2026

Based on 688 completed surveys across all 4 schools. Free-Text answers for 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	--	2,876	2,749	--

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

1. I need 90 days notice to request off time during my work day. I would be happy to volunteer but I need a lot more notice.
2. For both middle and high school students, it would make so much sense to adopt a later school start, especially when the students are involved in athletics and still focussed on keeping positive academic standing.
3. The travel time from home to school is about 35 minutes, but we both work within a few miles of the school, so it is convenient for drop-off location-wise. However, it is tricky from a scheduling perspective because our younger child also has to be dropped off at 8 am, thought this 35 minutes from the high school. When one of our jobs requires overnight travel, this makes two separate drop-offs at 8 am, 35 minutes from each other, impossible unless we can call on another family to help with driving. In addition, late evening activities like theater, with 10 pm or later pick ups (at times) can make for a very long day with a 35 minute ride home after, with homework on top of that. We realize we signed up for this, so there are no complaints, it is just a reality that we need to carefully plan for.
4. 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.
5. We are fortunate to live walking distance to school
6. The biggest challenge with parent-teacher conferences is having someone to watch the kid(s) while meeting with the teacher.
7. Multiple children, saturated careers, etc. nothing different from most, I assume
8. We are both full time. We have a **** ** to help us with childcare
9. I would love for there to be more notification ahead of time (definitely more than a week, but even at the beginning of the year) for in school volunteer opportunities so that I can arrange getting off of work. The same for any other events that parents can attend during school hours. The earlier the notice the better!
10. The expiration of and process to renew my fingerprinting has made it difficult to volunteer more often.
11. Some of the cancellations and delays are ridiculous, particularly those that are made on weather predictions
12. Adult #2 is ****
13. Fingerprinting requirement creates a barrier to being able to volunteer more.

14. Have little one to take care of
15. 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.
16. I have other children at home so can't volunteer during the day
17. 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.
18. I'm not currently working professionally, because we cannot accommodate our kids schedules with two working parents and without a nanny / driver. My partner's work schedule is not flexible.
19. My work schedule differs every week and I sometimes teach during weekday evenings.
20. It is hard to get the kids to the bus at 7:10am and get multiple kids to multiple activities after school.
21. I responded for myself. We are lucky that my husband has a very flexible job, and can come to both things.
22. I'm fortunate that my job is flexible so I am typically able to work around school schedules
23. Both my kids are now driving so this takes most of the pressure off the delayed openings, etc.
24. Teachers have been great the past couple of years. Much better than when our older children attended the Ray School. School Leadership recently (**** **** and past school **** have not been visible or proactive). The teachers are much better more student friendly than 7 to 8 years ago.
25. The bus comes to pick the kids up very early in the morning. The route is long.
26. 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
27. I have flexibility, but everything come on expense of work time. So many things are technically doable, but they all have a cost.
28. The reason the previous questions were answered no issue or not a big problem is that one adult stays home. The reason an adult stays home is due to school hours and lack of childcare after school.
29. my child drives school, so our issues are lessened by that
30. We both work full-time. If we can plan in advance, it is possible to do some things during the day (meetings, events). However, it's difficult to do it on a regular basis or without a lot of notice. We rely a lot on bus transportation or our child walking to one of our offices after school, etc.
31. For availability, I answered as
32. In a pinch, I can work remotely for all snow/sick issues and duck out for a kid's dr appt, etc., but unfortunately, the volunteering is the "thing that gives." I sometimes just feel like I cannot take more time away from work that the flexibility I already take.

33. Poor wording of the question. Who is "you?" One parent, any caregiver, or the specific parent filling out the survey?
34. Planning ahead for a parent to attend activities is OK, but last minute changes are difficult to absorb. Morning and afternoon activities during the week are very difficult, and many times result in us not attending as we would like to.
35. Lack of visitor parking at HHS prevented us from volunteering, and made conferences challenging.
36. The Ray School parking lot is an absolute hot mess - and my least favorite part is the rude, aggressive driving by fellow parents. We have so many tardies - watching the clock tick as we wait to turn, wait to find a spot, wait for someone to let us in, etc. I intentionally arrive to school 15 minutes after the school day ends because parents are double parked, parked in walkways, parked in grass, etc. "Drive like your kids go to school here" is what I want to yell out loud while I practice the zipper to let cars go, look both ways before turning, drive slowly, wave at the kind teachers trying to help students out of cars, etc.
37. Why aren't parent teacher conferences done in the evening? It's hard to take off work and arrange child care on a weekday.
38. We manage! Kids just have busy schedules. :)
39. We have adjusted our lives and schedules to be present in our kids lives, however, having come from an **** urban school district where the majority of parents held office jobs we are always amazed at how demanding the kids schedules are, in particular after school sports.
40. It is not difficult for my **** **** **** husband to do these things, but my schedule is more demanding, including nights and weekends, and I need significant lead time for any event regardless of day or time.
41. One of our biggest difficulties is that our child plays **** and is not allowed to take it on the bus meaning we need to pick **** up. It would be nice if that rule could be modified.
42. In can be challenging for us to attend special events that occur during the school day.
43. Perhaps there is a different threshold for snow days? It seems that the communications someties stress that a small few would be unable to make it to school due to weather when a solid majority would have no trouble getting there. Especially since so few absolutely rely on bus service.
44. School delay is more challenging than cancellation.
45. Two hour delays are extremely difficult.
46. 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.
47. I spend 2/3 of my time outside of the country
48. I answered the question with the following meaning: Generally, is it challenging for someone in your family to attend the following school events or late schedule changes?
49. spouse travels for work, at home with small child, so prioritizing sleep & family meals means extracurriculars de-prioritized

50. Unique situation: I solo parent the **** kids while my **** travels for work and am at home with a **** year old. my prioritization of family dinner and solid bedtimes mean that extracurriculars can be hard, evening activities impossible, early mornings (i.e. band rehearsals) not doable. Would love for k-5 rec sports to be run through the school and less intensive game/travel schedule.
51. My husband works full time (M-F 8-6pm) and would like to volunteer at the school. He wants to feel more a part of the school community. Could you make more evening or weekend volunteer opportunities available?
52. Would prefer Wed NOT be a short day. Would prefer to NOT have noon release for parent teacher days ... even if that means meetings with teachers get spread across multiple weeks
53. 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.
54. These issues are much easier for our family now that our student has a car. Parking is an issue but we're managing.
55. After school weekday school activities are difficult to attend due to parent work schedules or kids after school activities. During school activities are easier. My work commitments as a physician are scheduled 3 months (or more) in advance, so it's easy to attend everything on the school calendar that is scheduled well in advance, and nearly impossible to attend last minute events.
56. I work in district schools (thus experiencing the same schedule and changes) and my child drives themselves.
57. The school delayed opening or cancellations are tricky because there is no time to plan. Getting a 5am call doesn't allow enough time to plan logistics for the day. We used to live in a district where cancellations had to be made by 7pm the night before. I understand that you can't please everybody and there will be parents complaining if school is cancelled and the storm didn't happen; however, this will at least allow parents the time to plan logistics for the kids.
58. You didn't allow for families to select when they have kids in multiple schools and grades. FYI.
59. It continues to be concerning that some music events are offered during the day before noon. Not sure how often these happen but even events before 6pm should be reconsidered. I'm not from the Upper Valley but all 3 kids have been students in the district for some time now. After 13 years, I'm still adjusting to the timing of school events and the expectation of parents to attend. Other parents are rude and some teachers are too regarding how my kids are made to feel if their parents are at work trying to save PTO for other things. That will stay with me regarding my experience living here.
60. Difficult with a student who chooses to ride the bus (good) but relies on rides for pick up late from theater and with not a way of communicating the timing (due to challenges of phone use for call, text or email even post-school day)
61. I am ****

62. The snow days and delayed start times are tricky. I understand it's challenging to make those calls and it often feels like you're in a no win situation but I wish the call to close or delay school would be made by 7pm the night before. It's very tricky to plan the logistics around this and I never know when the school bus will get there on delayed openings.
63. The timing of many in-school events (9:30am to 12pm or 1pm to 2:45pm) are peak working hours where it is more difficult to step out for a recital, read to the class, etc.
64. Because both adults in our household work full time, most midday activities are difficult for us, without a lot of re-organizing of schedules. For example, practices or afterschool activities that require transportation in the afternoon.
65. as adult 1 above - I handle all of the above
66. Generally, we learn about volunteer opportunities rather late to be able to change schedules. Sometimes it isn't clear what kind of help may be needed.
67. Personally, the biggest issue this year was the new implementation for the sports busing. It was challenging because some times the students would be asked to be on a bus for 4:30 which didn't leave enough time for our child to come home, but they would then often be at school/sports (because of A and B teams) until 8 or 9pm. The busing was probably helpful for families, but for us it was much more challenging than just driving our child to the games and finding carpools.
68. With volunteer jobs it would be informative to know what is needed and what the job entails; ie time commitment, expectations
69. full-time working parents, 3 kids
70. Fortunate to have our student have their license to drive.
71. I do not like the current SAU70 calendar - I would prefer the summer to be longer and then us to have more consistent school during the year. I do not like how we have a very long holiday break, followed by multiple holidays, vacations, teacher in-service days, snow days, half days, etc. Help!!
72. A pick up line would be more efficient. The parking for after school pickup is becoming more and more of a problem.
73. 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.
74. Stuff with advanced noticed is easier than last minute so we can move around meetings
75. Much of the volunteer stuff at Ray, or the things that ask/require parents to be there during the school day, are very short-notice.
76. We have **** kids that have already graduated and one high school senior who has **** own car so we do not need to provide transportation.
77. I am a parent of a student at HHS, RMS and MCS in ****, **** and **** grades.

78. 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.
79. My biggest grip is that weekends used to be time off from school and school related activities (except hw) where my family could spend time together. It seems now my child is required (otherwise will be penalized and miss games/opportunities) to commit both Saturday and Sunday to varsity sports. Flat out, this sucks. My family can no longer plan to do a weekend trip together, like go overnight hike, or anything where my child will be away from Hanover for anything other than a few hours on a weekend. It has ruined our family time and I get very upset thinking about all the fun trips we had planned which now are impossible due to games and practices(!!!) being scheduled on weekends every weekend all Fall and Spring. Further, if my one **** has a practice on Saturday, it means it takes away from the entire family not just the parents. Now I have to tell my other ****, sorry we can't go do that other activity because we are committed to driving around our other ****. The current policy or lack there of is highly determinantal to my family time and I don't mean to be a curmudgeon but, I hate it.
80. When I am not travelling for work I am usually able to accommodate, but I travel about 4 days out of the month out of town and then we are unable to accommodate
81. Advanced notice really helps - with advanced notice (more than 3 months) for performances, games, volunteering I can usually try to rearrange my work schedule to attend
82. 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.
83. 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).
84. My children are my priority and if they need me, I'll be there!
85. Are there volunteer opportunities at RMS?
86. For parents working in-person, it would be valuable to also offer conferences after work hours once a year.
87. In the mornings, we're always caught between letting our child getting 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.
88. 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.
89. The issue is managin two or more kids who have different after school or weekend extra-circulars, especially int he middle choold for sports that do not include bussing for away games (e.g. baseball).
90. It would be nice to have more volunteer opportunities outside of school hours

91. We have 2 kids in school. One is not usually an issue for after school and weekend extra-curricular, it is balancing two sets of weekend and after school extra-curriculars - especially with some middle-school sports not offering busses for away games.
92. My child drives now so many of these problems have gone away . . . I am answering as though he were not yet driving
93. 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.
94. We have preschool and toddler kids at home, with part-time or no childcare.
95. 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.
96. I contacted someone in August 25 about getting involved as a new parent, and received a response in May 26.
97. The bus that runs between RMS and MCS is essential for us to be able to do many of the things listed since we also still have a child at MCS.
98. Mom could volunteer some Fridays Dad doesn't have any extra time between current school schedule and appointments
99. 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.
100. I would appreciate having a later start time for school. Mornings are hard for me and many other families.
101. I assume when you asked is it challenging for you to attend the following school events or late schedule changes, you meant from a time perspective. It is not challenging in that way. However afternoon pickups are stressful because I must arrive 20 minutes before dismissal in order to guarantee that I can get an 'allowable' parking spot. The Ray School Parking lot is so overfull that people invent parking spots in dubious ways. For a little bit the school had cones to help designate where the allowable parking spots were, but the school provided no plan for what to do if there were no spots. (Possible suggestions might have been: wait in the Dartmouth College Child Care Center parking lot until a spot opens up, or drive through the neighborhoods, or call so that your child can be held at the office) Perhaps the school might engage the community for how ideas to address this pickup problem.
102. As a teacher *****, it's challenging to do anything which impacts my teaching schedule.
103. Volunteer opportunities often seem unequal and unfair - only for non-working parents and children feel this discrepancy.
104. 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

1. It is THE reason we chose to move here. That said, I am overall disappointed in the speed at which a clear curriculum has been limping along. The inconsistencies in what particular teachers teach and how they grade is embarrassingly obvious to the students (and we parents hear all about it). HHS needs serious attention to leadership and teacher awareness.
2. We live in VT on a school choice town.
3. I moved here in 2004 specifically for the environment and the schools. It's been a good experience. Now we're all done... thanks.
4. Hoping to stay after last child graduates from HHS but the taxes are making it unrealistic without a student
5. 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.
6. Perceived superiority of this school district relative to others in the area are baseless
7. No kids when moved here
8. In-laws also live in **** and we wanted to be near them as they age.
9. We settled in a VT town with school choice specifically to have the option of sending our kids to Hanover High School.
10. We moved to town for the school.
11. We have had some good and some untenable situations in district. We have been very happy so far with our 4th grader's education. Our **** older students had some very rough situations with teachers and administration mostly in the Ray School and Hanover High School. The Richmond Middle School was good with the exception of a **** counselor with poor boundaries with students. We understand that **** is no longer employed with the district. We plan to have our 4th grader attend RMS, but will likely have our child attend a private high school if the leadership and culture remain the same at HHS.
12. 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
13. We did choose our town for the ability to send to Hanover
14. We live in Lyme, and access to HHS was a big part of our choice to live here. But we also value school choice, which our **** child has exercised, **** **** **** ****.

15. We live in Lyme
16. We paid almost double for a house to live in this school district instead of moving to Lebanon.
17. **** family. Chose to live in Norwich so child could go to school in this school district.
18. A high quality public education for our kids was a primary decision factor in our decision to move our family to the upper valley and to live in the SAU70 district.
19. 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.
20. We relocated from **** ****, **** specifically for the Hanover School System. Unfortunately, our **** state test scores have gone down over the last 3 years. :(
21. But I wish we'd known they weren't top-level.
22. But we were disappointed with academic rigor in the end, and wonder whether we should have saved money on house+property tax, and gone with Crossroads/KUA
23. When we moved into the area - we had a choice in Lebanon, but felt like we would eventually move to Hanover for the schools.
24. We moved here from ****, so we had choices of where to live and specifically picked Hanover both for proximity to my work and the school system.
25. School reputation was a reason we moved here. Since then, we have been extremely disappointed with BRS and RMS. Virtually no curriculum, slow-paced math with little quantity (many families supplement the math their kids learn by enrolling in outside programs), and absolutely ZERO education on composition/writing up through 6th grade. Crossroads has an extensive composition program and Marion Cross has more writing than BRS and RMS 6th grade. Lebanon's math and ELA programs in grades 1-6 are also more rigorous. Hanover students are behind their peers in math and writing/composition education.
26. We originally moved to Hanover largely due to the school's reputation. We ended up **** **** **** **** to be closer to work so now my child is a **** **** student. We tried to move **** but there just wasn't any reasonable housing options.
27. We live in Hartland, VT, which is a school choice town, so we could attend Hanover
28. Technically, I live in Etna.
29. Reputation for excellence and community; yet we find both lacking.
30. We moved here well before having children but great schools were a very important factor in staying!
31. We come from a sending town in Vermont. Hanover High was the logical choice for our student.
32. The school system is the only reason we choose to live in Hanover.
33. the best team for kids with IEP.. it's why we do not live in florida where the weather is great and where disney world is
34. Everyone always comments on Hanover school district being top notch.

35. We accidentally ended up in Norwich because the house we were **** **** ****
**** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** ****. We've been in the district ever since because it's less racist and problematic than Hartford High was at the time. And, Hanover/Norwich schools have funds for special education and resources my kids needed.
36. Everyone speaks highly of the Hanover school system. We are pleased with most things. There are a few things that have soured our opinion but nothing that can't be fixed.
37. excellent public school reputation excellent special ed reputation
38. Both parents are products of well-funded public schools with a highly engaged community. Hanover felt similar to our respective schooling.
39. Our commute/work schedules were also a factor.
40. The perceived quality of the high school is indeed why our **** is attending, from ****.
41. I have a **** helping
42. I would like to see the Ray School make a big effort with extra-curricular afternoon offerings and in-school offerings to really embody the "Blue Ribbon" school that it is. Parents do a lot of the work "educating" their kids in the afternoons/weekends/evenings -- which undoubtedly presents in school performance.
43. 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.
44. While the reputation of the school district was one of the reasons, I have come to learn that the quality of the schools is a result of the students and not the administrators or teachers. This has been confirmed by researchers, who have studied SAU70, that i have met over the years.
45. The pre-k and elementary school was the primary reason for moving here.
46. The pre-k program was a major driver as was Marion cross specifically
47. It was a mistake! I wish we never moved here. The schools radically changed for the worse after the pandemic. The high school was a mirage from the beginning. My **** older children ended up going to mediocre colleges with very little scholarship. Instead of HHS giving them an advantage, it became a major disadvantage.
48. Only in Hanover due to the schools
49. 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.
50. We mostly moved here for the schools. That choice felt like a huge mistake through elementary school. It feels much better in middle school and looking ahead to high school.

51. Our analysis of the Hanover schools was based on information and tours in 2019. The overall quality of schools seems to have diminished since then, with ongoing decline post-COVID.
52. 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.
53. My son's experience at HHS has been fantastic across the board - academics, March Intensive, sports, extracurriculars. Happy to be part of this community,
54. **** **** **** **** **** and wanted my children to have the same education.
55. 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.
56. In the Upper Valley for jobs, but Hanover specifically for the schools!
57. I live in Norwich because I found an affordable home to rent.
58. The perceived quality of the SAU70 schools was a primary factor in us choosing to move to Hanover from ****.
59. Yes, the perceived quality attracted us, but perception isn't always reality.
60. HHS is part of the reason I chose to move to Lyme
61. 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
62. The fact that we wanted our child to attend Hanover High led us to pass up more affordable housing outside Hanover.
63. It is the reason we moved here. But we are now considering other options for school.
64. We moved to the area in part because our **** got into MCS pre-K. It was a major draw for us.
65. We knew that living outside of Hanover/Norwich would make it more difficult to attend extra/- curricular activities, we did not anticipate the lack of communication and descriptions about those activities. That has been the biggest stash.
66. When we moved up the Upper Valley, we looked specifically at the schools to make our decision about where to live. We eventually found a house in Norwich in time for our child to attend school.
67. We can't afford most houses in Hanover. We have **** **** situation in an ideal location.
68. We moved to the area for work but stayed for the schools
69. 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.
70. MCS is a top-notch school and what drew us to Norwich. It has lived up to the reputation that it has.
71. 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.
72. 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

1. rich company town, high rent, high home prices
2. The only way to be in the upper math at RMS is those with an outside tutor. So we didn't get a tutor but our brilliant **** didn't make the upper level math. Again.
3. Living in Norwich is not financially challenging for my family, but the assumption that it isn't challenging and that families can/will contribute further to the school and/or cover the cost of 'required' elements for extracurricular activities lacks sensitivity to the fact that it is financially challenging to some families, and that we pay more in taxes/for education than most other towns and cities in the United States.
4. The property tax situation in VT is a significant concern. It needs to be addressed without compromising the quality of our schools.
5. We are lucky, but this town is quite unaffordable and I think that's a bigger problem.
6. Job opportunities here in my profession are slim to none. Those that do exist pay poorly and have poor advancement opportunities. It's always been a struggle to survive financially. I work for clients outside the region.
7. 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
8. Housing is expensive, but otherwise its fine
9. daycare was hard to find for the younger children when we moved here. It still is. Transportation to sporting events could be improved in children younger than high school.
10. Taxes are making it increasingly difficult to remain in Hanover. Trying to stay until children graduate
11. Property taxes combined with inflation (everywhere) and the continuous rise in the cost of living can make things difficult.
12. Only challenge is the taxes which keep going up
13. 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.
14. When we purchased our home, Hanover/Norwich were not affordable
15. Increasing taxes is concerning, especially for our community.

16. The cost of living in Hanover is generally tricky for single-income families. The lack of affordable housing options remains a concern for incoming families and prospective employees of the school.
17. School sports are \$150 and then at least another \$300 for uniforms, sweatpants, food donations, snacks etc. Also, there is a vast difference between the quality of coaching for the JV teams, and it feels as though this should be discounted.
18. The home. Its very old and much of our income goes to repairs
19. Taxes are high and the leadership and culture at HHS are a concern.
20. Generally, the housing market in Hanover/Norwich is wildly inflated.
21. Living in Lyme is absurdly expensive -- maybe moreso given the taxes. We are fortunate to be able to afford it.
22. For the amount of work I do I should be making more money. There are retail jobs offering possible staying series near equal to what I've made after 4 years at a technical job.
23. We live in Norwich and the Vermont taxes worry us. We support it, but it will be something to think about as we plan for a student heading to college.
24. Our property taxes and town spending if out of hand.
25. With our two full-time incomes we can make living here work but if one of us weren't working it would be really hard.
26. **** family. Cost of living rises every year. Salaries do not. Not extra funds for a lot of what schools ask for.
27. Expensive housing and daily cost of living, e.g., food
28. Indisputably expensive here, housing, food, all of it, but we do love the area.
29. We bought our home in 2014 so we are financially capable of paying our bills. If we hadn't bought our home 12 years ago, we wouldn't be living in Hanover.
30. The cost of living is extremely high in these towns and is noticeable for even for relatively high income working families. Housing is the primary cost concern.
31. We are grateful to have moved here 20 year ago, there is no way we could afford to purchase a home now in Hanover or Norwich.
32. Buying a property in the area is really hard. There are not many houses in Hanover/Norwich available at the median home price in NH, which is approximately \$500,000.
33. My mortgage and property taxes are much higher than they were in Lebanon.
34. The homes in Hanover have worse quality and size than other areas of the country.
35. We would live in Hanover or Norwich if we could afford it
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. We are extremely lucky to have purchased our home when we did (2015). There is no chance we could afford to live in this district if we were moving here now.

39. Vermont property taxes concern us because we hear from many friends that they plan to move out of Norwich (to NH) after their kids are no longer in school. We are making an economically irrational decision to stay in Vermont (for now!)
40. It was not a concern when we moved here, but our tax increase has been absolutely ridiculous. Our taxes are now more per month than our mortgage was when we first bought the house.
41. Main issue is the constant climb in property taxes.
42. I could not afford to live in Hanover or Norwich
43. Hard to initially find a home we could afford. Bought something smaller than we would have otherwise.
44. The increasing taxes are difficult to manage.
45. Social comparisons are challenging, here as anywhere.
46. Housing and the overall cost of living are a real problem in Hanover. The median home price is over \$1M, and we would not be able to afford it, even with our current salary, without taking out insurmountable debt. This is a town problem, not a school district problem, but it does mean that the more expensive our schools become, the bigger pressure there will be on residents and exacerbate the problem of unaffordability.
47. To afford buying a home was very challenging. Hanover needs a more diverse socioeconomic community.
48. Real estate cost of upkeep/contractors to address aging home
49. 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.
50. The hardest part was finding a home
51. the taxes are insane
52. The rents are high, and to buy a house is impossible, the prices are crazy
53. Not a day goes by when I don't wish we lived somewhere cheaper. Even moving back home to **** would be better but certain jobs are not available everywhere.
54. Housing is challenging. Everything is more expensive. People often joke that we have the Hanover tax, not wrong. There seems to be a mentality that because you live in Hanover, that you have unlimited funds. Sports are expensive. The middle school doesn't bus students to sports and parents end up having to make arrangements, often times having to miss work for this.
55. While it may not be for me, the lack of economic diversity is unfortunate. Living and learning along side people of different backgrounds as a child is critical to making compassionate and community-oriented adults. The world doesn't always look like you.
56. Housing prices in the area have meant that even with a substantial income, we have to be frugal in spending to afford living in the school district.
57. Yes, we have not been able to move to Hanover because of the financial challenge.
58. Assessments for property taxes recently (in the past few years) got a huge bump and seemed to surge right after COVID. There appears to be some corrections happening. Housing is in really short supply!
59. We bought our home in 2014 - it would be difficult for us to move to the area now.

60. My property tax bill is something that causes me great stress and I am constantly debating having to move after my youngest graduates.
61. 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 **** a home and it has been challenging to find something that our family can afford in Norwich or Hanover.
62. High property taxes
63. Property taxes MUCH too high
64. we moved here prior to the covid boom so our mortgage is reasonable relative to others in the community
65. Currently **** in Hanover. Very limited housing options and extremely expensive housing market. Makes it hard to stay.
66. Our property taxes went up by 81 percent last year
67. With the new home value assessments and the VT tax systems, we are very concerned about the cost of living in Norwich for ourselves and neighbors.
68. Hard when we first moved here, much better now
69. Real Estate is expensive
70. Annual property taxes are rising sharply which is a concern for us living here but a greater concern for future selling of our house
71. 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.
72. I'm living at **** **** **** **** in order to live in Norwich - so my children can be in this school district.
73. Property taxes are very high and keep increasing
74. My answer was different when this survey first came out, but different now, improvements
75. 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.
76. The real estate market in Hanover is unsustainable and we are generally priced out of purchasing a home currently. The grocery and general goods prices are also very high.
77. Groceries and cost of house repairs/construction have been the biggest issues
78. Taxes are ridiculously high
79. We are renting a **** in Hanover and would like to stay so that we can continue in the school system, but the real estate market is very expensive and it is difficult to find a house.
80. Rising taxes cut into college and retirement savings. At the same time, we appreciate the value this community places on public education.
81. Taxes in Vermont are far too high
82. We are a ****-**** family with **** grown ups in college.

83. 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.
84. We are seeing, perhaps only anecdotally and not backed by data, more people lives elsewhere and choose to tuition-in to SAU70 / MCS.
85. Property taxes much too high
86. The lack of housing opportunities and the cost of rent and mortgages are pretty outrageous. Making it difficult to stay
87. Our rent in Hanover is a little more than 1/3 of our combined income.
88. We do okay, as long as we budget, but it is expensive to live in Norwich.
89. We have a high income and no debt and it is unaffordable for us to find a house to buy big enough for our medium sized family.
90. New tax assessment in Hanover hit hard and when you ask town how influx of money is being used they don't have an answer. Transparency would be appreciated especially in regard to schools, HPR, downtown, community programs. There is also an unspoken class system within town, and its annoying how people outside Hanover assume Hanover people are all rich or are bad people
91. The rents are expensive, and to buy a house is impossible
92. The rents are to high and to buy a house is impossible
93. It is expensive to live in Norwich. We will make the sacrifice until our children are graduated and then move somewhere more affordable.
94. 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.
95. 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

1. Please see my last comments from the prior section. I am amazed at what passes for quality teaching in one or two classes in particular. The stories only cause me to believe that nobody is paying any serious attention to what's being offered to the students.
2. Im not sure they are prepared for high school (have **** ***)
3. **** ***) is excellent
4. Too much bullying and the student hates to report due to retaliation

5. the Ray School teachers are incredibly caring and supportive. As a parent, I love Ray School.
6. I just would say, there could be a stronger “growth mindset” mentality being instilled in the middle school...otherwise very satisfied.
7. need other language options other than Spanish (Chinese)
8. Child has not been academically challenged despite requests
9. Academics have been top notch - content, LS support. Teacher and coach communication has been poor - haven't received responses to time-sensitive questions. Soccer experience was negative - team dynamics were negative overall - inter-player language, teamwork, work ethic were terrible. Reports of phone/device usage continued after new policy was enacted, central to peer interactions during downtime (might just be my kid). Seemingly few "entry-level" activities (as reported by my kid) - perception was that you have to be already proficient to be able to participate (sports, clubs)
10. We have generally been satisfied, but the embrace of iReady has been a problem for our kids, neither of whom want to cede their learning to computers as much.
11. Supportive teaching and guidance in a stress college-application year.
12. We have been really impressed by the dedication and amount of time spent helping our older child (ADHD, IEP), and the amount of time and love given to our middle (neurotypical)
13. I was disappointed that **** IEP was not implemented and not surprisingly **** **** SAS scores fell significantly.
14. I think the school counselors could be more involved for the high school. I think preparing them for college could go a bit further. Advice for AP exams for example since we do not AP exams be good still to provide more direction. Teachers who do honors biology, and other classes like psychology calculus, environmental sciences, English literature should take the AP curriculum into account. if they just spend the month of March and April aligning with the AP content, it would make things easier for everyone and would make it a true learning environment that is also aligned with what the exam content will include and make them better students overall instead of having to learn two different curricula.
15. Math program is not adequate. Lack of rigor
16. My child has stated that he overall feels that he has received a good education with educators who care. In hindsight, I wish he had taken computing courses.
17. There needs to be much less screen time. Why are they watching anything on a screen during P.E.!? Take away the learning on iPads in the classroom and specials. They only time they should be dealing with screens is technology class. Why are they watching anything during lunch, they should be socializing with classmates.
18. **** **** 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
19. 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.
20. 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.
 21. Great school, great community. My biggest concern is enough challenge for advanced students.
 22. Lack of interest from teachers and administrators in individual students; use of video resources including YouTube in lieu of teaching
 23. Teacher quality is top tier.
 24. 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.
 25. My child has ***** and she is so well supported at school. I'm so thankful for that.
 26. We have three kids in the Hanover school system and are generally very happy with almost all aspects of the administration, curriculum, and teachers. We are very, very, very frustrated with our experience with the ***** Grade English program - and especially the execution in the classroom by *****. We have heard our concerns echoed by multiple parents (in particular, parents of boys) and have been very disappointed with our experience with ***** curriculum, classroom management, and communication.
 27. This survey assumed only one child in SAU70 where we have three (*****, *****, *****). All answers are linked to the HHS student. We are very satisfied with the high school academics. We are less satisfied with the middle school academics. Our ***** grader consistently has some homework (nothing overwhelming) while our ***** grader rarely has homework. We are concerned that he will not be fully prepared for the pace in HS. Also, the math instruction might as well not even have a teacher as everything is self-paced, and the quality of writing of our ***** grader is not where it should be (yet they are watching another movie in the classroom again).
 28. I think Hanover High school does well for high performing students and supports lower performing students at the expense of the students in the middle
 29. We have loved the placement for our children with their respective homeroom teachers.
 30. My son is struggling academically and it feels as though it is falling to me to monitor his progress. I have emailed teachers and get some reply. Where does the responsibility for student care/progress lie? HHS seems a great school for wealthy families who have high achieving students and who can afford tutors, outsource their household chores, and have their kids involved in all activities and clubs.
 31. The reading curriculum is unsatisfactory. There needs to be a stronger focus on decoding, encoding, and learning sight words. They cannot comprehend what they are reading if they can not decode the text. There needs to be more consistency

across classes and grades. In general, there needs to be a greater sense of urgency when a student is behind in reading or math. On a monthly (if not weekly basis), the homeroom teacher should know 1) exactly which letters a student can decode, encode, and write, 2) exactly which letter sounds a student knows, and 3) the sight words the student knows automatically.

32. Our 4th grader has excellent teachers and really enjoys school. Our high schooler enjoys school and **** teachers, but we are concerned about leadership decision making and professionalism at the high school level.
33. The reading curriculum is unsatisfactory. There needs to be a much stronger focus on decoding, encoding, and learning sight words. They cannot comprehend what they are reading if they can not decode the text. There needs to be more consistency across classes and grades. In general, there needs to be a greater sense of urgency when a student is behind in reading or math. On a monthly (if not weekly basis), the homeroom teacher should know 1) exactly which letters a student can decode, encode, and write, 2) exactly which letter sounds a student knows, and 3) the sight words the student knows automatically.
34. 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.
35. This student is pretty precocious and feels a bit bored with school. In particular, I think the math situation is a little bit challenging.
36. Our children are both very bright and I see there is a lot of emphasis on support for IEP/underperforming students -- yet very little support or encouragement for over performing students. My younger child is completely idling in academics, my 5th grader is challenged in some aspects, but in the areas he excels there is no mechanism for him to reach further.
37. I wish they were able to get a better March intensive experience, but my child did not advocate for themselves.
38. Academic wise, students are always stressed out. For the only AP course Calculus BC, the school doesn't prepare the students well to take the AP exam. The required course contents are barely covered in class.
39. As is the case with any school, there are always social dynamics at play. If you are an athlete, you tend to do very well at Hanover High. If you are not, you are somewhat on the periphery.
40. There were a lot of instances of physical altercations against my children (grade **** and ****). The school doesn't do nearly enough to PREVENT these issues - light tap on the hand and privacy shrouding the child who was abusive from a top-down policy standpoint. The parking situation at Ray is absurd. It was an issue EVERY.SINGLE.DAY. Twice a day. Fix the lack of spots to park and there should be a separate line for drop offs than people wanting to park. It's ridiculous how few spaces there are and how much green space there is in the lot. And the lunch program needs to be healthier, more local food. Get rid of Sysco and the highly

- processed food. I want my kids to enjoy the benefits of a school lunch being offered, but corn dogs and Doritos? Known behavioral issues for kids who eat that crap.
41. Math curriculum in middle school has been disjointed. otherwise great
 42. I do not think that Hanover's policy of accepting late homework or redoing homework benefits the student later in life.
 43. I feel more encouragement to do things outside of school, such as summer jobs learning about applications, preparing for college financial independence, and information regarding taxes and other things once a person has a job is important to teach in high school.
 44. Open campus allows for too much HERE and THERE. I don't think it promotes learning on campus or community.
 45. Ms **** has been very beneficial for our child this year.
 46. Overall great experience. My sense is that you could improve the rigor of the academics.
 47. Everyone at HHS has always gone above and beyond to make us feel welcome and to help us, and we are very grateful.
 48. Bullying was a major issue. Child falling behind and challenges receiving adequate support
 49. He has great friends, likes going to school, and generally enjoys his teachers and classes. Unfortunately, his state test scores have not shown academic improvement, even with **** **** **** **** ****/****.
 50. I love HHS sports program
 51. The elective options are impressive.
 52. Get rid of open campus. Wait a waste of time for students. They need to be finishing work so as not to do it after school. More help with SAT prep and more help writing college application.
 53. She is bored. I know that a lot of middle school is just marking time, but they could be doubling down on math and Spanish.
 54. He is challenged and supported.
 55. The teachers don't seem to hold students accountable for turning in/completing assignments. Often work gets handed back without a grade.
 56. Very rough year with friendships and kindness from classmates. Not necessarily inside the homeroom classroom but outside classes and the tension that coexists during recess. Having discussions with this agegroup is necessary and should be addressed in 3rd grade and every year as a refresher. Treating others with respect and kindness goes a long way
 57. I wish there were fewer screens used in day to day instruction
 58. Our child's ELA scores on the SAS have declined annually since entering the Middle School. I have major concerns about the quality of our ELA program at the Middle School. Math and Science have continued to improve for our child.
 59. We did not feel that our daughter was receiving a rigorous ELA education; her writing is not ready for high school, and she was not challenged to improve her research and essay-writing abilities to the point that she herself was concerned about the lack of opportunities for growth.

60. Overall support has been good for both of our children. My only issue is the skills based classes in 9th grade do not draw their interest and have a large executive load.
61. Would prefer practice based homework rather than project based. Find it difficult to provide appropriate level of assistance with bigger projects
62. 1) there is bullying in RMS and the school leadership does not address it unless forced to do so by parents. We have been extremely disappointed with BRS and RMS and their lack of curriculum. Virtually no curriculum, slow-paced math with little quantity (many families supplement the math their kids learn by enrolling in outside programs), and absolutely ZERO education on composition/writing up through 6th grade. Crossroads has an extensive composition program and Marion Cross has more writing than BRS and RMS 6th grade. Lebanon's math and ELA programs in grades 1-6 are also more rigorous. Hanover students are behind their peers in math and writing/composition education.
63. 1st grade teacher is great!
64. We wish we could have stronger STEM teachers
65. All in all, the Ray School is an amazing school. I'd normally click "very satisfied" without any hesitation, but our child was very bored in math this year (more on this below), which had a real impact on his motivation to go to school. I also think the school lunches need work. To put it bluntly, they're dressed up junk food, and we don't allow our kids to eat school lunch more than once a week for this reason.
66. - Writing instruction subpar. despite being highly literate (1300 lexile), an avid reader, and diligent student, my child's writing is basic, informal, simple, and riddled with spelling and grammatical errors. - Few extra challenges for math in-person this year left my student frequently bored in class. Regularly scores over 95th percentile on standardized tests. - Reliance on i-Ready rather than in-person challenges inadequate for fostering her growth - Weak science curriculum- they are still watching Mystery Doug? lacks basic knowledge of core scientific concepts- the much vaunted "why" of the new curriculum. - Social studies is a thin curriculum, focusing on feel-good inclusion topics rather than exploring substantive historical trends, figures, events. Little knowledge gained thus far.
67. There is far too much screen time. Elementary should have zero. It's a particular problem for our child with ADHD. Our other child is strong in math; the solution has been to put them in front of a screen to do more practice (on what, it's unclear) or encourage more reading (which is fine during reading, but where is the extra in-depth math support?). Please ensure teachers are directly teaching our children.
68. Great year overall. Not particularly academically challenging (we're not advocates of lots of homework in elementary years; time out of school if very well spent) and we're holding out breath that it isn't a huge academic leap (homework/assignments, in particular) as he moves to Richmond.
69. Good school that provides good support for our child. Would like to see less focus on diversity, inclusion, equality ... we are preparing our kids for the REAL world not a fantasy world. Would like to see language options other than Spanish (Chinese is future)

70. Would help if there were viable low-technology options
71. 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.
72. Mostly satisfied. Very unsatisfied about the follow through with children who misbehave and aren't held accountable for their actions.
73. There is too little direct communication from teachers to parents. At the very least, there should be a conference with the homeroom teacher (ideally quarterly). Grade reports and teacher comments be sent to parents not filed in an obscure Schoology website, which is difficult to access. It is difficult to understand Curriculum choices (math, language etc), and implications for high school trajectory. Parents basically have no information about curriculum, competencies, or goals.
74. love her whole team and her teacher and ****
75. The school year has been good at the Ray school.
76. **** has been getting great academic support so she won't have the earlier challenges that her **** did. Certain **** **** just run in our family with no passed down tips on how to adjust in a work or school environment.
77. Wish for less tech use in the school/ classroom
78. Mostly fine. It would be helpful if the teachers gave more regular feedback and graded material promptly.
79. The communication necessary with a counselor, teacher, and **** to handle an academic issue with my child was far more difficult than necessary and leaves me concerned about handling anything similar going forward.
80. Generally satisfied, and the teachers and staff are fantastic, but in comparison, our previous school district offered many more field trips, and extra-curriculars.
81. We've been very happy with the progress both of our children have made at Ray this year both academically and socially.
82. Our daughter spends a lot of time on homework and is continuously stressed out, balancing sports and schoolwork. She consistently stays up until midnight many nights, and although she does well in school, it seems there is very little comprehensive evaluation of her workload. This is without the added stress of APs and SATs. At this point, we are looking at a **** **** just to give her a rest and to give her a chance to take her additional exams in the **** grade. I am not sure how she is supposed to balance all of this with college applications. We find the environment intense with very little support.
83. 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
84. Counselor less available than last year's.
85. Ms. **** is fantastic!
86. Some teachers are excellent, others are below or average instructional talent

87. I am so impressed by the teachers for ****, they noticed and praised his effort change this year. I'm very grateful! Guidance was so helpful for us this year in identifying his weaknesses.
88. As mentioned, I would like to see more offerings at Ray - theatre program, chorus, science after school, sewing club, robotics club - let's not just have KAST (outsourced) in the afternoons. I also would like to see better communication from the school on what projects the kids are working on at each grade level and how locals can contribute - we have such a wealth of professional resources in this area! I noticed this during "Science Day" at Dartmouth this year -- can more of this come into the school?
89. great environment, great teachers, great families
90. the only "issue" i've been aware of over the last few years is the size of the school lunches. my now-**** grader (and also **** grader) regularly have to purchase double lunch in order to get enough food. they are not over-eaters or anything of the sort but they constantly complain that it's not enough.
91. We love the pre-k program and genuinely feel so grateful to have had the opportunity to have our children participate in it
92. The RMS math program still needs a rethink. I'm also increasingly concerned that teacher performance issues get shrugged off or swept under the rug.
93. 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.
94. There are a lot of disappointments, for example Math and the English curriculum, but I am used to it by now. The teachers are mostly excellent.
95. Our kid is having a blast and learning fast, but often complains openly to us, other parents, and apparently the teacher that they wants to learn more and it's too easy.
96. Challenges with consistent access to understanding curriculum, understanding expectations from a parent standpoint with clear communication keeping us informed. Ray School Elementary school didn't prepare us for this current year and there was a large learning curve.
97. we wish there was more diversity in the area and more opportunities in that regard
98. My child has a diagnosed disability. While RMS lives to the letter of the law on a 504 plan, the staff is otherwise not supportive of **** socially. **** is regularly on the receiving end of teasing and even crueller behavior from peers and then punished if **** ever rises to the bait. It's been a frustrating year, and despite having moved here FOR this school system, we will be **** **** **** **** **** next year.
99. Too much testing, not enough time to delve deeply into project work, unclear what learning is taking place, very disruptive classmates.
100. I really love the Pre-K teachers - they go above and beyond and my child loves them.
101. 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!

102. 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.
103. My kid works hard at RMS and is successful. I think that they are appropriately pushed by the teachers. The teachers are very supportive. That said, the feedback is often not specific to my kid and there is great variation on this by teacher. Not sure how much the administration can realistically do about that, though.
104. Most of Marion Cross staff do not have enough trauma-informed teaching skills.
105. I love our teacher. I'm not thrilled with **** **.
106. Overall, really pleased. Only challenge has been around EST/504 and helping with extra supports, takes a while to work through the system.
107. I believe the quality of academic classes such as English and Math can vary depending on how individual teachers design and prepare their lessons. To ensure a more consistent learning experience for students, it may be helpful to implement clearer standards or guidelines for lesson planning and instruction. This could help minimize fluctuations in teaching quality and support more uniform academic outcomes across classes.
108. 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.
109. We are concerned about the amount of bullying in the grade.
110. I think the school provides good opportunities. I wish my child were more engaged.
111. Teachers have been good. We do have concerns about high school **** professionalism and decision making - especially around negative chatter and sharing of personal information of others. We know the school board has been aware of these issues over the years but nothing has changed with the ****. Since Superintendent - **** **, there have been school leadership issues throughout the district.
112. **** ** and **** ** at MCS are absolutely extraordinary teachers. We are SO thrilled with how they manage their classrooms, and really meet children where they are.
113. I do not believe that the library is a space welcome to all students. My student expresses that it has a vibe that is tailored to certain students and that the **** favors those students.
114. We do feel that the creative outlets especially music is under supported/under represented/under funded vs emphasis on sports. Talking to the students to understand what is important to them is not done enough.

115. Our child seems very engaged in **** favorite subjects (English, Social Studies, and Science) and is making great gains in Math and French. **** was temporarily **** **** **** **** **** **** last year while I was **** **** ****. While that was a tremendous experience in terms of travel and field trips, I believe RMS is providing a superior education.
116. I love Hanover High School. Love the atmosphere -- down to earth but rigorous. Also feels caring toward the kids. **** sets a great tone.
117. I would say partial satisfaction if I could. I am satisfied with aspects of MCS.
118. 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.
119. 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.
120. 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!
121. Concerns regarding an inappropriate **** teacher have been brought to the **** with no apparent investigation or disciplinary action. The inappropriate behavior is continually reported.
122. entered playing **** instruments, planning to be a **** musician, by ****-**** grade dropped out of all music programs due to teachers.
123. HHS ranks well in the state, yet some teachers aren't holding up their end of the deal. Academic excellence should be expected in this town given the focus of the lion's share of its residents - if normalized to educational attainment and income, I'm not sure how well we're doing, honestly.
124. We opted to **** **** / VLACS course for math instruction. This is the one area we have been very underwhelmed with for HHS.
125. We have been worried about the ability of teachers to regulate boys disruptive behaviors. It is probably the most common complaint from our daughter in 4th and 5th grade.
126. We are pleased with the education our child has received this year-- especially the foreign language study. Outstanding!

127. Our child has been very happy this year. So many opportunities to try new things and make new friends.
128. The definition of 'bullying' would benefit from clearer guidelines to ensure consistent application and prevent misunderstandings or misuse by students and parents.
129. I wish my student felt like they had an in-school mentor to really push and challenge them academically.
130. The bullying is out of hand, no communication or working out grading issue from teachers, no teacher conferences to see how my child is doing
131. We could not be happier.
132. 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.
133. Very happy with high quality teaching at HHS and strong leadership and communication from admin.
134. Just want to recognize Mr ****. He has had such a positive impact on my child.
135. 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.
136. 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

1. Does admin pay attention to equity among teachers teaching required courses? Did the school board consider the consequences of scheduling HHS's graduation on the same weekend as Dartmouth's?? Does the HHS admin conduct serious performance assessments for teachers on a regular basis, and if so, who oversees this process? I suggest conducting a simple but anonymous survey of parents' responses to the teaching their students receive, from parents' perspectives, and survey every single teacher so the administration has an alternate perspective as a starting point for consideration. I do not feel comfortable singling out individuals using this format but the administration certainly should be aware of some of what goes on in classrooms.
2. there should be more teachers less admin staff
3. Not balanced politically so decision-making is very much based on leftist ideology

4. I've had very positive impressions of my kids' main teachers.
5. I think the over-reliance on technology in the classroom, the focus on homework for 5th graders, the use of media, I'm more for hands-on learning; fewer screens in general please. Also kids seem to be getting cell phones (or texting watches) younger and younger. I want a ban on all that stuff as it is not appropriate and seems like it simply enables bullying rather than connection and learning.
6. There is little opportunity to get to know school staff or teachers in high school.
7. Everyone has been kind and very responsive
8. 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.
9. I think some of the teachers are trying to act like college teachers in some categories, which is good, but then they treat the students like little kids. I like it when the students are treated in a more mature manner, and this will help the students grow. Some teachers have punitive approach, which is not healthy. Some teachers take delight and taking the student's phone is away like it's a game. Some teachers are very with grading and are not seeing the big picture.
10. One teacher was so frustrating/demoralizing for our child and our child's classmates that they decided to drop honors even though they qualified. The contrast with the prior teacher in that subject was markedly different. Went from finding joy in the subject to tolerating it.
11. Teachers are great but the curriculum could improve
12. The MCS school board does great work. FWIW there do not seem to be many board members who have kids actually attending MCS
13. My biggest concern for the administration is insulating Hanover from the craziness and attempts to wreck our state education system coming out of Concord.
14. Communication is consistently poor and off the mark
15. I never got a response from An email to the entire school Board. Just silence.
16. 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.
17. It was not a good fit of personalities between my child and her homeroom teacher. I was concerned about some of the topics that they discussed in class, as well as certain comments the teacher passed about my child and her classmates.
18. My child's 6th grade teachers seem great and invested in their students' success.
19. The Lead Teacher is motivated and effective. The Educational Assistant does not seem to have a clear or valuable role in the classroom.
20. I like my student's teachers, but they were not able to meet his needs.
21. This response is for the Ray School. Our responses to HHS were very different.
22. 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.
23. Mirroring my prior response, I just expected more emphasis to be placed on supporting student's that excel. I understand the school is focused on test scores

and committing \$\$\$/effort to students that need help is important -- but I do feel strongly that academically excelling children should be given extra attention and support as well.

24. The health insurance cost for the district needs to be met with an aggressive campaign to create an independent system to offer all NH and VT public employees. Manage only real claims. Stop bowing down to the powers that be at the private healthcare corps. Look at the rises in premiums and the impact on the local tax payers and MAKE A PLAN FOR REAL CHANGE.
25. At times it feels like some decisions that should be made sooner take to long and others that need open conversation are kept more closed and sessions maybe rushed and not necessarily the best choice due to not enough input to hear other options but taking one persons voice as the solution verses the masses.
26. I was frustrated with the slow and clumsy pace of removing phone devices from the schools
27. We have had great interactions with the majority of teacher, and guidance and minimal with ****. Math has been our only problem/concern
28. So grateful for the school board and their dedication to the district!
29. My sense is that the school board is more interested in politics with emphasis on DEI rather than what is best for the students and the tax payer.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. Time to get rid of march intensive. Teachers and parents do a ton of work but I rarely hear about anyone enjoying it. It is incredibly inequitable. Some kids make friendship bracelets and some go to Florence. Not fair. Make it so that freshmen- so something local about themselves (yoga etc). sophomore - everyone does something philanthropic - (haven) junior- everyone gets a local trip (New England) and senior year- everyone gets a big trip. the discrepancies are enormous. Also- if you are not getting rid of it all together- then have students choose their top 3 choices. 8 is too many.
33. I can't say for the teachers as a group -- we have been very satisfied with one and very unsatisfied with one and rather satisfied with the rest.
34. I don't have contact with many of the personnel I was asked to rate and as a result labeled them as N/A.
35. The school board is far too politically motivated
36. We do not feel particularly connected to the middle school teachers, but have not had issues.
37. We have been so appreciated of **** **** support of the kids at Ray. she will be ****!
38. Why did the JV hockey organization need to become such a huge effort for the people organizing? Why do we have a separate spring break schedule relative to

everyone in the state? This is a HUGE issue for families and for athletes and I've heard a lot of questioning as to why we do this. Please fix.

39. Teacher experiences vary widely. We have some that have been fantastic and others that have created issues. We seem to have a trend towards more and more uncertified teachers, and keeping teachers on with significant health impacts on the schedule. While we love the teacher, if they can't be in the building for a bulk of a semester, students are missing out on much needed direct instruction that subs are not prepared to deliver.
40. i'd like to see 6th grade at the hanover middle school
41. The one area that is a bummer is that my student's perception is that some classes (specifically Chem) have very different expectations/grading practices/etc depending on the teacher. It would be ideal to have experiences be similar across the board even with different teachers.
42. I could be more satisfied with the **** ** for the following reasons in no particular order of priority: 1) During **** tenure, **** staff have been complacent with things such as monitoring school drop-off behavior and safety. For example, cars seem much ruder than usual when it comes to parking illegally in the handicapped spaces and aggressively cutting cars off and driving around the drop-off circle. The attitude exhibited by staff is very blasé and I speculate that the ship is not as tightly run compared to past ****. Previously, the weekly rays of sunshine would have reminders about school drop off and pick up behavior and safety. 2) I don't have evidence that the **** ** is a very nurturing and compassionate person who works with elementary school age children. For example, the **** ** has not been compassionate when it comes to children's safety on the new playground. When kids have fallen off equipment, the response has been, "Oh you were using the equipment wrong." How about showing the kids how to use equipment properly instead of blaming them for being kids. I realize this feedback sounds harsh but perhaps **** could benefit from some training about how to interact with elementary school age children in a more positive manner. 3) Most frustrating and disappointing to me was the **** ** very passive and non-proactive approach to bullying. It was a very oh whatever these things happen attitude. Now I have my own first hand example of how Hanover school administration don't necessarily do anything when it comes to bullying. I've heard of examples and seen internet chatter about this but now I have my own example which I'm not likely to forget.
43. I find it troubling reading about the school boards efforts in litigation against the Federal government over DEI policies which seem to be costly and a waste of resources. Seems to be more about TDS than what is best for the school district.
44. We have been happy with some RMS teachers, but unsatisfied with the lack of important content with some courses. We like the ****-grade English teacher, but feel there is way too much time spent on poetry and not enough time (NO time) spent on grammar and writing/composition. The ****-grade math program is way too slow, and very boring for students who can do more. Some teachers express personal political views in class, even when not related to course content.
45. New **** ** has been great

46. My child's academic counselor, **** is amazing. **** is wonderful. The staff in the admin office are so kind and helpful.
47. Awesome work, RMS! Our child especially loves Spanish and woodworking.
48. The high school is a black box so I don't really know what happens inside. This is fine by me. High School kids should have independence. I feel like HHS would reach out if my child were not doing well.
49. There are some teacher yell at the children and/or labeling children
50. HHS Administration and counseling department are fantastic. Very responsive and professional.
51. 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.
52. I pay attention to the school board only during elections to try and prevent crazy people from being elected. Paid a lot of attention during covid. I don't have a good sense of the high school front office or **** the way I did at Ray or RMS, but that's probably a good thing because my kid is older and more independent. I'd probably only notice if the admin was performing poorly.
53. From an outside perspective believe a headcount realignment to more teachers and less support staff would be beneficial.
54. 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.
55. I was disappointed in the deep cuts initially requested by the school board.
56. don't like the new playground, whoever that was.
57. I wish the school board would focus a bit more on the academics that are being missed rather than only focusing on the social issues.
58. RMS **** ignored emails sent about middle school accomplishments that related to RMS teams/students outside of the Athletic department.
59. No news is good news. Everyone has been supportive and great to work with.
60. Challenge working with **** and **** **** to get an event underway.
61. School board is not ideologically diverse. Seems as though you have to be a progressive to be on the board.
62. I could have put satisfied as that is generally what I hear from my student, but I do not (over)involve myself in my student's domain (i.e. school)
63. I'd prefer to leave it in the past and move forward.
64. The school board has asked for a raise in compensation every year. The school boards of NYC, Los Angeles, Chicago, etc.. those are practically full time jobs with highly complex issues. SAU70 should be a volunteer-based board with a modest allocation for expenses (Zoom accounts, etc). We should not be paying our school board.
65. We don't hear from our child's homeroom teacher as much, but we have not heard much feedback from our child, so we assume all is well. We do hear individually (or via regular newsletters) from other teachers, so we have a better sense of what is being taught, how our child is doing, etc.

66. It seems that now and then there is a teacher who is a terrible fit for our daughter. She goes from making As to nearly failing a course because the teacher switches. We learn sometimes that other students may be experiencing the same difficulties. The school does not seem to be aware of these kind of shifts in grades adding even more stress to her plate. We don't know how to deal with this. It already cost her a lot in **** grade with math and now seems to be an issue with ****.
67. We have been so impressed with the quality, caring and dedication of teachers and staff. Extremely satisfied and grateful, with one exception of a **** teacher whose teaching style has been more challenging.
68. 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
69. Wasn't happy with the middle school principal search and decision. Last HHS lockdown poorly executed and as it happens it wasn't real, it might have been.
70. 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.
71. I am a bit disappointed in the athletics department's unwillingness to support a JV hockey program that was previously a part of Hanover Highschool Athletics.
72. Some teachers are wonderful and others are so-so.
73. It would be great to get earlier communications about the school calendar (start and end dates) for planning purposes.
74. There feels like there is an intentionally-designed distance between the middle school teachers and parents. I am NOT impressed by the cut and paste responses to quarterly grades. Some teachers add *a little* about their observations of our child. But on the whole, this process should be vastly improved, and ALL teachers (across all classes) should be given the time and space during the quarter to work ahead and provide detailed and thoughtful comments about each student. That feels like a very low-bar request - and not unreasonable at all.
75. The curriculum is horrendous for a lot of the subjects and grades. The changes that were implemented, mostly cuts to cultural experience and projects are a big mistake and our kids miss out on so many educational opportunities.
76. **** gave us the runaround when it came to some bullying
77. problems with consistency in posting assignments
78. 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.
79. It is hard to answer in one way about a group of teachers. The experience varies. Some try to know my kid and show they care, others not so much. Different teacher styles and personalities work for different kids. Admin has made a real point of connecting and being responsive to my kid's needs.
80. We are grateful to send our children to MCS since **** **** **** **** there.

81. **** 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.
82. 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.
83. The Board's lawsuit was great. Glad to hear it turned out well. I don't think I've gotten a single email from my kid's homeroom teacher at RMS. The other regular cadre of teachers are more responsive.
84. My child does very well in school. Loves the teachers and friends. We feel **** **** isn't awesome.
85. Cutting 5 assistant positions was problematic in our view
86. Poor **** performance and lack of professionalism.
87. The in-school experience for our child was wonderful based on the lead teacher and the special support teachers. Assistant teacher and administrators were disappointing. Treatment of young children who don't fall into the perfect mold are unfairly scrutinized and the prompt need for "action" was often handled without all of the facts and with dangerous accusations and language surrounding details of incidents that were not fully known.
88. The school budgets for the last few years have increased dramatically above the rate of inflation while programs focused on the arts and music get cut. There appears to be an unbalance emphasis on sports.
89. Snow day or delayed opening communications got a bit messy this past winter -- we got a message saying that the H6 was delayed by 30 minutes and then it was updated to delayed by 10-15 minutes and then by the time we walked to the bus it had already passed because we had gotten bad information.
90. I've had nothing but positive interactions with all above. I'm less directly aware of superintendent and school board activities, although I note communications from them.
91. I appreciate all of the progress that has been made with communication from SAU 70 and getting the curriculum coordinated across the district and available on the website. This is ongoing work, but I am happy to see the progress coming out of the strategic plan.
92. Classroom teacher is A+, EA was very poor and added stress to the classroom teacher to mitigate her undermining of culture. Better systems needed for EA feedback and training
93. 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.
94. 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.

95. 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.
96. The school board does not have children at MCS and seems very disconnected from the real issues on the ground.
97. We are sad that **** will not be returning. **** did a phenomenal job this year, taking on the role of **** **** and continuing to provide a really positive experience for the students.
98. Re other teachers: Last academic year they had a **** teacher who did not have a **** background and did not mesh well with my student. They did not teach the material in a sufficient manner for all students and this affected my student's ability to progress in **** this year.
99. Some teachers are amazing, some are not Some offerings are great, some are not
100. Everything at the school level is fantastic.
101. The teachers and administration at MCS are awesome. We feel like we have won the school lottery.
102. School administrators should respond to parents' emails. It can be brief. No acknowledgment that they even received the email is concerning. It began to affect my view of the school.
103. 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

1. The step from 5th grade at Ray to 6th grade at RMS has been very challenging and I don't think my child was well prepared in 5th grade for the increase in work load.
2. no screen or computers! pencil and paper!
3. Why doesnt the Art come home? My child says the teacher loses his work?
4. The Ogress book is for 3/4 grade. Awful choice for 8th. Insulting to pick it for 8th. Guidance - too woke, especially Wise. Math is just a mess at RMS.

5. Need language options other than Spanish (limited benefits to Spanish)(chinese much better). Technology is such an important class but my child does not like it at all - says it is boring and dreads Tech days. At the Ray School level we should be instilling positive interactions with Technology as it will pay a material roll in our kids life.
6. School needs to offer more challenges to students that are advanced. The "one size fits all" approach is ineffecient and unfair. Advanced students should not be forced to be bored.
7. I was astonished at how little writing my eighth grader did and how little at home reading (and the low quality of the books). They are not being at all prepared for high school with 8th grade English. And they also have done essentially no grammar, from what I can tell.
8. Coming from the high-touch experience of elementary school, it has been really hard to guage what's happening in 7th grade and what our student is learning.
9. A bit too much reliance on corporate Ed-tech.
10. On ELA, I have been surprised that in 5th grade there have not been more writing assignments to work on at home. In math, it's sometimes seemed not very clear to me how much time is being devoted to in-person versus computer-based instruction and the degree to which each of those is appropriately leveled for my kid.
11. I would love a little more guidance in choosing an instrument, but that is likely to come later
12. Had the opportunity to take Dartmouth math classes.
13. 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.
14. There is too much screen time in the classroom. In particular we do not like iReady and I have not been convinced this is a necessary aspect of modern education. My child does not like it at all.
15. I think some teachers take grading to a level where it seems to be punitive and not the bigger picture college like atmosphere in the high school.
16. Math program needs to be revised. I don't see enough writing instruction. The social studies program could use more teacher instruction, they mainly do independent work
17. Tutoring (Spanish)from HHS students was not beneficial. Students only signed up to add to their college applications
18. We need much less screen time in school.
19. 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?

20. I like the minimization of laptop use. My biggest concern is enough challenge for advanced students.
21. Little awareness of most categories leads to unmet expectations
22. Would appreciate ways to be more challenged when standards are being met with current level.
23. I would like to share some reflections on the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors sequence at HHS, based on my child's experience and conversations with other families. Before 9th grade, there was already significant concern about taking Methods Honors. Some friends strongly advised against it, and even families whose children did well described it as very demanding. My child chose to take the course, and while he has been doing well academically, the experience has still been quite stressful. A major challenge has been the strong focus on detailed grading criteria and constant attention to scores. He often feels pressure tracking grades and worrying about performance. While I fully respect the rigor and high standards of the course, the level of strictness can sometimes create anxiety that feels counterproductive to learning. In addition, precise wording in assignments and lab reports is heavily emphasized, and small issues in expression can significantly affect grades. While accuracy is important, I wonder whether there could be a bit more flexibility in grading to better support learning and improvement. Looking ahead, many students are already concerned about Chemistry Honors being even more demanding, which adds to anxiety. While we appreciate the dedication and rigor of the teaching, it is also important that grading practices support students' confidence and engagement in science. Overall, I hope the program can continue to maintain high academic standards while also ensuring students feel supported and able to focus on learning, rather than excessive concern about grades.
24. We would prefer stronger and more foreign language instruction.
25. Students are asked to turn to self-paced learning when they are done with their work in math but this just leads to way more tech/screen time than is necessary for 5th graders.
26. Tech has been eliminated which is really missing the boat for future jobs for these kids
27. 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.
28. We never get to meet school teachers and discuss the children's academics
29. We really appreciate that AI has made its way into the curriculum in various classes for our children. Technology, digital footprints, and acceptable use of AI - in particular, how they overlap with education - are such crucial topics for this generation of students.
30. Short "cool down" math homework is fine, but I disagree with large research and writing projects being assigned at home. In the 4th grade, teachers should be more involved in (a) supporting students through the process and (b) monitoring student

engagement in the project to assess skills and needs, which they can't do if all of the work is being done at home.

31. My students love the art **** and the curriculum. In technology, there is too much verbal instruction and not enough hands-on learning. There needs to be more composition work and feedback from the teacher in ELA.
32. My students love the art **** and the curriculum. In technology, there is too much verbal instruction and not enough hands-on learning.
33. Kids don't often seem particularly challenged by reading choices. Books read in school often seem overly recreational and "safe." While fostering a passion for reading is essential, I'm often surprised by how the quality of literature for middle grade readers has dropped since I was in school.
34. I'm grateful for cell phone/tech changes this year
35. We have elected to ****_**** of the technology special at Ray and will likely continue to do so. We are hopeful that there will be more accommodations and options for students who do **** ****.
36. The chromebooks should be updated. To keep things equitable, each student should use a school chromebook and not bring their own macbook.
37. My students love the art **** and the curriculum. In technology, there is too much verbal instruction and not enough hands-on learning.
38. This response is for the Ray School. Our responses to HHS were very different.
39. My students love the art **** and the curriculum. In technology, there is too much verbal instruction and not enough hands-on learning.
40. 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.
41. I've heard of instances of bullying during recess.
42. Re: Specials: Tech - We hear fairly consistently that tech is 'boring' (the **** lectures for the first 90% of class and kids don't have an opportunity to apply the lessons learned). Music - Both of my children much preferred the **** **** teacher to the **** ****.
43. More recess with better supervision. And I'm tutoring my 3rd grader in math thru VLACS due to gaps.
44. 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.
45. I understand that the student cell phone ban is NH law but the way enforcement has been carried out has been strange. My child was sent to the office because an alarm sounded on **** phone from inside **** bag. It is not feasible for high school students with afterschool independence to leave their phones at home and I wish the school was more understanding of this reality. I also think it's wrong that students' browsing activities are analyzed by GoGuardian. This is inappropriate for high schoolers. Having an AI looking over their shoulders is insulting to them, especially when they are committed students who deserve the benefit of the doubt.

46. 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
47. It should not be acceptable for multiple students to be doing so poorly in honors **** that they opt into a different teacher's class the next term.
48. It seems that many students use technology inappropriately in school to play games according to our child that can at times be disruptive to the learning of others.
49. Very little writing in English; didn't love self-led math
50. There is not enough compositional writing taught in this school and there are way too many days when my child is watching videos in multiple classes for long stretches of time. Additionally my child's **** teacher is currently **** **** **** and the substitute in **** place is unable to answer specific questions my child has about **** concepts. Considering the self-paced and high-stakes nature of the **** course, this is unacceptable.
51. This year was great for the world language as our child switched languages. However, we were very disappointed with the **** teacher, **** **** for all of our children and are very surprised **** is still at HHS. We are aware of so many complaints to the school and feel **** does not fit the general vibe of the other teachers at the school.
52. I wish the Ray students still had 2 recesses per day at this age.
53. My sense is that middle school math expects the student to teach themselves the material or attend an expensive tutor to provide the necessary instruction.
54. Guidance has been incredibly helpful. My **** **** attended other high schools in the area and there is no comparison with regard to applying to college. Personal and academic support at HHS is also unmatched.
55. preference for two opportunities to get outside for recess vs the switch to one
56. Standards for both writing and math are surprisingly low. I know homework is intentionally light right now and will increase next year, but I would have hoped our 5th grader's relative weakness in math would have been met by a bit more volume. On the ELA side, it seemed like he consistently "got away with" the bare minimum and wasn't pushed.
57. **** frequently comes home and does not know how to complete **** math homework. When we ask things like "Do you know what X means?" **** doesn't. We feel like **** isn't learning or retaining the information at school. **** went two months without completing **** **** **** assignments - we only found out at an IEP meeting. If this meeting hadn't happened, we would have had no idea that **** wasn't completing **** work. I really wish there was more proactive communication when concerns arise.
58. The new cell phone policy is an issue as well as the new device and WiFi policy.
59. Is it possible for the teachers from the different subjects to coordinate their schedules, so that kids don't have multiple large projects and/or tests due the same day. I've noticed a clustering when it comes to scheduling where my child sometimes will have no homework for days in a row and then a lot of projects due on the same day. If teachers are supposed to be coordinating their calendars together with one another, they need to do a better job with this. Also, I don't

appreciate how the schedule or due date for things like class presentations or projects is a rolling deadline situation. For example, if my child brings a poster to class for a presentation on the due date, it would be helpful for the presentation to happen on the same day. This does not seem to be the norm. Rather, if the project is due on a Tuesday for example the presentation may not occur until a Friday or the following Monday. Logistically, this is annoying since my child will bring the poster back to and fro on the bus. Also, for kids like are nervous and anxious about school presentations, this does not help matters. My child is generally fine with public speaking and presenting, but others are not. Also, I have to ask about 7th grade math. Our experience hasn't been as bad as I was hearing it could be BUT I don't understand why there is an advanced and normal 7th grade math class when everyone comes back together for 8th grade math anyway. What is the point of this. Also, why doesn't the math teacher actually grade homework. What is my child does the math homework wrong the whole time and never knows until it's too late. This doesn't seem helpful.

60. They don't have technology classes. Or guidance. or health.
61. When I taught her at home during COVID, she was able to conjugate Spanish present tense... they've barely gotten there in class now! What a waste of the time children's brains are best at learning languages. The math curriculum is far too slow. Pull out the swiftest children and challenge them. Given our population, should have the best advanced math and languages in the state -- possibly the region. I didn't know whether her theater performing group was "Art" or "Music" so I put high scores on both -- those and woodworking are the highlights of her day. Technology is slow and boring, but probably that's a universal constant.
62. Mixed French class (year 1 and 2) challenging if not trying to make this an advantage in teaching. Hard for year 1 to contribute.
63. It would be better if students in 9th grade had more opportunities to take honors classes, so they could feel more challenged. Additionally, AP courses would be helpful for interested students as they progress through high school. For one thing, some students might appreciate the opportunity to bypass huge general survey classes once they begin as college freshman.
64. Math and science are written too much for the lowest-level students. This is a school district filled with doctors and professors -- our brightest students should have classes that challenge them and prepare them for the best science & engineering undergraduate programs
65. 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
66. 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.
67. French did not go well and **** of my kids are looking for alternatives if they are assigned the **** ****.

68. The tech class is something that i've heard yearly that is not very beneficial and nothing new has been learned. Teaching typing or proper guidance on website usage as well as pulling resources for learning would be wonderful. Health class perhaps should discuss body changes at this age group since it seems to be happening sooner especially the mood changes and bullying that occur prior to that 5th grade discussion. Moving this up would be extremely beneficial for all students as they grow and learn how to positively view themselves. I believe 5th grade is too late!
69. Unsatisfied in most cases as I would prefer even less of it. I would prefer no technology class in elementary. In PE I would prefer no screens. Unsatisfied with recess because there should be more of it. Less science as it appears to be outdated climate alarmism propaganda.
70. In general, we have been fans of the World Language offering, however, the level 2 honors taught by **** **** has been problematic and a disconnect from level 1 taught by **** ****.
71. I wish that the all-state music opportunities had been more widely shared directly with parents as they were in previous years
72. Less tech in classrooms
73. We've had issues with teachers in math and science this year. Math due to **** **** and science due to **** **** to the school and content.
74. Generally we feel the classes have been quite strong. However, I did want to register my concerns about gamification, particularly in Spanish class, though things like Kahoot etc. I feel that the school already has an overly competitive vibe and this just increases it.
75. As a parent of a middle schooler as well, I find the news articles that my child reads are extremely left leaning if not full blown propaganda. Not sure the teachers understand the difference between balanced reporting vs paid media.
76. Math - way too slow English - too much poetry, no writing/composition Science - good Social Studies- students cannot bring textbooks home and they aren't available online. Also, teacher is often one-sided and biased in how he presents current events. Music - good, but ****. **** is sometimes extremely political World Language - excellent (**** ****)
77. I've been impressed with the outdoor/environmental programming at MCS.
78. We feel there is less emphasis on STEM than we, and our child, are wanting.
79. English has cut back the reading significantly. Books seem young and disappointed they're no longer reading To Kill a Mockingbird and personal reading isn't emphasized. Vocabulary learning also is absent now. Social Studies writing structure is too young/basic with firstly, secondly, thirdly, in conclusion.
80. The 8th grade math program is abhorrent. There needs to be a real teacher, not only video instruction.
81. My child often complains about the chrome books moving so slowly.
82. Our child is enjoying math this year and her teacher is great. BUT, because of the way MCS did placement, she is in a class that is too easy for her. We responded with a "let the school decide" to the MCS google form... I teach and believe that the

school IS in the best place to determine placement. But, then MCS did not do the assessment that RMS 6th grade does. From what I gather, they respond to the "squeaky wheel" parents instead and that is how students land in advanced math. I hope that in future years, all 6th graders take the same assessment. Also, self paced math on the computer is no substitute for real-life, hands-on, collaborative math in a classroom with a teacher.

83. You should ask RMS 8th graders how many books they were assigned this year. 8th grade ELA is astonishing in its lack of rigor.
84. The school could allow to bring teeth brushes, and talk them one a year about how to take care of teeth
85. Our **** in 5th grade is a fast learner and has always had teachers who recognized and supported this by giving **** challenging extra work that was fun and engaging. **** teacher this year has given **** extra work, but it was just more of the same exercises and problem sets that **** found easy, so it was just busy work. We brought this up with **** teacher several times and made suggestions for different activities, but the teacher did not implement any or modify their approach. The result was a child losing interest in math, which is a real shame.
86. Tech: we are a low-tech home. I'd like instruction on how to type, usefully search the internet and wisely select sources. too many boring lectures on digital citizenship.
87. Please have two official recesses again for K-4. The teachers this year made adjustments on their own to have 2 recesses, but it should be standard for our children. They need to practice transitioning into and out of clothes and the classroom environment. 1st grade's 1 recess at 2 pm was a developmentally inappropriate decision.
88. My child consistently reports dissatisfaction with Tech. I believe technology to be a very important discipline for today's children and hence very important subject for schools to be covering (more important than Art or PE). It would be nice if more/different school resources could be dedicated to this area to (at the very least) get children excited about the subject.
89. The second recess was removed this year and I believe that had a negative impact.
90. The RMS math program is very problematic. The practices around the Advanced Math Class need to be reworked.
91. We'd like no iPad or computer curriculum options offered at all grades across all subjects.
92. 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.
93. The PE team at Ray is awesome!
94. I believe the SAU is addressing issues with the math program at RMS but there are number of problems. We have had spectacularly bad communication from the teacher this year and the program progression from year to year is so poorly thought out. The teacher's latest thing is to refuse to call Algebra "Algebra", but to call it "8th grade math" which is incredibly confusing. Our student says the teacher

complains all the time about how Hanover parents want their kids to study math that is so much harder than the rest of the USA. This while the US is falling behind other nations in STEM. It's too much to write in this box how messed up math at RMS is. My issues with technology is that my child says many students spend the day playing computer games on their school laptops while pretending to do work. We should go back to pen and paper - or typewriters. Other than that we have had a great year at RMS. Social Studies, Spanish and Science are all excellent!! The **** teacher deserves a medal.

95. I think is not necessary to use videos in PE. Health: The school could ask the kids to bring their teeth brushes, and promote dental health (showing how to brush their teeth, telling them why it is important, etc.)
96. The idea that math can be effectively self taught in middle school is ludicrous. It is quite clear that screen are ineffective learning tools and damaging the mental health of this generation. Why is the middle school lagging behind what is settled science in education and psychology? There is a role for a tech class. Otherwise screens should not be allowed and especially not as the primary tool for learning. 7th grade math needs a teacher- "self taught" math on computers is a thinly veiled budget cutting effort at best, harmful to our children at worst.
97. The self-guided math is frustrating and doesn't allow for meaningful support when a student needs it. Also, text books would be helpful so students don't need to keep rewatching time consuming videos. It would be nice to see students read more challenging texts.
98. i wish artwork came home. i hate how free range recess is it seems like it's like lord of the flies
99. I think I've said this every year, more time to play would be great but I understand the time constraints.
100. Woodwork was incredible!
101. Too much tech use in the classroom
102. Science: one outstanding teacher and one teacher who did not seem to read my child's IEP profile. The expectations were not always clear in some courses, and work was uneven. Math and English had consistently great teachers, but the curriculum in English seems outdated.
103. It seems quite strange for honors classes to take the approach of not teaching the material and instead allowing the students to figure it out as a method of learning.
104. Less technology please.
105. Technology has been cited by both my children at Ray as the least engaging part of their week. There are important concepts being shared (online safety, etc.) but to have children sit in front of an iPad for 45 minutes but not let them use it seems very strange.
106. My child's experience with the French program at HHS has been deeply unsatisfying, such that after beginning the study of French in kindergarten at MCS my child has opted to change languages beginning in **** grade. This is not because my child does not like studying French, it is because there is no guarantee

that my child will have access to a **** **** **** next year or into the future. We have not found the school to be proactive or supportive in addressing this issue, which has been disappointing. We hope our child will have a better experience with the faculty of the other world languages.

107. 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.
108. See above re Chemistry
109. The students do not write enough in 8th grade. My student complains that they have only written one essay all year. From what I am seeing at home, my student will not be prepared for high school analytical writing. They need more practice.
110. 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
111. Too much reliance on computers to turn in homework. The students should be writing with pens on paper more.
112. I am very unhappy that the 2nd recess was taken out of the kids schedule; without any sort of notice to parents or ask for help...
113. I think math at Hanover is really going through some transition, it worked fine for my independent **** child. Not so well for my ****, but I think **** was behind from sixth grade math. I would really like to see more money and support in the music to pay for private lessons and really expand the structure. Orchestra **** is great but they need more support.
114. One recess each day was a wild decision - would love to know how teachers felt about it. Might be worth re-evaluating.
115. Overall, I am very satisfied and grateful my children have attended HHS. However, this year, there are two teachers that were/continue to be extremely challenging for my daughter, i.e. not effective at teaching, confusing in their expectations, discouraging and unwilling or unable to clearly communicate with my daughter and provide her the support that she repeatedly requests. These teachers are ****. **** and **** ****.
116. I wish math was more structured with regular HW practice. We loved 6th grade English and wish the vocab and poem memorization would continue.
117. The Marion Cross playground is really unsatisfactory compared to Ray School and other area schools.
118. 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.
119. Would love to see more language classes as the elementary level

120. 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".
121. We've heard that the kids are required to hold hands apparently in Music, which seems a little odd at this age.
122. PE:Instructions were sometimes too long, reducing time for activity. Brief, structured directions and maximizing physical movement would improve student experience. Math:Assignment expectations in advanced math were not always clear, making it difficult to understand what was required.
123. 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.
124. I don't hear much about what students are doing outside of their primary home room teacher.
125. Technology classes have not introduced basic keyboard typing skills through 5th grade, and bad habits have formed. Digital citizenship is important, but it dominates the curriculum. Math instruction leaves quick learners bored. There are not enough extensions and applications for curious and bright learners.
126. The math approach might work well for some kids. It seems an odd way to offer ms math.
127. Variable quality of teachers in social studies department - some seem unorganized, lack communication skills and and having quickly changing expectations of students
128. My child feels very seen by ALL of her teachers at the high school. She is excited to be challenged and feels successful.
129. Hearing from my student, it sounds like classmates are very disruptive and blocks of work time are short. Little chance to gain skills and depth in all academic subjects. And so much testing! WHY???
130. Not sure on the specific topics - I do know she loves art and music!!
131. We have not been very impressed with the **** ** teacher
132. 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.
133. 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.

134. The chatter about 7th grade math is warranted. My kid seems to be handling it well, but it's confusing at best. Social Studies, Science, and Spanish teachers are amazing and we get detailed feedback from them and my kid loves those particular classes, even though those particular subjects are not why the kid's passion lies. The conferences offered by the guidance counselors were helpful, but didn't seem particularly insightful even though apparently the staff meets regularly to discuss individual students.
135. My student was surprised how few written assignments there are, particularly assignments with teacher feedback - including in English class. The exception is Methods (H): lab reports are detailed and rigorous, and the **** provides feedback. In Geometry (H), we are puzzled that concepts are introduced within homework and reviewed in class afterwards.
136. 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.
137. Recess friendship issues have been a big issue.
138. 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.
139. New **** teacher did not grade students work for 3 months. Poor teacher/students relationship.
140. Seems like my 2nd grader is getting less recess/outdoor time than in years past. At least that is what she tells me at home.
141. Overall a good staff, but leadership is not really active in moving instruction and culture forward.
142. 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.
143. Too much video watching in language class and pe
144. I wish that SAU70 wasn't so dependent on screens, Schoology, etc. I've noticed with **** and my older child (former Hanover High) that they are anxiously monitoring their averages with every quiz. Also, **** often needs to borrow my computer at night to finish homework assignments, which is inconvenient.
145. Taking HS Spanish II on VLACS was a challenge for our family. The study hall provided to be used for Spanish time did not really work because the school computers were not able to access much of what was needed. Parents had to be involved and engaged more than we had anticipated. In some ways, this was positive, as it gave our son the practice with an online class in a lower-stakes class. But I'm not sure I would recommend it to other parents whose students are advanced in language. Math was a big success this year after a very challenging 7th grade year. I still feel we are making up for what happened in 7th grade math, and this will follow him through HS, which is frustrating. For technology, I think more

communication with and guidance for families in how to integrate tech restrictions at home that match school would be helpful.

146. Schedule needs to be addressed so 2nd grade has recess before 1:15 (1:30?). Way too late in the day for 7 and 8 year olds.
147. Would appreciate a longer first recess. Main recess is at the end of the day which does not really break up the day with enough outdoor exposure. Ideally two long recesses.
148. This year is unusual -- my kid is 18 and I've taken a big step back. I no longer have close insight into academic experiences. But part of the reason for this is that in the prior 3 years I developed so much trust in the school and its teachers.
149. 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.
150. My comments reflect specials / subjects offered to Pre-k.
151. 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.
152. For a school that excels in so many ways, the math class was a disappointment. The constant testing and rushing through material is not what we were expecting for an advanced math class. Our child, who loves math, was coming home expressing her frustration with the class. She especially loved her science class this year, as well as her electives - specifically theater.
153. Recess can be a free for all with potential for social power dynamics
154. The school use a lot screen time. Sometimes for PE, a lot of time during kid's lunch, and during another time. Also, the food is a bad quality, and it is not focus in a real nutrition.
155. My student has felt confused and unsupported throughout the science program this year. She doesn't match very well with her teacher, but it's an issue she's been working to solve. The French program at this high school has been extremely unsatisfactory. The **** **** **** **** frequently and the students are incredibly behind and genuinely despise the language- many are quitting next year.
156. I don't know much because teachers never reach out
157. I wish that the pre-k students had more opportunities to increase their literacy skills.
158. I am concerned about the amount of learning that takes place using screens, either individual or with a projector. According to my fourth grader, her class is looking at a screen "all day." I would prefer the Ray School decrease the amount of time the children use screen technology during the school day.

159. PE should not have screens. I work hard to keep my kids off the garbage on Youtube, only to hear about how at PE they watched video games on a big screen.
160. I am satisfied with the quality of the direct math teaching when the teacher is teaching. I am unsatisfied with the school's choice to use I-Ready. My child reports using it almost every day. I want the teacher to teach my child math. I worry I-Ready will take the joy out of math with soulless 'you got this problem wrong, do the lesson' again type loops.
161. There seems to be a lack of information regarding health curriculum at the elementary levels and there isn't a certified health teacher teaching health as a special which I feel is highly important. Health and wellness should be at the forefront of everything the student is doing and learning about. Additionally, there seems to be a lack of information on how students might be able to access guidance if it is not in the 504 or IEP plans for a student. All students should have access to counseling and behavior specialists.

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

1. **** ***, our child attended a Charter school. We are not currently looking at alternative school options. The question above says “ever.”
2. My daughter takes VLaCS classes
3. Private school (like Crossroads) seem to be developing superior students. I would encourage anyone working at the Ray school to take a tour of Crossroads and get exposure to some impressive students.
4. We are seriously thinking about home schooling b/c our child is bored in math and reading. Ray school is a lovely place with many nice people. Sometimes it just feels like day care.
5. Yes, we did consider this when our **** was in another district but we are very happy now that **** attends Hanover.
6. My child's experience in the middle school has been suboptimal-- so much worse than older siblings' experience at the same school not too many years ago. The math experience has been so horrible for this class; this year was better, but they can't make up for the past two years. The English teaching/ rigor has significantly

dropped over the past 7 years. I am really worried about preparedness for high school

7. I have seriously thought about other educational systems when I hear about the ways that teachers rely on screens/videos/gamified 'learning' apps. I believe that teachers teaching is much better than teachers babysitting kids while kids use learning-apps to 'self-teach' themselves. For instance, if the Ray School and RMS use ixl/i-ready in their math classes for the task of teaching then I wonder whether I have a basic disagreement with the public schools' teaching philosophy.
8. Kumon
9. Thought about private school but the environment in Hanover and the quality of the schools are so good that paying tuition doesn't make sense. That's why we live here.
10. In kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade, our **** * had trouble sitting still. With a lot of patience and dedicated instruction, he is now doing great. We considered sending him to an alternative school where things could be a bit less rigid, but am now glad we stayed at the Ray school
11. If the screen time was minimized I would be very satisfied with Ray.
12. I went to boarding school and I think Hanover high school with just a little bit of tweaking can do all the things a boarding school that is much better endowed can do and it's not about resources but it's more about how the teachers think and trying to align the teachers to the bigger picture. Otherwise it's a great school and I have no major complaints.
13. I was not satisfied with the Ray school but RMS have been a great school for my kid
14. We thought about it but it was not financially feasible for us.
15. We would not consider leaving MCS. We don't have enough information to make a decision about middle school.
16. SAU 70 is not living up to expectations
17. 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.
18. We left private schools to move to Hanover public schools. Very happy with the move for all of our children!
19. I think the curriculum should be more rigorous.
20. School is high paced, unorganized. Lots of mental pressure on kids. Kids literally surviving to be awake on energy drinks which will for sure create health issues later but they have no choice because system or teachers they only care about their subjects while kids doing sports, traveling, coming home late and no time to do their homework. I hope school system is more organized and consider children human beings with their well being instead of Robots. No wonder why high schooler has more mental issues, anxiety.
21. Clarification on #19 - had previously been in private schools before coming here; we are very happy with the public schools here, particularly the high school.

22. Our family has always been concerned with the use of technology in the classrooms. Understanding that it does make certain subjects easier for teachers to differentiate, there is also a lot of research that says technology can be hindering and addictive.
23. It seems all the kids who can afford to leave to go to private school do, with few exceptions.
24. Would love to home school
25. For our current 4th grader no.
26. We sent **** to private school earlier in **** life (**** **** **** **** ****), we have considered doing so again to provide **** with academic stretch opportunities.
27. Hanover has a great reputation but we are a bit underwhelmed by what it can offer our children. I appreciate the faculty and curriculum and know by objective measures that Hanover is great for a public school, but yes we have considered private school. I think there are a LOT of bright children who would benefit from some focused attention on the areas they excel which would really make a tremendous difference.
28. We have private tutors for certain subjects.
29. We used to **** **** before moving to Hanover.
30. Another child chose **** **** **** HHS. **** is very strong academically and socially but was turned off by the HHS culture/pressure and lack of diversity.
31. We used to **** **** ****, I've thought about going back to that effort.
32. Would only consider it for athletic reasons.
33. Students are on and off campus all day. They leave to get on cell phones. They are not encouraged to stay and do work or study. I don't think school feels like an immersive academic experience for my child.
34. Homeschooling would not benefit our child and private is way too expensive. Plus, HHS provides an excellent education for the students!
35. Our child was at private school before attending HHS.
36. We are considering private middle school options currently. This is because we have seen our **** struggle with Richmond Middle School math, and if **** can't keep up, there is no way **** can.
37. We love MCS but wish there was more focus on content knowledge.
38. She needs a school where she would be challenged to learn and grow - but we can't afford it.
39. Homeschooled ****-****. Something I never thought I would do. COVID was part of the reason, but it was a real blessing, and is why his understanding is good in math and Spanish, and reading is advanced. Helped keep him from hating school at an age when a lot of the boys turn into little jerks.
40. 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
41. We see a lot of families doing this. I think it is based on those families being full pay to those tuition schools. If they all stayed (and were recruited to stay) it would make for a more vibrant school community. (But some folks just never will stay = that's not the school's fault).

42. **** **** **** ****. At the end of the day you realize that the school isn't really that important, and homelife is what matters more, and if I'm already paying for that school might as well use it.
43. for high school, never for middle school. it is still a possibility for high school
44. I love the rigor and content knowledge offered by Crossroads Academy, but the school is too small and far away to be an appealing option for us -- if it were a little closer and bigger, I would go for it. I would love to see the elementary and middle schools adopt a content-rich curriculum. From what I've seen, kids spend way too much time studying themselves and their own identities.
45. If the bullying situation got worse, I would have considered pulling my child for their safety.
46. Very happy that there is limited school choice in the upper valley. The private options do not appear to be worth the costs but that can change..
47. Sent my child to **** and it was not a good fit. Brought **** back to HHS after **** years away. HHS has been great and I wish we had never left.
48. The academic rigor is so high at HHS that even just regular good students feel dumb compared to the students doing calculus as sophomores. I don't think HHS does as good a job with students that aren't quite as academic and there is an elitism associated with it.
49. The lack of academic rigor at RMS is concerning.
50. A rising ambivalence toward academic rigor has us concerned and considering private school.
51. 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.
52. I hope to send my **** to private school or to a district with g&t programs.
53. We've looked into schools for children with **** and ADHD.
54. We seriously considered local private high school for our student but found that the special ed offerings at HHS were more in line with his needs.
55. We have decided to send our **** to a private school because we did not agree with the public school's determination for intervention for a child diagnosed with ****. We were offered 504 accommodations but no direct intervention for **** and needed to seek private tutoring off campus. We were also surprised **** teachers from kindergarten to **** grade did not recommend an evaluation despite parental concerns documented each year. With the incidence of ****, this should be a normal practice. Our child was not identified until **** grade and then had not direct intervention. I think the public school system should consider a more proactive approach to helping children with ****.
56. 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.
57. we transferred to RMS from a private K-8 school for the ****/**** school year
58. Parents are desperate for an opportunity to be engaged in our children's education. What are our children learning? What is difficult for my individual students? Would they benefit from a tutor? I can't help my kids without some basic information.

59. i wish we could live in florida and she could have easier access to fun accessible activities and pool at home but her services are amazing here so we won't leave
60. Yes, we have considered alternative education due to academic concerns at all school in our district.
61. RMS math was such a disaster the last two years. This year seemed a little better, though still considered an alternative school given how bad the math issues have been.
62. We considered an international boarding school so we can live elsewhere. It's just an expense swap but my husband has had great experiences at international schools.
63. Have thought about home schooling or local private schools to provide a more rigorous education
64. We did send student to *****, which was a terrific experience I think that more Hanover HS students would benefit from doing this, if affordable. The emphasis on working at the school to keep it running may not be entirely feasible at HHS, but some may be very appropriate.
65. My child struggles with sitting and paying attention for such long stretches of time. Would love to see more outdoor or movement opportunities incorporated into the classroom experience.
66. We explored finding alternative avenues for the study of French language for our child, but ultimately decided to support our child's desire to stay at HHS but change languages.
67. It seems that academics are not emphasized enough and too much time is spent on devices and in celebrations.
68. We have sent our oldest to private school, and our ***** grader will go next year.
69. Our student has been in private school elsewhere but we have no plans to leave SAU 70.
70. Was at ***** prior to MCS and am much more satisfied with MCS
71. Was at Crossroads Academy until *****/*****
72. I'm worried about the use of technology in the classrooms and losing outside classroom/play time.
73. Supplemental language and math school.
74. Our solution has been math tutoring for *****
75. My ***** is very young for ***** grade and I've thought about having ***** do a year of private school to repeat a grade, but that has nothing to do with the quality of education ***** getting at Ray. I'm very satisfied with that.
76. lots of people around here do it but i don't know the specifics as to why they do it.
77. I already had to send ***** of my children out of district as the structure of the schools did not support the success of my children. My ***** was getting Bs at HHS while struggling despite having a 504 (some teachers unaware of this). ***** is now getting ~3.8gpa taking AP & honors classes in a teaching environment that supports ***** learning style. My ***** child needed more structure in ***** day to thrive which ***** is doing and ***** is now in honors English after having an IEP for 5 years in

94. Some occasional grouching about one-off issues at the school, but I think it'd be hard to escape that at any school.
95. We are considering all of the above options for our child for next year.
96. We considered sending our children to private at various point in their education, but most issues were minor and resolved professionally at the elementary and middle school levels. The **** at the high school is not very good but our children don't have any contact with them.
97. See response above. I think SAU70 provides an education that is equal or superior to my kids' private school experiences (my **** left Hanover High after **** grade to enroll in an early college program.)
98. I consider alternate options weekly. The hard part is finding a working alternative that is not homeschool or moving to another town.
99. It is important that Pre-K works to become a free, universal program without means-testing. Otherwise, Pre-k would participate in the tuition market at large and there are other options to consider.
100. We have augmented HHS courses with outside content. If the kids wanted to go to a good private school, we'd support them in doing so.
101. 11th grader will complete senior year at HHS. Exploring other options for my current **** grader at Crossroads because I have not been impressed with the general state of STEM at HHS. Poor quality math instruction, lack of available advanced courses and support for AP work -- this is baffling to me in today's competitive environment and all I can assume is that the resources are not available to be competitive even at a relatively well funded school district like SAU 70. I don't for a second buy that this choice is based on what's best for the student - it just transfers the onus to parents to supplement with STEM support which if I'm going to do that why not just go private?
102. It didn't have to do with the school it had to do with the needs of the student
103. Love the school and my child thrives. Living in Hanover with housing has been difficult and has a being forced to consider other options for living and school. Not what we want.
104. I **** **** my kids before we moved to the district. I don't have plans to take my kids out of school at this point.
105. We've thought about alternative schooling due to our childs social challenges. We also have a family member who works at a private institution making that more affordable
106. Due to dissatisfaction with the French and basketball programs, this has been taken under consideration.
107. The district's unclear pathways into math learning coupled with what looks like an overuse of I-Ready/IXL type learning programs both at Ray and then at RMS make me think that despite having a strong value of education in this community, the school system has outsourced a significant portion of the math education to computer programs and parents. This is corroborated with the other types of 'instruction from a screen' like Mystery Science videos in other subjects. To be clear, I actually like the illustrative math curriculum in the elementary school setting

and I think the majority of teachers I've interacted with are amazing - so that is why I'm staying. I hope the district is mindful that ed-tech when implemented poorly is dehumanizing.

108. I hear there is a lot of academic pressure regarding grades and at the middle and high schools and believe that meeting the portrait of a learner competencies should be at the forefront of student learning as success as opposed to trying to get a 4.0 gpa or taking all honors courses.

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

1. We supplement with extra math, reading, and music.
2. Parents have been regularly helping in math, especially during the awful 7th grade experience.
3. Hearing that many parents pay private tutors or Kumon to help their children with Math gives me a sinking feeling that the Math education in the district is lacking. Then when I witness first hand and hear stories second hand about the pit falls of using i-ready to teach kids I see that a private tutor might a required human element to help show my kid the wonders/fun of math. I want my kids to have Ms. Frizzle as a teacher, not watch Magic School Bus and see a cartoon Ms. Frizzle teach a cartoon class. With math apps it can be even worse: I don't want my child to be subject to a faceless app repeating a 30+ minute lesson verbatim because my child missed an unrelated math concept on an end of unit i-ready test. Human teachers have empathy in a way that scripted ed-tech lessons do not.
4. We have had our kid work with a private writing tutor (though not for school projects).
5. Have been supplementing math due to child not being taught level appropriate or challenging material since entering rMS
6. Engaging with Kumon this weekend

7. Both parents are college faculty and so we spend a lot of time on learning in the household
8. Kumon
9. Considered reading tutoring since limited resources to help at school via IEP. Would be great to have tutoring available at school given the time available in middle school (electives) and the ability of kids to focus more at school than at home.
10. unfortunately, we are having to privatize our students education because teachers are not seeing the bigger picture. What do I mean by this: try to prepare them with homework that is inspiring, teachers should focus a little bit less on grades and more on what students are actually learning and how they apply this knowledge This help helps tease out the true learners from the ones that are just going through the motions. I don't find our students inspired by the teachers in the sciences and math category.
11. Vlacs
12. Should not be necessary
13. We wanted to continue more but found it challenging to schedule with other activities.
14. We have considered tutoring for reading/special ed. Our child receives special ed at school, but it was limited this year
15. Additional tutoring in reading
16. I didn't feel like the math teachers lectured and explained the material to my child well. The tutor did this and my child had no problem understanding the concepts. Although some of the teachers have been great, it's always hot or miss it seems.
17. My child regularly meets with a reading specialist outside of school and is enrolled in a VLACs math course.
18. I found the reading tutoring services on my own. They have been very expensive but effective - much better than the curriculum provided in school. My student's teachers were supportive in collaborating with the tutoring services.
19. We cannot afford tutors.
20. My kids do not have on-one tutoring or group-based lessons. he is just doing the subject from different education system or organizations
21. Hooked on Phonics is better than the school curriculum. I think most of my student's progress was solely based on his teacher's motivation.
22. I provide math tutoring, because my son felt pressure related to math placement for 7th grade. The way the communication was around 7th grade math felt stressful to my son who is doing well in math in general.
23. 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.
24. There are many online or AI-based tutors are great tools for education which we have dabbled with in the past and would consider more of. Synthesis for Math, Outschool for ELA, Beast Academy for Math.
25. VLACS for math.
26. No remedial help, but our **** has taken **** at Dartmouth and **** **** for language immersion and challenge.

27. We hired a private tutor for honors geometry
28. **** has received speech pathology help from **** (but I don't think this is what the question is asking).
29. math tutor for older child because her RMS math instruction was not good.
30. Needed my child to have math instruction.
31. My child has had many absences **** **** **** and refused in-school tutoring because **** did not want **** peers to know **** needed help. I tried to find tutors outside of school, but was not successful.
32. We have had additional tutoring for reading and math.
33. Tried to get math tutoring but was challenging
34. There needs to be more help with SAT prep and college applications.
35. We try to give her advanced work ourselves at home, but it's hard to find time.
36. We gave him advanced material ourselves.
37. Just too expensive for us at this time
38. Music
39. my child needed private math tutoring to get **** out of the mess created by 6th grade math at RMS.
40. again, we're very concerned about our child's reading level and declining performance and interest in this area, despite previously demonstrated interest and aptitude. it's a shame and may now require outside support.
41. Kumon for Math
42. We had to have both of our children tutored in math. Self paced math is a disaster for many kids and really needs to be revisited.
43. We hired a math and ELA tutor specifically for SAT prep.
44. Math a
45. The Math program is not good.
46. Occasional app based fun-cational games like DuoLingo and typing, but nothing serious
47. No but my child has taken math courses online
48. We have spent many hours providing supplemental math help. Self guided math simply transferred the responsibility of math instruction to families. Yet, the district seems to think fewer kids getting to Algebra 2 Honors is something to celebrate. So, not sure SAU 70 is much concerned about this issue.
49. Both parents in this family spend hours teaching our children math and ELA skills due to the lack of sufficient rigor at the school.
50. Occupational therapy, which included help with learning writing and reading
51. I teach my children math at home, to advance their learning, using kumon & spectrum workbooks. Works wonders. But I'd rather the school taught them more appropriately for their levels.
52. I've thought about it for math support.
53. Math tutor. Probably Spanish tutor soon.
54. Contemplated it to boost or feed curiosity in particularly areas, but logistically challenging and instead try to fuel that via family trips and time.
55. reading tutors, language classes (not Spanish), music classes

56. While my child's IEP supports her at school with her current work load, she still does not have solid foundational reading skills.
57. I understand that many families in the HHS system use external resources. We do not but would if they were accessible to us.
58. Took a few AOPS math classes.
59. Considering math tutoring because my child's confidence is so low due to the poor communication from her math **** this year. The **** apparently starts many tests by telling the class that if they don't get an "A" on the test then they don't belong in Advanced Math. Then my child feels like an idiot when they get less than an A.
60. we did this in the past - it was 3 mornings/week before school and it worked well.
61. I will need to employ a math tutor to teach my kids basic math in 7th grade because a "self taught" computer based approach is not effective or appropriate
62. speech and pt
63. If you ask any tutor in Hanover, they will tell you that ever since the math changed in the middle school, they don't have the capacity to tutor anyone else. All tutors are busy.
64. VLACS
65. Considered it but Ray School got **** caught up in Reading and Math when we switched from **** ****. It took almost 1.5 school years but she seems to be meeting the benchmarks right now.
66. Kumon
67. Math tutor over summer while attending RMS. Necessary because the math teach (**** ****) did not teach to all levels in the class and my student did not feel confident. Was able to regain confidence with a better teacher/tutor.
68. It is necessary for my child to have a tutor to ensure that he is able to keep on top of his work.
69. Math tutor has been necessary because of COVID and because of how HHS handled honors math classes.
70. Just recently started reading tutor who specific in ****
71. My children both take private music lessons at the Upper Valley Music Center, and participate in non-SAU 70 sports teams. There is a clear divide, particularly in our oldest's class, between the students who have had outside instruction and those who haven't. From reading music to understanding musical fluency, it puts those who haven't at a significant disadvantage particularly with 4th Grade Strings.
72. There are some subject areas where we feel our child could develop more skills, particularly in math. Our child may need more support to catch up.
73. We used Varsity Tutors to work on a variety of subjects last year and we may hire a tutor in the future.
74. My child's **** teacher became **** **** ****_**** and so a teacher in charge of another section stepped in. Although the school did its best under the unforeseen circumstances, this mid-session switch adversely affected my student's learning and grade. We hired a **** tutor to help support him.
75. Summer tutoring, fairly casual
76. We have considered a tutor in Spanish

77. Math
78. Yes, we pay for Kumon for math, because Ray School cannot challenge our daughter appropriately. There seem to be no resources for kids who need more of a challenge at Ray. This is frustrating!
79. Need more advanced math options for children who are ahead of their grade.
80. Had a Spanish tutor for one year.
81. My tutor is very helpful. Wish my child felt comfortable using the extra help resources at school but she doesn't.
82. Despite being on an IEP, my child is not getting the help she needs to improve.
83. KUMON
84. Some teachers have been unwilling to provide extra help even after formal requests.
85. Again, I was forced to replace last year's math program with something more suitable
86. Kumon during Elementary School. Biology tutor for AP exam.
87. Private tutor to help keep up with math class
88. We have thought about math tutoring to help with test anxiety anxiety-**** seems to understand the material but worries about doing well on tests.
89. Just for Math - 1 hr a week of tutoring. It has been very helpful.
90. My child is still too young -- and she's doing great from what I can tell.
91. 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.
92. Math teacher is falling woefully short of actually teaching. Too much reliance on students teaching themselves, checking answers, and then hoping teacher has enough time to answer questions or provide additional help. Paid weekly math tutor a necessity for my child.
93. 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.
94. Some reading stuff back at Ray in the early years, nothing currently, no need
95. I'm not sure if OT counts--**** receives OT support outside school
96. Currently enrolled in OT for handwriting and strengthening ocular motion, crossing the midline
97. for getting better at writing without being subject to grading while doing so
98. Weekly math tutoring, summer writing tutoring
99. Gets great support in school
100. My **** really struggled with advanced math and chemistry, and I considered tutoring. But **** teacher stepped up and provided extra support, as did I.
101. Kumon for extra math even though we have no worries about the subject. See the benefit of repetition with learning math as a way to feel comfortable and confident with baseline skills.
102. My child is **** and is still not receiving formal services at MCS, so we have to pay for outside tutoring. It's unacceptable.

103. The quality of math teaching and support is widely varied at RMS. My eighth-grader essentially lost a year in math during sixth grade. Video-based learning is not effective for some students, like my child.
104. Unclear if you're including VLACS, Learn Everywhere, and other similar programs here. If so, modify the above to yes, formerly and currently.
105. Before opting out of math all together we had some success with 1:1 tutoring. We got the advice from other parents that "everyone uses tutoring" to be successful in math given teacher turnover etc.
106. Math tutoring
107. Both parents are educators so we are able to help our child with questions that they have regarding most of their academic course work. We haven't had a need to get outside supports.
108. SAT test prep course
109. Only wondering if my child needed something specialized subject or more challenging
110. Since 2nd grade. One-on-one and group tutoring. Also Duolingo for French.
111. VLACS, Dartmouth
112. Kumon when math deficits identified in 3rd grade during pandemic

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

1. We have found that honors algebra II and honors pre calculus are taught in a way that many kids struggle. The tests are not a good reflection of what is taught in the classroom.
2. We've thought about supplements to the iReady, since our kids express a lot of anxiety about it and really don't enjoy it. And so that's made us fearful of standardized or adaptive testing writ large. Our thought was to introduce (at the request of our child) computer-based math quizzes, etc. to normalize the experience. I'm not sure it has helped.
3. Use to go to Kumon and is taking an AOPS class.
4. And executive function
5. Took AOPS classes.
6. My **** had to do algebra over the summer because the 8th grade math program was a disaster, **** had to do that in order to do geometry in 8th grade. I was also

going to hire a tutor for math this year but I decided to teach **** myself instead.
**** did not learn enough this year

7. My child takes private piano lessons, I assume that's not what you mean by tutoring
8. If there were tutors in English at the school, I would send my other child.
9. Hooked on Phonics is more effective than the school-based teaching.
10. German at HHS has limited range.
11. Spelling!
12. Sought, but did not find tutors.
13. Our daughter was diagnosed with **** quite late and we hired outside help to help give her tools to prepare her during the summer before 8th grade
14. derailed for two years by a poor pre-calc experience
15. my child does duolingo for fun and loves it!
16. I believe that the middle school math structure is extremely challenging for the district, though options at the HS are better.
17. Math and world languages currently. English, formerly. Math due to the lack of a real teacher and it was impossible to learn the concepts. World languages because they are lacking. It would be helpful to have native speakers if possible.
18. My child has **** and so math is VERY hard for him.
19. I would have liked math tutoring for him, but it is too expensive.
20. The Richmond School was neglectful and harmful to my child's math education. My child has brilliantly recovered from that negative experience but we have had to undo the educational damage with privately financed tutoring.
21. I don't know that I'd call violin lessons "outside tutoring", but that's what I mean by "music"
22. Not tutoring but classes.
23. speech and ot
24. Reading for the 3rd grader and math for the 8th grader.
25. My husband did a lot of homework support
26. Our kid takes piano lessons outside of school
27. Current school does not give enough homework.
28. Please provide more music opportunities for young kids at Ray. Please have a better system for challenging kids who need MORE at Ray!
29. My student has taken advantage of peer tutoring from the Help Hub for science.
30. Per our previous response, our experience is that RMS is not adequately preparing our children for high school academics.
31. ****
32. We asked for help with Math after the pandemic. Ray school told us that there is no personnel to assist even though our child clearly fell behind in a dramatic fashion. **** scores dropped significantly after **** **** for the pandemic. **** probably could have caught up in a few months with a little help. Instead we had to go outside to pay for the assistance. When **** got to the middle school we realized that **** only chance at learning Math was staying with the extra Math help after school. The Middle School Math program and its approach is outrageous.

33. It's hard to sometimes balance that my child seems to be doing just fine at Ray, but could possibly be doing harder/more work if I throw more \$ at it. What's more helpful for my child?
34. In a public school system, this should not be necessary. It is inequitable when wealthy families can supplement their children's education, either to meet standards or exceed them, average families cannot do so, and a school doesn't provide adequate education (ex: high-quality foundational literacy). It is the school's job.
35. We haven't needed to hire a tutor-just considered it.
36. see above - considering math to prep for middle school
37. Needed math tutor due to learning gaps from RMS math program
38. The arms race is exhausting. Kid does just fine at school and doing well in advanced math, but the voice in the back of the mind wonders if it's ever enough in today's world.
39. Japanese
40. Gross motor/fine motor skills that underpin ELA
41. My **** is studying Mandarin remotely with a tutor because **** is interested in this language and it isn't offered in the district.
42. I'm not including HS Spanish II via VLACS here. **** took this because of advanced Spanish skills and having taken 8th grade Spanish in 7th grade. We are a **** household, so **** language skills are more advanced and **** needed a more challenging course. We coordinated this through the school.
43. See above response
44. have considered math and science tutoring, not sure how to get it, who to ask, difficult logistics
45. My student is part of the middle school Honors band, but we cannot afford extra lessons for him.
46. He does outside violin
47. Cost issue, time issue
48. College essay writing

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

1. My student gets outside tutoring for **** **** **** language which is not taught in this district.

2. We had our kid work with a writing tutor mainly because (a) we thought that feedback on fine-grained writing detail would be difficult for a classroom teacher working with a large number of kids; and (b) as AI becomes more and more integrated into our lives, it would be a little too easy for a student to avoid the challenging parts of learning to write at this stage.
3. anxiety about iReady.
4. Wasn't clear that student was getting the necessary teaching seen through general frustration in the subject, Kumon was an available option that we decided to try. Without the frustration, we would not have tried it.
5. 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)
6. Needed help understanding some of the concepts which they did not understand in school
7. the standard science sequence of HHS is a bit off
8. My daughter loves the language -- her decision and drive to accelerate.
9. prep for AP bio
10. My child wanted to learn a specific type of music.
11. Too many absences and had difficulty catching up (language.) Suspected undiagnosed learning disability for math.
12. disruptive behaviors in the classroom inhibit learning
13. Self paced math does not work for many students. The lack of direct instruction is an issue.
14. I'm planning to use tutoring for reading skills over the summer to continue to develop my daughter's skills with reading
15. SAT prep
16. The dissatisfaction applies to RMS not HHS
17. It is the structure of the math curriculum.
18. I noticed a discrepancy between my student's ELA score and math score on standardized tests. Her teacher, ****. ****, told me my child just wasn't "a math person". I used academic research to learn that high achieving student populations are generally exposed to high parental expectations, strong and repeated practice to build knowledge, and that girls are often stereotyped by teachers and parents as inherently less good at math. I got to work, so did my kid, and my kid's score climbed by 10 percentile points. And her confidence, by a lot more. This year, after seeing her winter i-Ready score, her math teacher simply said **** wanted to see more growth. Yet, **** neglected to provide supplementary materials or concrete advice. I wish the Ray School encouraged and fostered excellence in all children. I feel sometimes on my own in this endeavor.
19. I wanted to make sure she stayed up with her reading for the summer.
20. Dyslexia
21. As above

22. My child requires more input on what the expectations are from the teachers, and the tutor helps with executive functioning. My student does not struggle with the material of the course.
23. Both parents had early childhood music lessons and benefitted from those more so than our in school music classes.
24. Love of singing
25. We felt the regular, scaffolded and supported practice offered by the Kumon curriculum would be of value to our child.
26. He had Covid-era related holes in his knowledge that were compounding as the subject became more complex.
27. See above re: switch in teacher personnel.
28. Summer slide prevention
29. I think the program in sixth grade he was able to not do much and now needs more support
30. Enjoys singing
31. Teacher could not override "the computer"; maybe didn't understand the system?
32. Math facts were encouraged to practice at home. There was gap between Honors Biology and AP exam content.
33. We have thought about math tutoring to help with test anxiety anxiety-**** seems to understand the material but worries about doing well on tests.
34. To improve knowledge of one parent's native language.
35. gross and find motor needs
36. it is for AMC8 for which the school does not provide curriculum
37. Not offered in district.
38. My older child had gaps both from Montessori to Ray and then between 1st and 3rd at Ray that needed outside support, wanted to get ahead of this issue for the next one but stopped when I realized he was fine.
39. Love the new math curriculum, but feel there is a place for straight repetition so math never turns into a subject to be afraid of.
40. It would be good to have more challenging opportunities for the students, but its not that big of a deal.
41. Behind in math, gifted in music and has taken outside lessons
42. Private language classes currently to communicate with Extended family

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

1. quiet girls get more attention and help than busy boys. Someone needs to help the busy boys
2. I'm glad that the SAU is thinking about all the private tutoring that is happening because I want our community to come together and pool our resources to make the educational experience better rather than the alternative.
3. Student reports having gotten not very encouraging and sometimes comedy responses when asked questions or in doubt. Also there may have been preferential treatment of some students.
4. Study skills class was not fruitful as described

5. Not tutoring but there are some things that don't seem to be taught anymore that we believe are important to just know. Cursive and memorizing times tables for example.
6. This was in the third grade at the Ray School.
7. Our student does not need supplementary education due to difficulty with the material. However, the current course structure and sequencing do not fully align with the student's academic interests and goals in STEM. At our high school, the standard science sequence is Methods in 9th grade, Biology in 10th grade, Chemistry in 11th grade, and Physics in 12th grade. While many people view the Methods course as a useful general introduction to scientific thinking and lab skills, it may not be necessary for students who already have strong STEM preparation and interest. For these students, spending a full year on this course can delay access to core sciences such as physics and chemistry. In addition, Physics being offered only in 12th grade limits earlier exposure to a foundational subject that is important for students interested in engineering and technical fields, and it may also mean students do not have a physics grade available during the college application process. The school also offers only one computer science course, which is not sufficiently advanced or flexible for students seeking more rigorous or accelerated STEM coursework. As a result, supplementary educational opportunities have been helpful not for remediation, but to provide appropriate academic depth, pacing, and enrichment that better match the student's interests and long-term goals.
8. There is a large discrepancy in how fast teachers go through curriculum in any given subject. Some teachers go way too fast because they are teaching to the most intellectual people in the classroom. It would be nice if more time was put into the differentiated classroom.
9. My child and friends did a small group sessions with a local teacher in preparation for AP Bio exam. It was largely to help cover materials that the class wouldn't get to before the test and for review of previous materials. Otherwise, no other tutoring.
10. My child was extremely curious about advanced **** concepts as a younger child so we hired a Dartmouth students to answer his questions and mentor him weekly, as we lack that background
11. This only applied to math, but we get music lessons for fun
12. 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.
13. Making up for deficiencies left over from previous school
14. I wanted my student to get extra challenge and be completely comfortable with a tough subject.
15. speech **** still does privately
16. For the elementary school student: teacher is great, help was needed and students didn't meet the criteria to qualify for school help. For the 8th grader: the self paced math curriculum is just terrible.

17. RMS math has not been good. 8th grade better than 6/7, but still lacks live teaching. Everything else has been great.
18. We are not currently seeking additional tutoring or other private support, but we are considering it because this is an area where she has struggled and could benefit from a more solid foundation before it gets challenging.
19. We believe that RMS teachers are professionally capable of upping the academic ante with proper encouragement, structure and support. We encourage the redesign of the "Plus" curricular time... we do not see its academic value.
20. 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"?
21. The tutor just helped him navigate his challenging honors classes.
22. Assessment of what constitutes struggling academics needs to account for root causes not just band-aids for behavior
23. The school does such a great job that there is no need for outside services.
24. Math because student aspired to move up a level in math. English because student struggled keeping up and spelling I was concerned it could discourage long term interest and participation in class

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

1. Hanover Parks and Rec have been great athletic experiences for my kids.
2. I wish there was access to a school-sponsored ski/ride program!
3. Lots of sports, other instruments, art workshops, etc.
4. Lightning soccer year round
5. RMS track, Lightning soccer and Ford Sayre skiing.
6. Crew! Its terrific! Both Fall and Spring.
7. lightning soccer, private swim lessons, cross country and downhill skiing
8. HHS track and Ford Sayre skiing
9. Gymnastics, alpine and nordic skiing
10. They do not participate because of a brutally toxic environment. Truly disappointed.

11. Due to the lack of JV hockey last year our student lost interest in the sport
12. My **** grader is autistic and getting him to participate is really challenging. My **** **** graders have not shown any interest yet.
13. Karate
14. It's been a great experience through Hanover Rec. Very good coaches.
15. Thank you for starting the middle school sports teams, the social wellbeing aspect of the bigger school is why we **** **** **** **** **** **** ****. Sports are a huge part of that and HPR frankly isn't doing the job well enough.
16. Our girls **** **** **** **** **** **** **** 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 **** **** **** coaches for the kids
17. UVCC, Ford Sayre
18. The school sports is ok, but could be better organized. I know it is difficult to herd cats. I think it was better when the school didn't play in the sports area. I disagreed with that change, but like everything else in Hanover minority voices aren't heard.
19. Football
20. soccer when it was still Parks and Rec, track/field with RMS, Ford Sayre xc ski.
21. Son participated on the HHS football team and loved everything about it until he **** **** **** and realized it might be the end of his **** career.
22. I don't know if Norwich Baseball is private or part of Parks & Rec
23. Lightning soccer
24. **** Soccer + **** **** **** **** **** **** **** Ski **** ****
25. Gymnastics team at NLG
26. Thank you for offering middle school sports this year. I appreciate it as does my family. I understand that the **** **** is doing **** best and wants to use the app to communicate. I would like it though if **** can make an effort to foster community within the middle school athletics family. The app in my opinion can take away some of that and makes it seem like a more removed experience. In order for families to be invested, there needs to be more attention paid towards creating a sense of community. Maybe next year?
27. We have a sporty kid and supplement his rec play with a couple of travel teams. Wish we didn't have to!
28. 1. It is insane how much parents have to pay for sports. 2. Then after the initial payment then have to pay for uniforms. 3. then have to pay for fundraising. The town MUST support sports better. There is so much school support for some fields, but then no support for ski racing or ski jumping. no support for tennis courts. School needs to make it fair across all sports.
29. Our son's sports have not been included in the school (RMS) sponsored sports during his 8th-grade year.
30. Sports for one kid; theater for the other
31. We've considered school sports but there is so little information about them online. It would be nice if things like the practice commitment were posted earlier so that parents can get a sense of the commitment. For example, it wasn't clear to us that

track and field also involves 6th grade, since the other sports were 7th and 8th grade.

32. No after school athletics for kindergarten.
33. Transportation to practice would be helpful. Student has to travel by school bus then advance transit and then needs to walk a bit along Rt. 5 to get there.
34. Logistics are challenging, with multiple children, so do not do most games.
35. Ford Sayer xcskiing
36. Ford Sayre skiing and HHS track.
37. Unsatisfied with Parks & Rec athletic programs - disorganized and often too late in the season.
38. due to her energy and how taxing school is she too tired
39. Karate Practices
40. This week, she started a program but only after I had a change in my work schedule.
41. - Ford Sayre - HPR sports
42. 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
43. Would love to see more clubs like kickball and mountain biking for those that are not as interested in organized team sports
44. Ford Sayre cross country skiing; Lightning soccer; Storrs Pond tennis
45. Lightening Soccer
46. I'd love to see more non traditional sports/ fishing, pickle ball, hiking
47. Would love to see Ray take on more activities after school! PLEASE!
48. 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.
49. **** does fencing with Upper Valley Fencing
50. Given childs age (3) this is not a priority at this time
51. RMS track and field
52. Tennis at the RVC
53. HPR isn't very good (****) but there aren't many other options other than sport-specific ones (skiing, hockey, swimming)
54. Upper Valley **** and **** ****
55. HHS sports were tried Freshman year and it was too much time away for school and too many hours after school impacting homework time.
56. Mixed feelings about whether Ray and MCS should pursue school-based sports. At that age, I'd rather have interest clubs rather than competitions. That said, it's great that RMS and HHS provide transportation for their sports.
57. My **** was doing sports up until 8th grade and then **** said its too competitive and didn't want to continue into high school.
58. One thing that has always baffled me is the association of after-school sports being run in Hanover through the Parks and Rec Dept. There is no reason for this. Where I grew up, and in every school we compete against all sports are run through the school system and provide transportation to and from practice/games. The basic principal here is equity. Equity to ensure every child has the opportunity to

participate, not just those who can get a ride or who's parents can disrupt their afternoons and evenings to be a shuttle service. All school sports programs should be migrate to the schools AND they should be done by 5pm-6pm at the latest to ensure parents have the evening to have dinner with their kids, ensure they have adequate time to do homework and work on projects, and allow them to get to bed at a reasonable time for their growing bodies and get the extra sleep they require. Practices that "wrap up" at 7:30 are a joke. When's the kid supposed to go home and have dinner with his parents? When's he supposed to do his 2 hours of homework? This is completely unreasonable. If we need additional fields to ensure all teams have access to a field from 3-5pm then, lets build some fields or provide transport to AND from practice back to the schools. My honest opinion is that sports in Hanover, while great, are also a disaster in regards to organization and execution and are again detrimental to important time that was once reserved for the family.

59. there is not a great space for the kids to practice spring and fall sports in the winter
60. Lightning Soccer Club / Ford Sayre Nordic
61. She's in the Norwich Rec Afterschool program - to allow for a later pick up -- and more time with children her age.
62. soccer, mtn bkg, skiing, theater
63. The RMS sports program is a nice addition to everything. Some minor growing pains, though that's to be expected in the first year.
64. UVRF
65. HHS field hockey and club ice and field hockey teams
66. Hanover Heat basketball and rec/RMS soccer and basketball.
67. Karate twice a week
68. He rows in Hanover High School crew and in UVRF
69. Limited options of sports.
70. No, because generally not old enough
71. Hanover Rec's Cross Country Running, Ford Sayre Cross Country Skiing, RMS's Track and Field, also **** with Norwich Rec's **** program
72. It is too expensive.

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

1. Football practices were too many and too often, but coaching was exemplary, inspirational, and transformative.
2. not a lot of options
3. some confusion for 6th graders on Parks and Rec path versus school sports programs
4. last minute scheduling and transportation to baseball field is tough for non-drivers
5. Very satisfied overall, but I have some real concerns about **** coach **** and how he treats **** (verbally and through threatening individual emails). The school needs to query parents and **** and address these behaviors.
6. See above re:soccer Crew schedule was inflexible to accommodate regular schedule conflicts
7. Hard not to be an uber driver. I think the focus of the community on travel teams is a bit daunting; that kind of commitment for such young kids is wild and not clear it is good for them. Hanover is a bit of a pressure cooker for that reason and I'm not a fan of it.
8. How fortunate we are to have the crew program here.
9. I just wish after school sports can be from 3:30 to 5:30 with student students home at 6 o'clock to have dinner, shower and do homework
10. Not enough options
11. More options and coaches needed
12. My child is in 6th grade so I have not yet experienced middle school organized sports.
13. More after school activity options would be beneficial, especially if at school (eg. soccer).
14. 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).
15. It can be hard to get my student to all the activities since I have other children as well. The Parks and Recreation schedules are not consistent week to week and can change last minute, which makes it extra challenging.
16. Kids need better coaches
17. It would be much easier for the sports to be run through the school.

18. Football program and coaching is great; track, on the other hand, is a bit loose and undisciplined with varying oversight by coaches
19. Preference seems to be towards certain sports over others. Less popular sports get very little attention and field time
20. See comment about sports. If you're not an incredible athlete, there are not serious opportunities to be coached and participate. This is really disappointing as we all know the benefits of physical exercise, interacting with humans, and being on a team. HHS should look closely at the programs for JV for tennis and basketball and compare what is being offered for these student athletes. HHS is always looking to have the most competitive team and nothing else. They should be offering better opportunities.
21. It was a bit unorganized at first (she played girls' basketball) but I am hoping this is just growing pains getting the program launched.
22. My son is not super athletic and there are no options for kids who need guidance and training in basics (good running form, simple ways to build strength and stamina) rather than sports that end up being too challenging, competitive, and tiring. It would be nice to have a learn-at-your-own-pace option for kids who need more time and guidance.
23. It would be much easier for the sports to be run through the school. It is very challenging to get multiple kids to multiple locations at the same time.
24. It's been a great experience through Hanover Rec. Very good coaches.
25. It would be much easier for the town sports to be held at Ray after school.
26. I think the rigidity of 6 days a week of practice especially through school vacations takes away from family time. If the student misses practices for family gatherings, they are often punished and miss game time. I did notice more flexibility this year luckily.
27. The rec coaches have done a great job this year.
28. I am delighted that it exists at all. Perhaps basketball could have been a bit more supervised during training sessions to prevent certain violent behaviors from individuals in the **** team.
29. Some v satisfied. Others not at all.
30. Nordic has been fabulous throughout. **** coaching became toxic in **** 2023/4/5 and **** left the team. Coaching culture at odds with HHS ethos and values (especially academics) after **** 2023.
31. 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.
32. Some sports are terrific. Others really suffer from an overemphasis on competition over player growth and development which ironically undermines the competitiveness of the team.
33. Coach **** is an outstanding coach. He cares about the entire student, not just the **** player.
34. The extra cost of any extra curricula activities is difficult. The work asked of parents is not always possible for some parents. Pressure is intense.

35. The girls **** coach is exclusive and harsh. My child quit because of **** treatment of the **** girls (after playing **** for 10 years). There needs to be a change.
36. There are no offerings from the Ray School in after-school sports. He enjoys his time in KAST.
37. With the updated wifi rules, it is extremely difficult to navigate snow/rain changes to games and practices for children who do not have their own car.
38. Rec basketball is great. However, I wish that they would ensure that the kids have at least 2 practices per week. Many weeks the 3rd graders had 1 practice and 2 games, and that's tough when they are just starting out in a sport. I know that the goal is to limit to 3x per week total, but it's tough when they don't have enough practices (especially when the other teams they are playing in their games have practiced a lot).
39. The athletic department at HHS is well-organized, and inspires students. The facilities are incredible as well. Much better than anything I saw in high school or college. I think my son is much improved for his time in sports. It taught him about grit, personal responsibility, and the importance of community.
40. demeaning, exclusionary and sexist behavior
41. Girls JV soccer Track
42. See response to question 28 as it's applicable here.
43. The coaching and scheduling decisions this season have been disappointing. It is unfair to schedule games during school vacations and then penalize players for spending time with their families. Children should not have to choose between their team commitments and family holidays. A more reasonable solution would be to move the primary break to March by eliminating the February break or reducing the March Intensive to allow for one consolidated vacation period. A February break comes very early in the season, and a March vacation would better align with scheduling needs and reduce conflicts with games and tournaments. This adjustment would also allow for a longer and more consistent spring sports season. Overall, this seems like a practical and straightforward solution that would better support both the athletes and their families.
44. I wish there were more robust offerings within the sports, and a better-functioning athletic department.
45. Very satisfied with JV field hocked VERY unsatisfied with JV basketball. It was a disaster and made my kid hate the sport.
46. Would be great to have sports or intermurals right after school as a choice for students to explore different sports and also gain confidence and skills.
47. Both HHS Varsity Hockey and HHS Varsity Lax have been well managed and terrific growing opportunities.
48. Student athletics are such an important part of growing, learning, friendships. I cant imagine not being part of a sport.
49. I wish the track program were providing opportunities for the older students to push themselves a bit more. I think the **** **** **** is generally doing a great job! I wish there was more coordination with the **** **** **** ****.

50. Mixed: excellent experience in Winter track + spring track, less than ideal for varsity soccer
51. I believe it is our job as a community to provide opportunities for students to play where there is a demand for it. This includes at the JV level and if tradeoffs are required should balance across sports (i.e. not sure we need 4 soccer teams). It's not about whether they will eventually make varsity, it is about opportunity for positive athletic experiences to help keep kids active and healthy. I generally think the athletic department does a good job,
52. That fact that so many kids do intense private programs seriously affects the sports experience offered by parks and rec, which is disorganized and struggles to find coaches.
53. The town parks and recreation department could be better when it comes to last minute scheduling changes or communication, but I understand things come up. Also, the current **** ** is SO much much better than the last.
54. 6th graders are part of the middle school and parent taxes pay for middle school programs. 6th graders should be able to participate in all middle school sports.
55. We wish there were soccer options that aren't Lightning.
56. It would be good to have the students from Lyme be included in the middle school sports programs. They were included with HPR and will also join the community at HHS.
57. The coach last year wasn't great. Much improved this year.
58. **** coach is mean and unfair- does not inspire the best from **** players
59. HHS athletics perpetuates economic inequalities in our town and body-shames kids. We have a golf team for which you have to know how to play golf if you want to join — none of the schools teach golf, so only kids whose families have taught them can join. My kid was not given the opportunity to learn and we were told we should get private lessons and then try again. That's next level economic discrimination and the **** **** **** doesn't care (my perception is not helped by **** own investment in the program). My child regularly gets body-shamed by coaches. There have also been comments from the **** **** and teachers to my kid on which sport my child should play based on their body type.
60. After 4 years rowing crew, our **** was still relegated to JV.
61. My only complaint is that I really wish 3rd grade mountain biking and Root Rockers did not conflict on Wednesday afternoons!
62. Volunteer coaching can be really "hit or miss." Emphasis should be on skills, drills, play, fun and scrimmages, not on games that require travel to other towns.
63. I am not aware of any afterschool activities outside of private (or park and rec) options
64. My child either signed up through parks and recs or we did private **** ****, crew or volleyball. I can't think of a school sponsored sport although I know sports have just transitioned from parks and recs to school.
65. 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.

66. **** **** was too draconian about attendance.
67. The HPR soccer programs across multiple age groups have felt like organized chaos or the skills demonstrated were not on par with the age level of the children.
68. I wish there was a box to check "unsatisfied, but we know it is in the first year of afterschool sports". The tryouts - it was a blackbox, communication (too many different interfaces), and transportation (very long afternoons).
69. Baseball is not available until student is 9 years old...
70. Hanover High School should not have replaced its **** **** coach. The **** program has suffered as a result.
71. Clearer communication from the baseball coaches about practices. Very difficult to plan when you don't know what time practice starts and ends.
72. The only hard part is some of the games are so far away that the kids miss a lot of school and get home very late. I wish we could play teams in VT that were closer.
73. I am a bit disappointed in the athletics department's unwillingness to support a JV hockey program that was previously a part of Hanover Highschool Athletics.
74. This was a good first year of RMS managing sports but there is room to grow with quality coaches and communication.
75. satisfied with everything but HPR and the ****/**** who runs it
76. **** **** makes this so easy and wonderful.
77. Could be better about consistent days and times.
78. No question about non-sport, non-art activities. What about STEM?
79. Too late for us. I hope it helps other families at the middle school. Looking forward to the high school sport program next year!
80. We had a bullying issue occur at an HPR sport. I think they handled it as best they could, given the circumstances of the other child. Loose lips go a long way in Hanover.
81. I'm not happy with the JV hockey situation, the challenges of forming a team despite the student numbers and coaches support. Otherwise satisfied
82. Please see prior responses on weekend scheduling and response on organization of sports and practices. There are significant problems that are detrimental to our family.
83. ****_**** is very hard and uncaring with any kid other than **** favorites - can be very demeaning to girls.
84. At HHS some coaches have been in their positions far too long and do not respect or seem to care about students as people or even players but more about winning
85. Girls JV **** was fantastic - great coaches, great communication, great program. Girls JV **** was a terrible experience - coaches undervalued JV players, were not good at communicating with families about the schedule or expectations, and undermined players' confidence. PLEASE FIND NEW COACHES. The girls tried talking to the coaches and were yelled at. This was not a positive experience at all.
86. 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??

87. Athletic fields and surrounding areas not well maintained. Always garbage around. Hill next to turf field bleachers total eye sore. Quality of coaching very variable. Don't feel like areas for improvement or other concerns are addressed by the ****
****.
88. Kid seems to be enjoying RMS sports, but communication with the parents could be much better. There's minimal feedback from coaches and inconsistent notifications about schedule changes, but the actual practices and games appear to be going well.
89. I was disappointed by the lack of any contact by basketball coach after our ****
**** **** **** **** **** **** ****. This was a coaching fail.
90. Middle school baseball is tough because it is not run by RMS, not bussing to away games, and no fields at the school.
91. Our daughter's participation on the JV-**** team was disappointing. The coaches seemed to me more concerned with a helping varsity, where there was a better chance of winning, than working with the JV team.
92. This was a transition year for MS sports. There are some kinks to be worked out, but it was overall a positive experience. Having the buses for transportation was very helpful for our family.
93. The activities he would be interested in weren't offered
94. These afterschool athletic activities has built our child's confidence in making new friends, pushing themselves, and learning to be a part of team.
95. My child is on crew. I wish they had the opportunity to train together year round. The schools that have really successful teams train together year round.
96. Athletics and athletes do not seem to be supported well, and there seems to be an inequity in boys sports (prime times on turf, under lights etc)
97. Her field hockey experience was amazing- awesome environment and the coaches were great. Her basketball experience was horrible. Coaching lacked communication and would frequently cancel practice minutes before it began/show up very late- the girls were very upset with how the season went.
98. **** ****/**** **** plays favorites and doesn't correct poor sportsmanship/behavior
99. What HPR offers is not adequate and I believe the schools should play more of a role in providing opportunities for sports AND the arts (singing opportunities especially lacking now that there isn't chorus at Ray)
100. Rec sports are challenging because the children interested in more rigorous experience do a club sport. There should be more cooperation between the two.
101. 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

1. We signed the agreement for the school play without access to the rehearsal schedule or knowing how demanding it would be. This seems way too intense for a middle school play.
2. Tried last year. Too much bullying and pushing of LGBTQ ideas and crap on phones. Take the phones. Ruined it for my child.
3. Upper Valley music program in Lebanon
4. Footlighters is incredible! We are so grateful for this group and **** amazing effort!
5. play has been great
6. We are very thankful for Ray's Strings program.
7. I wish club participation was forced for the first part of the year (or something applicable)
8. UVMC
9. HHS appears to have a divide between the athletes and the performing artists.
10. School orchestra and UVMC.
11. Dance
12. private piano lessons
13. I had hoped MCS would offer orchestra **** **** **** **** **** **** 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.
14. music lessons with a teacher, small group recitals every few months.
15. 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
16. Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Piano
17. We wish there were more affordable options for young students to do art & music after school.
18. We are not able to afford singing lessons or music lessons

19. We send our 4th grader to the New England School of the Arts for their various camps and they provide very robust performing arts and visual arts instruction and programming.
20. Would love to see info on school based group options for plays, theater, art, sewing, Legos. We do what we can through Rec, private and at Howe, but thru school could be good.
21. school play, school chorus, private music lessons
22. We would love more arts and music options, but cannot coordinate transportation.
23. Our **** takes private music lessons, and performs privately and with a band.
24. We would love to see programs of this sort at school
25. It's a nice idea but my child is too busy with athletics afterschool. Also, some things are cost prohibitive.
26. My kids love the plays. What we do not love is that the school prioritizes plays and performances and success of art and drama but never for athletics. The kids work incredibly hard at sports and the **** never sends a shout out on **** weekly letters. There are no school or town celebrations when kids win states or do well even after states. There is nothing from the school, town or local paper. It would be nice for these athletes to be celebrated. Also- we have to pay for drama performances yet not athletic ones. Again- does not seem equitable.
27. Choir - and he really likes it! ****. **** is awesome!
28. Also, would be wonderful to have the opportunity to explore theater at Ray whether during the day or as an afterschool option
29. My child takes piano lessons outside of school.
30. It would be doable but challenging to do other outside activities with the logistics of two full-time working parents with flexible schedules to some extent though there are limits. Also, some private organizations have extra-curricular activities that seem very expensive.
31. Not applicable for kindergarten.
32. school band?
33. Sports take all the available time
34. She has absolutely loved band. Thank you!
35. Music, UVMC
36. Participated previously but schedule became challenging
37. School orchestra and strings at UVMC.
38. She did chorus through the school. I wanted her to get involved with theater, but she did not feel like she fit in with this circle.
39. We'd like more arts & music options that are not private.
40. don't know of any
41. She has interest in these but we can't afford them so we only do one here and there.
42. My **** participated in jazz band previously, but it was too much of a commitment combined with private music lessons.
43. Theater
44. We are enrolled at the Lebanon Ballet School.
45. **** band

46. Would do more if practice for performances didn't cross seasons.
47. My student loves the theatre opportunities but this year was frustrated that her time was not valued. She was called to rehearsal almost every time but did not actually need to be there for some of it.
48. We couldn't keep up with music outside of school, I wish it was in school
49. 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.
50. Chorus
51. Private piano lessons
52. They did not have time in their schedules to do studio art and performing art.
53. 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.
54. I think my child will eventually, once the Ray music stuff begins in 4th grade.
55. She used to do a great deal of music work but does not do so any longer.
56. Piano recitals
57. It was so great when ****. **** did the school play!! After school arts activities would be amazing since the rec dept is so sports focused.
58. **** **** 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 **** **** **** **** **** **** **** ****!! **** **** **** (**** ****)
59. Music through the RMS programs, but nothing outside of that. There's some interest there, but sports and other activities tend to win out.
60. For grade 9, there are only 2 electives possible - including World Language. So my student had to choose between Art and Music for classwork. We are compensating for the lack of opportunity in school, by finding time outside of school.
61. Upper Valley Music Center suzuki program
62. Too hard to do athletics and music/play.
63. He has enjoyed the RMS theater department, especially the tech opportunities. Strings was not a success due to inconsistent instructors. I would love to see the strings program strengthened.
64. Weekly lessons at Upper Valley Music Center
65. 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 ...
66. No, age. She loved the holiday concert and we're excited for her to do more as it becomes available for her age group
67. Our child does RMS band and theater (in the Oz production) and takes piano lessons with a private instructor.
68. By this age, we had to decide between sports and music lessons. Our daughter chose sports.

- 69. We thought he should try theater. But schedule wasn't compatible with current commitments and he wasn't super interested
- 70. Wish there were more options perhaps thru school
- 71. Just a little, the schedules and prices are challenging
- 72. Dance twice per week at The Dance Collective
- 73. Private Voice Lessons

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

1. We have been very satisfied with the music program but unsatisfied with the drama program.
2. So great to be involved in the school play- would be great to have more opportunities for acting, more skits/shorter plays, so more kids can practice being involved? My student was very concerned about competing with their classmates for the lead and it discouraged them from auditioning.
3. theater electives have opened up my kid to positive, new experiences
4. The performances have been incredible, but the scheduling for the Middle School play has been a real challenge. Having rehearsals cut across Monday, Tuesday and Thursday has prevented my student from participating in afterschool programs that operate on a M/W/F schedule, as well as those that operate on a T/Th schedule. Also, having the performances overlap with Memorial Day weekend has meant that our family can't travel, and that other families that are traveling can only attend on Thursday evening.
5. We are very thankful for Ray's Strings program. We haven't experienced the band program but we are thankful for it's existence as well.
6. More would be great and more After school plays etc would be great.
7. Wish there were more in school opportunities instead of early AM or after school.
8. Do they have performing arts? I didn't think there was theater or plays at MCS.
9. We have been very satisfied with our music teacher, but she is not related to the school in any way.
10. I am very happy that the 5th grade teachers facilitated talent shows, the **** ** had musical share days, and that there will be a strings concert, but I think there should be more chorus and theater opportunities. There should be assemblies where each grade can sing songs. There should also be grade-level or school-wide plays.

11. There are no performing opportunities at the school. I think it is important to provide these activities at school so they can try them out and see if they like them. It also gives them a chance to work on skills like public speaking.
12. A real oversight in the area is lack of school-sponsored or town-sponsored activities for kids who aren't athletic. Until 4th grade instruments, there seems to be very little opportunity for those kids who aren't hardcore into sports.
13. If there were more opportunities for our young students to participate in performance arts, we would more than likely participate.
14. There are no performing opportunities at the school in Kindergarten. There should be.
15. We send our 4th grader to the New England School of the Arts for their various camps and they provide very robust performing arts and visual arts instruction and programming.
16. There are no performing opportunities at the school in Kindergarten. There should be.
17. We wish there were more opportunities for the plays and such through school
18. What performing arts at Ray?
19. **** **** is a gem! ****. **** too!
20. I wish he was more interested!
21. It's fantastic that the elementary school offers strings and band instruction. Thank you!
22. opportunities to get involved with a school play or other drama options would be great
23. Is this a thing at RMS? I didn't know.
24. I would like the ray school to have a play/performance or musical that the kids could be part of
25. Theater program is AMAZING. Thank you.
26. Again, having that availability to try theater in different ways at Ray would be an incredible asset to the students
27. lots of growth and progress in the choral program! Great job ****!
28. We all enjoy going to the performances
29. I would love to see theater and dance as electives at HHS
30. Scheduling conflicts with sports make after-school arts programming, like play rehearsal, really tricky!
31. I don't think my child has exposure to performing arts activities. If we had some that would be enjoyable.
32. 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.
33. Why do you want to know about my child's afterschool activities? It'd be helpful to know what these questions are used for so I can give you more informed responses.
34. Wish he had more exposure and opportunity.
35. I think all children should be required to try theater in some way. That way, it is not up to the child to figure out if they will have friends in the group before signing up.

This is the challenge at this age group. They don't sign up because they think they will not know anyone.

36. More town or school sponsored and local music or art programs would be terrific at the elementary school ages.
37. I would love that students can performing a diverse kind of art for parents at school
38. She will have more opportunities to deep dive into this at Richmond.
39. need more funding for theater and arts in my opinion. HHS feels like it supports a "jock" culture too much. Also, uneven budget priorities for sports. Skiing, esp. nordic skiing gets underfunded in my opinion, e.g. transportation.
40. My kid loves theater but it requires a serious time commitment that excludes **** from participating in other activities. While it has been a challenge to balance academics with theater, my kid has thrived in the environment until very recently. Today is opening night for the musical and my kid is exhausted because the **** has been keeping them until almost 11 pm every night this week as well as all day last Saturday and until 7-8 pm every night last week. **** is behind on ALL **** homework and petrified of what could happen to **** grades. **** is SO upset, I worry the stress will prevent **** from being able to do **** **** for the performances over the next 4 days. They don't finish until 11 pm tonight and yet still have to attend school tomorrow and also perform tomorrow night. I realize Footlighters is not part of HHS but there should be an agreement in place that prevents a **** from imposing these requirements on students.
41. It was good to try it out, but we won't be continuing with that particular institution.
42. Clubs/Groups don't get "equal" support, not financially or with advisors.
43. For the performing arts there needs to be more of a balance that the kids are students first. I know theatre gets stressful toward production time, but the kids need some boundaries so they can do school work and rest adequately. In my ideal world rehearsals would end by 9pm even the week before the show.
44. In **** we had so many more lessons and group opportunities
45. Would love to see Ray have an elementary theatre program! PLEASE!
46. I am not as happy or satisfied with the music department since **** **** departure.
47. in-school options for arts activities seemed wonderful, and my child loves art and music, but because my child was struggling with academics, they needed extra study halls, which meant removing arts electives from their schedule.
48. The district's music teachers seem to be excellent. Why do elementary students no longer have chorus or sing-alongs?
49. We are lucky to have a lot of local musicians teaching. Arts for the older kids is a little trickier since Craftstudies and Artistree classess start at 3:30 which is hard to get kids to after school.
50. We are happy with the robust music program, but it is a shame that Jazz is only offered in combination with other courses (1 day out of 3 within another music class)
51. The Ray school doesn't seem to provide any opportunities for performing arts. The recent family dance night was a nice community event, but not really the same as a performane. In my experience, elementary schools usually host some type of

musical performance/concert for students and families. This would be a nice way for parents to see more of what kids learn during music class. Another idea I've seen is an "art show" night where students select art works they've made during the year and present them in the halls of the school.

52. We feel that the music/performing arts activities at HHS are very good.
53. The options are appropriate for the size and budget of the school.
54. I wish that younger kids were given more performance and musical opportunities.
55. Art at Ray School with ****. **** is amazing.
56. It would be great to provide more of this kind of activities
57. I am disappointed my child cannot participate in sports and theater in HS but pleased that he can do music through chorus and a capella alongside sports
58. So many life skills are learned through performing arts. I wish more singing, acting, technical skills, and the opportunities are lacking until students get to middle school and beyond.

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

1. Very expensive privately. A real barrier.
2. psychiatrist, but not through the school
3. **** had difficulty several years ago with situational depression but has recovered after receiving counseling and medical support.
4. Stigma of in school counseling hard to overcome
5. My **** has a 504 plan and sees an outside doctor to support **** in managing his ****.
6. Our third grader who is **** also suffers from anxiety and **** sees a therapist to help **** deal with **** fears.
7. My child works with a psychologist as needed.
8. Other kids do.
9. ADD
10. **** counseling
11. I can tell the level of academic stress is increasing, but not to the level of intervention.
12. very challenging to figure out
13. No, but it would be nice if the school did more for the kids. Small group meetings. One on one.
14. used in another school district
15. too personal?

16. Outside of school
17. **** has a group lunch once a week with ****. ****, I believe to help with ****. He receives **** medication that is administered at home and at school.
18. Divorce in ****. Otherwise, no.
19. **** **** (spelling?) is great!
20. **** sees a therapist to manage stress levels.
21. 504 accommodations for ADHD
22. IEP
23. Counseling/therapy sessions
24. for anxiety
25. **** **** **** see social worker for **** **** anxiety
26. Had a meeting with school counselor but my student was not offered support at school.
27. **** 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.
28. Saw **** a few times - she's great
29. 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.
30. 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
31. trying to get into more OT and speech therapy for executive functioning
32. Why is it that with so much therapy people are more depressed and anxious than ever
33. **** **** was awesome providing short term intervention for anxiety. Thanks to **** **** for naming the issue and making the suggestion this set us up for a completely different school year
34. 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.
35. I assume you misspelled "through"
36. I have pushed for this support for years for my children and finally after two years on a waitlist for outside mental health support (even with a PCP referral) I now pay out of pocket to get the support my children need with **** and **** diagnosis. What happens in the schools is not enough to support those students and the school doesn't seem willing to provide the supports of the **** **** or behavior support program. I believe all children should have access and a plan for those supports so it's not so taboo and so children can speak openly and honestly about what they

truly need to be successful in the high pressure academic setting of the Hanover schools.

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 answers

1. Telegram
2. What about Truth Social?
3. we do have a landline phone they can use
4. My student uses text messaging through his tablet
5. Our kids access YouTube at home.
6. Youtube
7. Those left blank are unknown
8. We also have a landline phone for calling friends
9. YouTube channel (with parent oversight)
10. can we plz stop calling X "X (formerly Twitter)" that happened YEARS ago
11. Primary platform is YouTube
12. Maybe some gaming platforms
13. She uses FaceTime to speak with her friends and relatives.
14. location/time only watch
15. Are you seriously asking if they use a "computer"?
16. Roblox
17. SportsYou required for HHS Crew team, Spond required for club team
18. lots of apps required for sports- snack, hudl,
19. Roblox - age appropriate settings and use in family room around us

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

1. Sad. Had to get a smartphone in May since they need it for 8th grade trip
2. I'm very unhappy about no internet rule
3. Young people should be kept far away from technology at this stage of brain development.
4. Yikes, no way. I have read Dopemine Kids and The Anxious Generation.
5. We have a family computer and tablet they can use with supervision occasionally.
6. Social media addiction was a challenge several times. She recognized it was a problem and weaned herself off it.

7. Very occasional tablet use, less than 2 hours per month and no more than 30 min in a single sitting.
8. Our 8th grader received a "dumb" iPhone prior to starting **** grade. Prior to this **** had a "dumb" Apple watch. We regulate and monitor **** apps. **** does not have social media apps/accounts. WhatsApp is used for sports team purpose (Hanover **** ****). The primary use of **** phone is communication with friends and family and Kindle/Audible. **** usage is tracked and we set expectations for use and daily time limits.
9. Elementary school kids have no need for almost everything listed above, except perhaps a dumb phone.
10. He uses a kindle fire for entertainment in the car when we are on long road trips. Very little if any use at home.
11. No devices in our house until at least high school. Can we keep them off social media forever??
12. My student has a Gizmo watch that can make phone calls. She uses it when she has after school activities so she can call us if necessary.
13. Our children do not have any individualized technology.
14. We do not allow her to use social media and she is fine with that. She has a phone to call & text and to play a limited number of game that we vet & pre-approve.
15. He only uses Discord for Quizbowl competitions.
16. Often needed social media to communicate for sports activities
17. I discourage social media and think it's a disaster for kids.
18. 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.
19. No social media or phone or smart watch. Pretty old school here. Corded home phone and access to a laptop for school work.
20. The should should have a policy against social media under a certain age and ban personal devices in the school building.
21. Everything listed above is garbage and a complete distraction.
22. We don't allow social media, given the evidence-based research on the harm of social media. I am supportive of anything the schools can do to limit device use and social media use.
23. My child doesn't use social media and unapproved apps because of potential for bullying and other crappy stuff.
24. don't know about Threads, Discord, Signal
25. He uses a chromebook at school and a laptop/ipad at home.
26. Just learned about the Snapchat... not thrilled about it and monitoring closely!
27. Smart watch used for medical monitoring only
28. Computer at school and one at home, but only for academic work.
29. In 1st grade - doesn't have any of that stuff.
30. We are in favor of any and all limitations on access to these technologies and apps that the school can provide.
31. Our son has a 30-minute daily screen time limit for his tablet or Nintendo.

32. YouTube channel and video games seem to be of the greatest interest for our **** grader and **** friends. We ultimately set up a YouTube channel with **** to test (posts some athletic content, gaming content, meme) as an experiment. Good basis for conversation about social media. Interest has fizzled.
33. I am not sure of what social media my son accesses beyond what I've indicated above.
34. Please provide non- iPad or computer options for all assessments and curriculum.
35. Social media and screens are damaging for the mental health of adolescents. We support strict bans, and screen and computers should be phased out of the school except for specific technology education. Math taught on screens in 7th grade is terrible for learning
36. We have had a very difficult time regulating phone use. Sometimes he uses it creatively, but mostly to socialize and it can be extremely distracting and cause lack of attention to responsibilities.
37. Can access some of these occasionally from parents phone
38. We monitor and provide 15 min or less of social media use. Most is used to connect with sports teams for school. 😞
39. These create attention issues and other distractions for students
40. I don't like that my son has a phone/watch (parenting difference). Anything school could do to discourage that kind of technology use, or educate families about the negative impact of devices, would be great, in my opinion.
41. I wish snapchat and instagram weren't so popular among this group. I also wish the school more actively discouraged its use for sports teams another other school related groups/activities.
42. I firmly believe in no phones in schools and no social media for kids.
43. We are holding off on giving them a cell phone until high school.
44. We encourage the school district to ban cell phones at school entirely - from the moment students arrive to the moment they leave.
45. My child lives in a world where technology is used to communicate. The distinction is this survey between, say, Snapchat and discord is odd. It frankly shows a level of discomfort and confusion about tech that does not make me believe you can create a coherent policy.
46. My child enjoys Sora through the Ray library technology, but that's it. Video games, too, but no social media or interactive stuff besides in-person games with their friends.
47. A fierce supporter of delaying the start of any tech devices. There is so much research on the negative impacts and having community-wide buy in to keeping our schools device free is essential.
48. One of my major concerns with HHS's computer policy is that they have single handedly overridden our parental right to restrict access to scientifically proven detrimental social media sites. These site use algorithms as we all know to manipulate our biology to gain engagement. Children with not fully formed frontal lobes are exceptionally susceptible to these manipulations. And yet, here we are in 2026 with HHS giving my child a device where he can have unfettered access to any

social media site he wants regardless of my wife and my concerns. I believe the response I received when I asked the **** ** was something along the lines of, "well the kids have a say in this and they voted for it." Would we also let them vote to smoke cigs on campus too if they voted for it??? Of course not. HHS doesnt allow them to visit pornographic sites because there are known dangers/issues to their development and frankly I do not understand the incentive on giving them access to harmful manipulative sites so they can learn to regulate their use when they are scientifically biologically incapable of regulating that use. Laptops should be for education uses period end of story. Really they shouldn't be allowed off campus but could see how that would be non equitable for students who might no be able to afford them.

49. Computer only for school projects and Tablet only for listening to music.
50. 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.
51. We regulate use, but my oldest has the above noted devices either for creative/recreational use or school work.
52. Computer and smart phone are recent additions, prompted more by repeated problems with logistics, school work, and timing, no philosophical debating. Kid is using them more as tools than crutches, knows the importance of avoiding social media and direct interaction.
53. WhatsApp is used to communicate with her club teams. Snap Chat is used to communicate with her HHS team and for social purposes.
54. I am not sure which social media platforms he is on, I know he is on a couple.
55. Tablet for videos and games, but no social media. They do not have this tablet in school - only supervised at home.
56. We have a family computer and tablet that he uses for homework, some youtube. Enjoys games at school library
57. Why does this matter?

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

1. My child does not have a smart device. I agree that the less technology the better.
2. I'm ok with it, but it is very hard to contact my student when practices are not planned well or changed.
3. Kids got around it this past year by knowing the wifi password. This has now changed
4. Our kids don't have smart devices and we want to avoid them for as long as possible.
5. I appreciate they aren't in phones during the day but it is very hard to coordinate after school with no service or wifi
6. The school and teachers need to do a better job enforcing it.
7. But has caused an increase in anxiety
8. But I do appreciate designated times and spaces not being allowed to use it
9. 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.
10. Both A and C.
11. I'm neutral about it. Not good, not bad.
12. my 7th grader doesn't have a phone, so I can't see the impact. My 9th/11th graders, it's difficult to coordinate sports with no connection. It should be turned on after school, I'm not sure the HS turns it back on.
13. I'm child's too young so this isnt applicable to us but I'm very much in support of removing these devices
14. Now students leave campus more because they can. Not good.

15. It's difficult in that we've become accustomed to being able to be in constant contact... it will take time to adjust.
16. Doesn't own a smart device
17. never carry any device to school. Only school provided
18. I love less technology but I also need to be able to get in touch with my kids.
19. Positive effect on family due to our older children but not relevant to our kindergartener
20. I didn't know this, and my son's using his smart watch for contact. He is a (generally) good kid, so I believe it is off during the school day.
21. Yes, and I love it, but they have found a way around it, downloading the apps on the computer. The school should do something to control this.
22. 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.
23. Our first year and not really applicable to pre-K but I am very supportive
24. I love the idea of phone free, but understand from my child that it isn't actually enforced consistently. I wish it was.
25. I agree with it but it makes it very difficult to get an important message to her when needed. Calling the school and asking them to relay a message only works half the time in my experience.
26. no change in elementary school
27. I don't dislike it, but it does make communicating with my child more challenging. I don't observe that the limit on use at school has been helpful (nor harmful) to my particular child
28. I'm neutral. (It does impact some of our day-to-day, but we work around it.)
29. He just got a new phone
30. I like it for all the students in general, however my child never abused it, and it is extremely difficult to communicate with my child during the day
31. Since my daughter is in preschool this hasn't come up yet but I'm 100% in support of this.
32. Not relevant for our child's age
33. n/a - kindergarten student
34. Not applicable for elementary?
35. My student is too young for me to have noticed a difference, but I am so glad that devices are banned during the day
36. Doesn't apply to my student.
37. this is the first year our student has had a phone so we don't have a comparison
38. Generally, it's fine. But during the lockdown it was vital that my child had access to their phone. I was relieved when we were able to communicate.
39. Huge change for HS student, no impact for 2nd grade. Technical response for this student is "haven't noticed a change" but that reads like the law wasn't hugely positive which it was
40. no network in Hanover, no difference, very unsafe

41. no network in Hanover anyway, makes no difference - very unsafe

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

1. The policy is implemented very inconsistently, contact is nearly impossible, and Chromebooks don't allow consistent submission of assignments.
2. But my student says that children still use them in school and also they play games during math. All of that is distracting to my student
3. It would be very interesting to hear from teachers/admin what they notice impacts have been on school culture since that rule went into effect.
4. There should be no phones in School!
5. I do like the smart devices ban; we restrict such things due to the negative impacts, particularly on middle school brains.
6. Please be careful with your survey design in the future. I love the bell to bell ban but because the less technology the better (the reason stated above). I love it because I think the ban helps to limit unhealthy distractions in the school especially since individuals may not be able to restrain themselves otherwise.
7. student doesn't know until 3pm after-hours wifi is on what his pick-up plan for the day is (some of this has to do with coach being less organized.)
8. 100% this is the right call. I hope it does not change.
9. A ubiquitous policy like this is essential. I don't want other kids being on phones during school impacting my child's experience or setting social expectations.
10. Great move in my opinion.
11. Some teachers allow it although most do not. But given some teachers do or ignore the use it makes it challenging for students to have consistent rules. This applies to both phones and other personal devices.
12. My child is young so we largely do not have to navigate the "smart device" challenges yet
13. HHS zone has no cell service and it makes pickup incredibly challenging after school
14. Excessive use of technology and AI are taking away students creative abilities and independent critical thinking.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. I strongly support the ban on individual smart devices in schools.
19. I strongly support banning individual smart devices in schools.
20. Smart watches should be allowed. Texting between classes should be allowed.
21. I strongly support banning individual smart devices in schools.

22. I get the impression that it's not policed too heavily in schools. My own son has been able to wear his smartwatch during school time. He doesn't tend to use his smartwatch disruptively, so I think teachers in general approve of this behavior, but he definitely hasn't been asked to remove his watch to put in his bag. I am actually ok with this current standard for my son, though I do wonder if more disruptive kids with smartphones are being differently policed.
23. I highly support that
24. I would like the opportunity to contact them during the day. I understand the law and the purpose, but the limited contact is difficult - not impossible - but difficult when coordinating after school options for a younger sibling not at HHS.
25. Before the policy change, my student didn't bring the phone to school anyway, so there is no change.
26. My kids come home every day and ask the question why teachers are always on their cell phones in school, while the kids have to adhere to the policy. While I understand that teachers need to use their phones at time, the roll out and oversight of the policy has not been all that great. I think if you are asking the students to keep their phones away, the teachers should model the same behaviors.
27. Haven't noticed anything change however mines still young but I can see how it could be a problem for middle and high school student families.
28. I have noticed a change with the "no cell phone" law, but it's not either good or bad. I find it harder communicate with my child, especially around time-sensitive coordination when there's a change in plans. Minor inconvenience, but we find our way to work around it.
29. I hate that I can't reach my child before and after school because of low signal.
30. I think less devices = more learning and healthier minds
31. Same as answer above- very hard in regards to sport changes
32. We don't notice this ourselves, because my 3rd grader doesn't have a phone - but I am SO supportive of this policy and SO hopeful that it will still in effect when he is in high school. This helps ensure that students who either don't have phones or aren't allowed to use them in that way (and are actually listening to their parents on this) are not "left out" socially, and that our students actually learn to socialize face to face.
33. I love the policy, but my child is too young for it to make an impact yet.
34. child still texts me during the day so not entirely free of smart devices, which is appropriate I think. It also makes me pause before texting my student so I don't interrupt her, which is excellent
35. I do find it challenging to get in touch with my kid at pick-up time, especially for extracurriculars, with no cell service in the area whatsoever.
36. The most common sentiment for why students should have phones in school for safety is incase of some "event". Statistically, cars crashes are far more likely, and yet we take kids out of school to get their license. If we truly cared about their safety we would not let them drive. Having a phone for safety is ridiculous. no phones.

37. I have noticed that teachers have been inconsistent in their application of this policy.
38. It's made schedule changes more challenging, but the front office has been great. My child somehow seems to work around the law it to contact me every now and then. Not sure how or why -- it seems teacher enforcement may not be even or equal. I like that students are spending more time together and I think my child's friendships are a bit stronger this year with more real face-time in school. yay!
39. Having access to phones in the office is helpful. More clarity on how to get messages to kids would be helpful.
40. I wish the law was enforced at school. I have heard that students have access to their devices during the day which is against the law. Currently there are no consequences for using their device between or during classes at RMS.
41. I would like my child to learn self restraint and how to manage devices. I can see their activity during the day and know that they were doing a good job before the change. They are actually just learning to be sneaky, which, I very much dislike.
42. I believe it encourages kids to leave campus more during the day (to obtain service), which I don't think is ideal
43. In my opinion, it is disruptive to our family life for our high schooler to NOT be able to use a cell phone in between classes or at lunch.
44. Get electronics out of schools!!! And you have to do something about AI — it's a scourge
45. My child is a freshman so I have nothing to compare it to. I have heard that students are using their phones in the bathroom to cheat which is unacceptable.
46. Our son is too young for this to show up much at school. Glad for the policy though.
47. Please help create low-tech social norms to the extent you can.
48. Please remove all personal screens in elementary and be very thoughtful about introducing them in middle. Do we have an AI policy? Really important to teach how to be careful with AI and also utilize its strengths.
49. I love it in school. Not sure I've noticed any change in device usage outside of school.
50. We have not noticed a change - yet - but feel that this is a good and necessary new policy.
51. Fully support phone bans. Watches should be included
52. I wish the school would not use technology as much. For example having a math class where all students are wearing headphones and learning their individual lessons is a bit hypocritical and goes against the finding from the authors of the anxious generation.
53. My kid is a rule follower. It is not an issue at all.
54. **** doesn't bring devices to school
55. The only drawback is that it is harder to coordinate plans or quickly provide info during the day. But that's not a huge inconvenience. Overall, we adjust as needed.
56. I support this - however last-minute changes or other information communicated through SportsYou to students by coaches does not then get received as quickly as possible. Practice timing or other details that my student would want to know in

advance, she does not find out about until she is able to access wifi again with her phone. I hope that coaches are aware of this barrier to communication during school hours and adjust for it - or perhaps the athletic department has additional ideas to make this more seamless for student-athletes. Thanks!

57. Studies have shown that students do not learn from technology, but more from interaction with teachers and peers. I think it is great that they do not have the distraction of smart devices and would love to see more material return to pen and paper, although acknowledging that there is a lot of learning that needs to happen with technology and the evolution of AI/.
58. Students leave to use phones is what we hear. Kids still use but much less so at least. It was really bad before. My kids complained.
59. Generally, the only thing I don't like is that we can't connect without kids until after school is out. It doesn't seem to impact them negatively though.
60. I think it's great the bell to bell
61. With no internet or contact at school it would be very helpful to hear from coaches when practices or games have been changed or cancelled as our students can't contact us.
62. Please review this article: <https://ssir.org/articles/entry/era-of-relational-intelligence>
63. I appreciate that students are not to use their phones during school hours and now there is wifi available after school hours to communicate with students.
64. I think the no cell phone during the day policy is terrific! Thank you for having the courage to do it! I would say, though that it would be better if the phones were just put away in students' homerooms and retrieved at the end of the day. One of ****
**** **** goes to a high school that does it that way and it works so much better because the kids aren't thinking about them all the time. The kids describe the sense of freedom and it just isn't an issue until the end of the day. When I hear the kids at Hanover talk about it, there's still a lot of confusion about when you can use it and when you can't and it seems like it weighs on the kids' minds because they still have them with them all the time. Please take it out of the kids' hands and just have them leave them in homeroom for the whole day! It will be so much better for everyone, kids, teachers, and administrators!
65. No devices for the child, so no direct changes. We're all for it, though!
66. Early in the year we learned that the students figure out the Wifi Password for the network and gained access again on their devices. Hopefully the school has a rotating password system.
67. I wish teachers would not use AI to grade papers.
68. We support phone bans in school.
69. 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:)
70. I like the changes, but haven't noticed a direct change to my family's behavior. We're too aligned already to what the laws seem to intend.

71. Still in kindergarten, but we support bell-to-bell policies.
72. It is not, the less technology the better. During the school day, the students should be focused on technology as subject and just consuming it.
73. I'm very pleased with this policy and my **** says students are much more focused and engaged than in **** **** ****, which had no such policy.
74. My child is one of the few who still does not have a phone. It has been less of an issue this year when **** peers are not pulling out their phones in class for social or (supposedly) academic reasons, such as taking videos of science experiments. I am very grateful for this new law and think it helps create the norm that students are present and off technology when at school
75. Seems mostly not applicable in first grade, but strongly support keeping devices out of school entirely.
76. I would like the kids to have the option to have and turn on their phones in the case of an emergency (e.g. lock-down)
77. I haven't seen much change at home, and surprisingly, I haven't heard any complaining at home. I think the kids honestly like the break - no FOMO if everyone's off the **** things...
78. Student hates it, parents love it.
79. My younger child calls from the office if they need to be reached during the day. I could use clarification on how to get a message to my child. I don't need to often, but it has been hit or miss.
80. Our child does not have a phone and does not have access to social media. So, we have not noticed a change. However, we do believe that the ban is positive for school climate in general.
81. My child has a very dumb smart watch that allows us to track location and communicate with ****. No internet access, but without wifi we can't communicate with **** at school after school hours
82. If you don't pay my bill you shouldn't have a say. With the shooting threat that just happened we were strictly relying on the school to inform us what was going on but not how our children are. This is a horrible policy and causes a lot of anxiety and unnecessary duress in those moments!
83. 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.
84. "I love it" but not because less technology, the better. It's more like, the less addictive technology the better. The more students can look up and see peers engaging with each other and the material the better. The bell to bell law supports joint attention and is a great culture shift. Thank you for your work to implement this.
85. I don't feel "the less tech the better" but do think getting phones away bell to bell has had a huge benefit. My child didn't get a phone until after the ban but he still benefitted
86. 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.

87. 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

1. If phones are not allowed, they should be locked in individual lock boxes. Teachers are wildly inconsistent in their handling of this rule, and students all pay that price. That said, it seems unfair to put that responsibility on teachers. The district should seriously consider purchasing Yondr boxes if we want to make this policy work.
2. Esp with the looming AI future kids need to be versed in tech and wary/finding other alternatives to it- and be taught to think critically about the roles these technologies play in our lives.
3. Although we are very deliberate about limiting screen time at home, I do think we need a systematic change in educational environments, particularly in the K-8 setting, but also in grades 9-12. We know that reading comprehension is affected by the delivery medium, and that we learn best from human interaction.
4. I don't love that math class is taught by videos. It is very difficult to go back later to review concepts.
5. I think the Ray School, maybe even the entire SAU70, needs a policy that helps teachers use technology in a mindful, intentional, healthy way. I don't think this sort of teaching philosophy decision should be left to individual teachers. We should not outsource key functions of teaching to "educational technology" or learning apps. We should not confuse education with entertainment or distraction. For instance, we should not let screens be used to pacify children instead of teaching them self-regulation and coping skills. We should not confuse narrow fast button clicking skills with deep broad advanced engagement. Learning is hard - it is not always fun (though it can be fun) We want our students to become skilled at learning. This requires embracing productive struggle, resilience, and critical thinking. I worry that if we are not careful, outsourcing teaching to ed-tech will fundamentally undermine the education of our children.
6. 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.
7. See comments above.

8. The kids do not experience life as fully in the real physical world because they don't have the time due to all the screen involvement.
9. When not doing sports, spends a lot of time playing games on his phone (even when watching tv).
10. I have no idea how much time they spend on screens at school.
11. In elementary school, all technology is generally unnecessary. In middle school and high school is when technology education is appropriate.
12. We set expectations and control screen time for our children and have a strict no smart phone until 8th grade/14 years old rule. Without rules surrounding usage, it would be all too easy to have much too much screen time.
13. 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
14. 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.
15. Couldn't believe my child was exposed to YouTube influencers with inappropriate and adult themes as part of the school curriculum. Administration could not explain the policies around this...
16. 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.
17. My child has way more screen time in school than at home. It is not clear that they need that much screen time in school.
18. I have no idea how much they get at school but I give them an hour a day at home on school nights.
19. The in-school use seems very well-managed. We try to navigate at-home use of screens as best we can - screen time limits, visibility on use, regular discussion about risks and benefits, etc. Kids generally try to use this more than we'd like - probably analogous to how kids would choose to eat candy for all of their meals if given the chance.
20. I think students should not be watching shows in school.
21. I don't think students should be watching TV during lunch. My children even pointed out that it directly contradicts with what they learned in school about healthy behaviors.
22. I'm not worried right now but I feel like it's only increasing and we need to think collectively about ways to get around the screens and build foundational screen use habits in kids.
23. My view is that it is a modern world, one that is different from when I attended school. I want my kids exposed to technology and learn to use and embrace it. I do however also want a commonsense approach from school to recall just how

- effective non-technology-based learning was and to utilize some of these techniques so that the 'old' and 'new' methods compliment each other.
24. I'm not in support of the computer-learning that kids have in class, particularly what I hear of the middle school's math program.
 25. It will be helpful if the school can arrange more screen free time, like outside activities, which will be a good balance for students physical and mental health.
 26. We're managing it.
 27. We're a screen 'occasional' family but mostly screen free and do not want to see screens in schools
 28. I was shocked to hear how much time my student spends on screens at school. She said her eyes start twitching and she wishes there were paper options to do homework. Otherwise she spends 8th grade at school all day on screens, comes home to do homework on screens, and then to relax wants to watch a movie on screens. It's too much. School should limit screen use or get rid of it completely - and allow for paper homework options. This isn't healthy for our kids.
 29. Not allowing phones in schools has been one of the best decisions taken. It has allowed students to communicate with each other more and be present in the classroom. Having phones in schools not only distracts kids with phones, but also everyone else. Teachers now don't have to constantly interrupt the whole class to stop a kid from using a phone. I am hoping that in the next few years we will reduce our dependence on laptops, too.
 30. I see that more and more assignments (in and out of school) are computer-based. I think that (1) not everything needs to be done on a computer. In fact, there is a lot of research to support that the act of writing something, or the act of having to search physically through your notes to look something up, helps with learning and retention. Students can learn the computer skills they need without using a computer for everything. Also, (2), we know that excessive screen time is not good for children (or anyone), so we should be mindful of that when we are requiring them to use screens for school work.
 31. I would love to eliminate all screens in schools, and go back to pencil and paper. We have limited internet at home, but it is still too much.
 32. 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.
 33. I don't love the usage of gamification programs for things like math and language
 34. The majority of the time is spent reading on a Kindle. That is good screen time. He is getting more involved with screens - and I do think teaching without screens is beneficial. They can have a certain amount for HW etc.
 35. they put on the screen while they eat lunch!
 36. The time outside of school is spent talking to friends on face-time. I'm not sure it's much different from the HOURS I used to spend on a landline with my friends in middle school -- party lines!!! But I worry about time management and time for homework and sleep.

37. Especially at the elementary level. My student often talks about watching videos everyday at lunch, that is pretty upsetting, that should be a time to talk and connect with peers.
38. homework being given in math is often on screens at home.
39. My student spends more time watching videos at school for classes than DHMC pediatrics group recommends for healthy development of a child's brain.
40. Especially at MCS... way too much screen. Our **** (the subject of this survey) had Montessori schooling through **** **** and had a significantly better start with NO tech.
41. 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.
42. I'm not too worried because we keep technology access at home and in our neighborhood pretty limited. But I will become more worried once our son has more devices that he himself controls.
43. There are MANY articles as of late (WSJ, NYT) about the negative impact of screen time on kids in school. One worrisome anecdote in a recent WSJ article was how teachers are using screens to introduce a concept using a creative video instead of being creative themselves. Given what we pay our teachers, I truly hope they are not relying on that. Our teachers should be engaging ones and make learning fun.
44. It's not the screens it's the social media. And it's a constant struggle.
45. Social video games (playing with friends and/or being on a video chat with friends while playing) are the biggest "want" for screen time at home.
46. at home we severely restrict screen use
47. Please provide non- iPad or computer options for all assessments and curriculum then families can choose to opt in or out for those types of devices.
48. I'm not worried about screen time per se but about what is being done on the screens. I hear a lot from my child about how kids spend hours trying to "break" Go Guardian or find work around to play games in class on their school laptops. This seems like such a waster of time and like we would be better off with devices at school that don't have internet access.
49. Way too much learning through screens a videos.
50. She reads a lot of e-books and mangas. She also uses it to watch shows on the weekend. Seems reasonable.
51. In favor of more tried and true methods of learning.
52. Screen time itself is not necessarily the issue. It's more that we want to reduce "continuous scrolling" and mindless use of screens. Our child is not on social media, but it's very easy to get on YouTube and watch shorts endlessly.
53. It's hard to regulate; kids today are excellent at getting around tech barriers.
54. All the homework is on screen too. So she is always in front of a screen doing homework. I don't know how much time they spend in front of the screen at school.
55. My student is very self-regulated concerning her screen time and effects of social media. She would rather be living in a time where we didn't have these options (as

would !!) but we support our school district trying to navigate what is such a challenging time!

56. It is really hard to limit access to screens, it creates so much relational conflict.
57. 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 the 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
58. For another child I answered the last choice but this child does not use her phone much at all. But at school and doing HW she is still on the school issued computer a lot. I believe that kids (all of us) learn better with physically writing notes, reading and being able to highlight, etc. I would love to return to more pen and paper and even text books (so much easier to find the needed info to study for a test) than all the schoology docs, etc.
59. My child has asked us to put pretty limited screen time on apps like instagram.
60. It seems the kids are watching sports games, on you tube, making videos fairly often on their school computers. The limitations on what they can do on the computer end at 3ish, which is not helpful for those who utilize the after school library time. I feel they should extend the hours of internet restrictions or require the students to check laptops back in.
61. we manage screen time well at home and it feels right.
62. Not relevant yet to my knowledge since my child is in preschool.
63. I wish they had more pen and paper and book work. It is better for learning for many students.
64. No consistent screen time is used day to day for our child
65. I am in favor of reducing screens in school. I think the learning is better (physically writing helps learning) and it is easier for parents to see their work and be a team with the teachers.
66. generally not a fan of learning off of computers and ipads at school. even educational programs are designed to suck people in and become screen addicted, and it does it well.
67. Not sure how I feel about the access to games at school, even if they are "educational" (for example Prodigy)
68. Teachers should NEVER encourage the use of phones among students. This is an equity issue for students whose families do NOT allow cell phone use. We understand that some teachers allow kids to turn on their phones after lessons are over, and/or ask them to use QR codes, send out links that they expect kids to use, etc. Please ban these practices among SAU70 teachers.
69. 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.
70. The term "screens" is ridiculous. Would instgram be ok if it was printed on paper? I think you're trying to ask: "am I ok with how my child is spending their free time"?

71. After a full day using screens at school for most classes, my student will have 2-3 hours of homework that usually requires a screen. This is a lot of time on screen.
72. My child is not very screen focused, so it's not as much of an issue for us, but observing her peers, it feels like too much screen time is an issue for a lot of them!
73. I appreciate that I/my child can hypothetically access and turn in assignments online but on balance, the cons of needing to use screens to do any kind of homework, research, studying, assignments, both in school and at home outweigh the pros. I think that because screens allow access to social/personal distraction, it's very difficult for kids to use them for assignments without being tempted/distracted by non-school apps and even with diligent and constant upkeep of parental restrictions, it's hard to set screen limits to only allow school assignments at certain times. I wish that kids were doing more off-screen writing, reading, researching and activities. Online resources can be amazing but I think we all need to work together to find a balance.
74. I don't like that apparently there is occasional screen usage during Ray lunch times. I wish there was clarity in that in a weekly newsletter or similar.
75. While I tend to want my child to grow and develop new skills supported by technology and its advances. It is a very fine line and the use of videos to teach subjects traditionally though through engagement with a human being, typically a teacher, we've seen at Ray School (math 8th grade) is deeply concerning. I believe with the politization of these platform and their physiological manipulation much of our society needs to understand and work to develop new rules of engagement for our communities including our schools.
76. We are concerned about too much screen time and place limits on it.
77. Too much reliance for all schoolwork on a screen - headaches and eye tiredness are becoming a regular problem.
78. Current best practices suggest students should be delaying the use of screens and/or limiting screen use for ACADEMIC work as well as outside of school entertainment. My student uses tech at school to complete math, ELA, etc. Should go back to paper.
79. We use the tablet too much at home and are working to reduce screen time.
80. 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.
81. I think my kid has a good sense of the technologies. They handle them just fine, but isn't enthusiastic and can see both the advantages and the pitfalls. I will say that I'm not a big fan that certain subjects seem to use too many screens. Most notable to me is some screen use in math and that the music classes apparently watch movies after concerts are done.

82. 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.
83. My student would prefer less need for digital technology. Schoology is particularly irksome to use.
84. Our student primarily chats with friends and listens to music on their device along with limited youtube access; thus far we see no immediate concerns
85. 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.
86. 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.
87. technology is used too much in lower grades.
88. I'd like the elementary-aged students to get experience working on a desktop computer instead of just tablets. I recently set up my 2nd grader with a computer learning game and she didn't know how to operate a mouse. I didn't realize this was something she needed to be taught! There is a lot of discussion happening right now about college aged students who don't know how to navigate file locations, type properly, or search databases because they have only worked on tablets or cloud-based devices.
89. 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.
90. we limit screen time and don't enable the internet or any social media apps on the phone - that seems to manage it just fine
91. Homework on computer is very hard for my child as he gets very easily distracted and ends up doing other things on the computed. More homework on paper would be a lot easier to remove these challenges.
92. I guess its a common problem; he'd rather play games with friends than do schoolwork, and needs to be cued, even though he a junior in high school.
93. We work very hard to limit screen time, but his homework is predominately on a screen or requires a computer to communicate with his teachers. I have mixed feelings about this, as I recognize this is how the world is working these days. We have a no screens during the week policy outside of homework, but now it seems he is on a screen each evening doing work.
94. I am not sure how much screen time is happening at school
95. I have mixed feeling about so much homework on computers....my kids have benefitted from links to videos that reinforce a topic, but it is understandably easy for them to be distracted and it is hard to figure out how to block distractions. We try Freedom.io, but it is glitchy and could be pricey.

96. It seems like research on chromebooks and other tech in school isnt helping kids learn. I would be OK with the not having "tech" until later/not having linked devices in schools.
97. We limit screen time at home as much as we can and the screen time in school seems appropriate for the goals they are trying to accomplish.
98. I wish the schools would not use computers or screens at all at school, other than in Technology class.
99. I think analog life skills such as planners for organization should be taught in addition to technology with strong emphasis on screen addictions and mental health.
100. Bring back physical text books and notebooks for note taking. Save computers for essay writing & research.
101. At home my student just have 1 to 2 hrs of TV on weekends, but any during the the school days
102. I think it might be important to break out what you mean by screens here. I generally support the way a teacher might incorporate high quality primary source information into a lesson using a screen. A high-res color picture of the fossil that is being studied for instance could be better and spur more student discussion than a black and white photocopy. So if a teacher is thoughtful, a screen can be a great resource. However, I think packaged video content where the screen replaces the teacher should be limited and the school/SAU70 should develop guardrails for how much a teacher relies on packaged video and video-game-style 'learning' apps. Is Magic School bus once a week ok? "Brain Breaks" videos over lunch? I-Ready math lessons 40 minutes a day? How do we avoid confusing distraction with education? When is reliance on a screen replacing building emotional regulation skills? I don't think we should outsource teaching to computer programs.
103. 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.
104. Really hard to reduce screen time. Very tempting to use if unlimited.
105. 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

1. NO AI! Don't sign any contracts with any digital education contracts. Its a SCAM
2. Dartmouth professors I know are resorting to all writing assignments in class as well as conducting all exams with paper and pen.
3. AI can be useful as an efficiency tool for professionals who already have a deep baseline in a particular area, but it can be very dangerous for students who will find its ease replaces the need from knowledge or and work necessary to become proficient in essential skills.
4. I think it's important for students to learn how to use AI and technology in responsible ways, but I also think it's important for them to develop critical thinking and research skills outside of AI.
5. I think our teachers have the ability to be great teachers without the use of AI. I think our students have the ability to be great thinkers and makers without the use of AI. In elementary school we should be focused on the fundamentals and helping our children develop solid critical thinking skills. I think outsourcing thinking to AI is very bad for kids this age.
6. 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.
7. I am not worried about students being able to quickly catch up on societal use of AI. I'm more interested in their being taught critical reasoning, not the "right" answer or whatever. AI diminishes the ability to garner expertise. They have the rest of their lives with AI.
8. I currently work in **** ** so I have more background than most in frontier AI systems including their capabilities and associated risks. The premature adoption of this technology would be a huge mistake by the district. I would strongly advise the board to ban AI in school and wait for more research and best practices to be established.
9. AI has severe environmental implications that harm poor communities / targets for data centers
10. Knowledge of the positives and negatives of AI are important as part of technology literacy. However, AI should not be allowed for school-related projects.

11. Currently AI should not be used by students until more safety parameters are in place.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Almost all schools are not doing enough to prevent AI cheating from hurting honest students. Any home assignment, especially writing assignments, is going to come with substantial percentages of students using AI/cheating. Assignments need to change, dramatically, to prevent this and prevent a serious handicap for honest students. If AI can be used to cheat, it IS being used to cheat, and you cannot catch it. Writing that is graded and used competitively (gpa, class rank, grades) must shift to in person rather than home assignments. Anything done at home must allow AI to keep a level playing field, and this must be minimized as AI writing assignments should be minimized. If you aren't making it so that AI is infeasible, it isn't being prevented and not enough is being done.
16. SAU 70 needs to be more proactive on this issue.
17. Students, teachers, and staff need to be trained on how to appropriately and safely use AI. It's not going away and the earlier you can support proper use, the better.
18. Not in the elementary school please. Even in middle school there should be clear guidelines to the use of AI. It can be a great resource if used correctly, but not if everything that it spits out is taken as truth by the students.
19. 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.
20. Context - I **** **** **** ****. Kids are using AI whether we teach them how to engage with it or not; if they are not fluent in how it works, the risks, and appropriate use, we are failing to educate them on a critical layer of their lived reality and the future they are stepping into. I love that the school is beginning to integrate this into the curriculum and facilitate discussion around it.
21. Technology class should teach students how to use AI safely, but the use of AI for learning or teaching should be very limited in the school-setting.
22. Technology class should teach students how to use AI safely, but the use of AI for learning or teaching should be limited in the school-setting.
23. Students must be taught how to utilize AI chatbots and associated tools, including the appropriate use and misuse of AI in academic settings. This is here to stay.

24. AI seems unnecessary for research and student use. Traditional forms of media (books, videos, etc) have worked for a long time. AI just makes things faster. Learning doesn't need to be fast. Slow down, learn to read and comprehend reading.
25. The challenge is that proper guardrails are not really available. So teachers need to be well equipped to guide students through safe AI use before giving broader access.
26. Technology class should teach students how to use AI safely, but the use of AI for learning or teaching should be limited in the school-setting.
27. AI is important to learn, but responsibly.
28. Technology class should teach students how to use AI safely, but the use of AI for learning or teaching should be limited in the school-setting.
29. AI is a trend. We should train teacher and student to learn how to use it, and make good judgement.
30. I thin that proper education on what AI is, how it works and what it could be good for is incredibly important. I am not sure that schools are well equipped to address this properly (because society we're not, not because of schools per se)
31. The wave of AI is here, whether schools like it or not. This is an INCREDIBLE tool that should be taught about so that kids can learn to capitalize on it. This will, as a result, have to shift how student's retention and knowledge of subject matter is tested. Use AI to learn, but demonstrating it either verbally/presenting or in class testing. Take home essays will need to be carefully evaluated.
32. AI is an essential tool that all kids will need to use in college so proper and efficient use is important to teach now.
33. I think the school should provide AI training for students, to get them ready and prepared for the future, otherwise, they will be left behind when they graduate.
34. AI is here to stay. AI is far MORE than just chatbots. I think it's important for both teachers and students to understand how to use AI safely, integrate it into their work. Banning or restricting just keeps the danger in the shadows.
35. I would modify the above to concerns not serious concerns
36. Yes, AI is here. That said school is here to help shape critical thought and AI makes it too easy to copy/paste and believe the answer it gives you. I teach *****/**** students and can see how they're handing over the work of critical thinking to AI. If we start already in K-12 never teaching them to think on their own and learn and struggle with problems, then there is no hope for them to develop this later. I use AI for work (because I have to and am in **** world). A lot of AI answers are wrong and if I wasn't critical about what it was giving back, I'd be turning in a lot of incorrect work (especially around numbers / reports etc). The other issue with AI is it tells you what you want to hear and it doesn't give you push back. Students need to learn to wrestle with discomfort of thinking and challenges to their ideas. I'm sending my child to a great school to teach her thinking skills - not how to give AI a good prompt so it can do the work for you.
37. Given the need for data centers for AI and the enormous amount of energy these data centers need, I think AI will not benefit humanity in the end. It will also

significantly effect brain development if students are not thinking for themselves.
So many problems with AI.

38. There is a difficult balance here. I don't have the answer, but I think that AI can be used appropriately and I think our kids need to learn to use it appropriately to remain current. I don't know how best to police the limits.
39. I'm OK with AI spelling and grammar checkers, but against use of AI to compose answers. AI for research is a mixed bag.
40. AI is a tool that we need to educate or children and staff on how to use properly.
41. AI has an important role, but not at the school level. Using AI and too much technology creates a dependence on them and hinders the learning of the basic skills that are very important for students once they go to college. Using AI can come later in life, but in schools, we need to focus more on paper-based learning.
42. I think that AI literacy is important, even given my concerns above. That means that students (and teachers) understand how it actually works, which helps them to understand the downfalls of AI. However, that doesn't mean that students should be using AI for work. Again - the act of looking up information actually helps you to be able to learn and retain, and that is a skill that will diminish drastically with AI use.
43. I would like the schools to be much more open about their approach to AI and if there is any AI usage in the classroom. Tech companies are targeting school and students for AI expansion and seeking to expand AI usage in schools - I'd like much more information from the school on its approach to AI and if there is any AI usage in the classroom. I do believe that students should understand HOW AI works (which is different than using it) but I don't think this should start in second grade and I'm opposed to any AI usage in elementary school. I'll also note that one of my major concerns about AI is not listed here, which is cognitive surrender/the undermining of creativity and critical thinking skills. I also worry about students not understanding that learning is work and that this work is the whole point - AI creates shortcuts. this is a bit different than cheating, I think, more a constant search for an easier way that undermines the entire educational project.
44. AI is something I take with a grain of salt since I know it's not perfect by any means. I think it makes life more convenient but it;' also kind of evil and I don't want my child to rely on it and be lazy. It's important for children to be able to think critically and also recognize when AI is garbage.
45. older child, already graduated, has shared that they 1) never read a book while at HHS because they could use the internet to get by and 2) used AI to do well, or at least fine, in most of their classes
46. No AI for this age group
47. Now that AI is here teachers and schools need to figure out how to use it when teaching.
48. I will not say the teacher cannot use AI to assist in grading -- but if he uses it as a replacement for himself as a grader, and it gets things wrong -- he is responsible.
49. 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 it's 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!!

50. BIG subject here! We need to be able to harness AI - if we don't do it properly, it will be a mess.
51. Pencil and paper is inexpensive and AI proof. No fancy software needed that would end up not working anyways.
52. To be clear - my biggest concern is students cheating themselves out of opportunities to think critically, wrestle with the challenges - and sometimes frustrations - of learning and short-circuiting their own development as learners
53. AI shouldn't replace critical thinking skills. I think training in prompt engineering, asking intelligent questions of it--and then given additional resources to learn how to properly fact-check the AI--can accomplish this.
54. Obviously this is an evolving area, I trust the schools to assess and adapt.
55. I have serious concerns about AI's impact on mental health, particularly for young people whose minds and intellectual perspectives are still developing. AI can be wonderful for people who are mentally stable and who have a broad lived experiences to draw on. Neither of these things are necessarily true for our young people.
56. I am most concerned about cognitive surrender and the usage of AI to replace critical thinking capabilities. I also worry about AI creating a world were the "easy" solution is the best one, and overwriting hard work and human creativity. That said, I do think that students should be exposed to how AI works, how it creates knowledge and the deep limitations of that processes. I am 100% opposed to any usage of AI in school work, because it is the process of doing the work that is the whole point of school. I would like for the school to be much more clear about what is happening with AI at school, particularly as AI companies are really targeting schools and teachers to normalize this technology. For example, the school uses the google suite and chromebooks but has given us no information about whether or not Gemini is turned on in these platforms.
57. I am not a fan of AI as it relates to kids learning environment but recognize that it is likely here to stay. I also don't expect anyone in the industry to create guardrails or

rules since it isn't in their interest to do so financially. Due to this, I think older kids perhaps starting in 5th or 6th grade should learn to recognize when AI isn't real or 100% accurate. I don't think AI will ever be perfect and think it's important for people to know what to recognize when it comes to flawed AI logic and data. There are so many examples out there in the popular media and news!

58. AI as a tool can be useful, but AI summaries in response to queries are often incorrect. The only place AI should be used in school by students is in computer class and in arts classes or other extracurriculars.
59. I don't like AI but it is here and there is no turning back. Our kids will use it regularly in their life and so we might as well teach them out to do it in a way that is responsible and helpful.
60. By what stretch of the imagination will children NOT learn how to use AI in their future lives? The school doesn't need to teach them how to use Instagram and likewise it doesn't need to teach them how to use AI, they will learn that on their own. Anyone who tells you otherwise is selling stock in tech companies — don't buy it! The school needs to teach kids critical thinking skills, foster creativity and curiosity. It needs to nurture social skills and emotional intelligence.
61. Keep AI out of our schools.
62. AI investors are trying to manufacture an educational use case for this technology. The district should teach kids, not use AI.
63. AI is unavoidable. It's important to teach how it 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.
64. Please teach our students what they cannot learn or do on their own.
65. There's a lot of great uses of AI - AND - we need to teach our children critical thinking skills now more than ever. Please balance both.
66. 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.
67. AI is being rapidly adopted in the working world, kids MUST have exposure to it ... including the many challenges. For schools to NOT to cover AI would be similar to NOT teaching evolution, and ignoring the internet
68. 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.
69. 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.
70. I don't mind AI but am concerned that for students, they are missing the opportunity to learn how to think critically and creatively.
71. No AI in elementary school.
72. AI has no place in elementary school and computers have very little place - the less the better, although some typing experience is good.

73. I believe that middle and high school learning environments should be AI free to force students to evaluate ideas on their own and to practice independent written communication.
74. AI is a life skill for students with learning challenges like dyslexia.
75. AI needs to be managed responsibly by the teachers and administrators.
Fundamentally it can be confusing for young minds that are trying to learn good writing and basic academic skills when they are getting the marketing from all sides that AI can do everything for them and do it better. Students can be introduced to it at the highest levels of study, but I don't think they should be encouraged to think that using it is necessary or helpful to do well in school or to have good ideas.
76. AI is here to stay. It is also FAR MORE than just ChatGPT. It's VERY IMPORTANT for teachers (and students) to understand AI use: how it can be used, what we need to know to stay safe, and whether it can be used for learning or teaching in safe, creative ways. Banning AI removes a lot of good guardrails that can be put in place.
77. 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.
78. I think we are talking about two different things here; the school's use of AI and the student's use. The students have a serious need to learn AI because it is likely going to be a dominating part of their lives as adults. I think students and staff should be trained on appropriate use of AI and it could be integrated in tech and show as a tool for other classes. I'm not familiar with TurnItIn and if there is a chronic problem with students and/or teachers using AI to cheat.
79. I don't use AI or like the idea of it much BUT I do think it is important for kids to be trained/taught in how to use it appropriately.
80. Seems like kids should have an opportunity how to learn about AI with guardrails. When to do it, when not, where does it work well and not well, how do you use smart prompts/instructions
81. 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.
82. Just be smart about it!
83. I find it difficult to imagine good reasons for elementary students to use AI. I'd prefer my son not to use it at all. As students get older they should learn about its potential uses/dangers/costs/benefits etc.
84. 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)
85. AI should be taught to students so they understand how to utilize.
86. Let's set up proper guardrails for students and teachers, please. If teachers are going to use it for appropriate grading purposes, let's have them re-allocate the time they would have used to grade to hosting teacher-parent meetings, provide real and meaningful feedback to students and families, etc. And let's make ALL of that

transparent and clear to students and parents, with clear, evidence-based justifications.

87. I feel like the staff have a long way to go before they can use AI effectively.
88. A big chunk of the teaching staff can barely start a zoom meeting or use Google docs properly. I hesitate to give them any sort of dictate to "police AI usage". Honestly, maybe start by teaching them all how to use the curriculum tools you've already bought correctly.
89. I think we need to be careful using AI, first the natural resources such as water used to cool data processing plants and electricity to support the energy needs are not healthy for the planet nor humans as water and energy needs are already limited. Secondly, I believe AI should be taught about and used sparingly as an editor, not as content development for teachers and students.
90. Kids need clear guidelines for when AI is appropriate and when it is not. It must be made clear to them that generative AI is never to be used for writing or original work. One of the things I have heard from kids is that they really resent the sense of hypocrisy when teachers tell them not to use it, but then use it themselves for lesson planning or grading. I support the use of handwritten assignments in order to prevent the use of generative AI, as well as oral presentations and other ways of really assessing whether students have acquired knowledge themselves. This is a huge challenge facing every school in the world, and I think involving kids in conversations about it is a good thing and really trying to help them understand why the use of generative AI shortchanges their own educations.
91. General longterm concerns.
92. I worry about my child putting personal information into AI. They are not mature enough to make good decisions.
93. AI engagement and use will likely come with an associated drop in critical thinking skills developed through the mundane task of researching and learning. At this point the use of AI does not enhance the ability to think or create enhanced skills for students (as far as I can tell), it will mostly spoon feed information (unverified and often wrong) to a person. Sure if can solve complex math problems and create programs/code, create engaging images, etc. but I'd love a real explanation of how it creates a better more inquisitive, motivated, and educated student.
94. 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.
95. Tough one. It's useful and applicable to me in my job, but I'm nervous for this generation growing up with AI.
96. AI is contributing to laziness, lack of collaboration, and reduced creativity and problem-solving.
97. Limited and judicious use of AI should be embraced. The goal is to have AI improve learning rather than replace the (sometime hard) work necessary to build fundamental skills (reasoning, reading comprehension, writing, etc...).
98. AI should be used as little as possible, but older students should learn how to use it to learn with

99. AI is inevitable and learning to use it for productivity enhancement is critical to being prepared for the future of work. Guardrails should ensure it is not a substitute for learning to write or cheat.
100. I think students need to be taught about AI, including what it is, how and why it functions, etc. They also need to be aware of the environmental, ethical, and social costs of AI. These conversations should be at the forefront of AI education. I also think its use should be severely limited in school. Students should not be using AI to generate project ideas, conduct research, or draft and revise papers. I can imagine teachers programming AI agents for quizzes and language tutoring, especially in large classes. At the same time, many of these kinds of materials already exist.
101. I recognize my responses below conflict, which is an accurate representation of my view here. I do think teaching them about AI and how it is and can be used is helpful, but I do not think they should be allowed to use it for classwork in general. I appreciated his **** teacher's approach to teaching them about AI via a lens of what it can and CANNOT do. I think it's important to teach them critical thinking and how to actually do work, especially at this stage. When I went to **** ****, they required us to learn how to do old school book research. While painful at the time, it taught us the foundations of **** **** **** **** research that were the underlying structure of the technology we later leaned on. It made us better researchers and also created more understanding of and gratitude for the technology when it was introduced.
102. AI should never be used by kids for their writing. Kids should be taught to verify all sources/information provided by AI if used for research.
103. AI is part of life now. Let's learn to live with it...safely.
104. No, absolutely not. No.
105. 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.
106. I'm concerned that the way question 37 is presented begs the question/will introduce bias in the answer set.
107. Student should learn about AI and how it is used/to some extent how to use it. But the time should be spent on learning how to write, think critically, etc., rather than learning how to write a prompt so that AI can write for you or critique a paper for you.
108. AI is here and we need to prepare our children for the world they live in. We can't just pretend it doesn't exist. They will be exposed to it and we have an obligation to teach them how to use it properly.
109. if kids can use computers at school and for homework, they will use AI or google, It's just one more thing for the teachers to have to police.. instead of just learning. My vote is to go Scandinavian and go back to paper and pencil.

110. AI is here to stay and has been embedded in everything the tech companies can shoehorn it into. Dartmouth seems to have embraced AI and high schools doing the same may be the only path forward. I also worry about students being wrongly accused of using AI for cheating simply because their writing style resembles AI. As a frequent em-dash user, this is a personal concern as well, even as a fully-grown adult!
111. I am concern about the use of AI, the are missinformation in AI, and could be dangerous. Also it is causing more ecologist problems.
112. No AI detection tool is likely to ever work well. I think AI should be integrated into education the way computers have generally been.
113. I have serious concerns about AI use in the elementary school setting. I think it will erode critical thinking skills of students and teachers.
114. 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.
115. AI is the future so we need to educate students and set high expectations for using it appropriately instead of banning it. I believe the same for cell phone use as well.

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

1. It would be nice if RMS posted their lunch menu ahead of time like Ray school does
2. Ray School needs a cafeteria. Hanover can afford it
3. A good salad bar with a variety of protein options with it like they used to have would be great. Burgers, pizza and quesadillas seem like they have been sitting for days.
4. The lunch program at the Ray school needs to be revamped. We need healthier options and more vegetarian items on the menu.
5. If the lunch served more Whole Foods instead of processed my children would be more interested. If they served fruit-berries, yogurt and granola, or burritoa. Actually I hear that sometimes the food is good.
6. Great variety!
7. My student is a vegetarian and complained about limited vegetarian options at RMS. **** has since started bringing lunch from home.

8. The breakfast options is wonderful and deeply appreciate the staff and team for supporting nutrition at school.
9. They also state lines are too long
10. Mostly eats school lunch. Likes it some days and doesn't like it other days. Brings lunch from home occasionally.
11. She loves the lunches available at the school cafe. She thinks kids who complain about the cafe offerings are out of touch with reality. She notes there's always a balanced healthy meal offered.
12. 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.
13. We try to limit the school lunches because I think the food is mostly garbage. But my child does enjoy certain menu items so we allow her to eat school lunch 1-2 days per week.
14. Super aggravating that our child qualifies for free lunch due to being a Vermonter yet still has to pay for lunch
15. still a bit too expensive, though
16. We've had issues with our daughter using lunch funds on snacks items like beverages and pastries, despite multiple conversations with her. These items are really expensive and nutritionally deficient. I think she feels some pressure to make a purchase at snack time if that is what her friends are doing. I wish we had more control about what our child can purchase at school.
17. We really need to revamp the school lunches at Ray and make them healthier!
18. 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.
19. My child will not eat school lunches almost any day. She went hungry for months before she told us. Nutbutter is NOT a useful replacement for peanut butter, many kids hate it (mine won't touch it) and more "backup" options are needed. I am happy to support paying more for higher quality food and more backup options, including to subsidize kids who need it.
20. Nutritional oversight of menu is lacking. Doritos? Come on!
21. Offerings at hhs seem better
22. 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.
23. My child has complained that the portions are too small and brings food from home to supplement lunch.
24. We had to start packing lunch because the kids were gaining weight and the school lunch is super unhealthy. We would prefer to buy lunch but nachos and French toast sticks are not nutritious lunch options
25. I let my student order lunch at school when they want the meal, but I am very concerned about how much processed food is being served. I have also heard that some food is heated in plastic which should never happen. I am considering not allowing my students to order lunch at school.

26. I let my student order lunch at school when they want the food, but I am very concerned about how much processed food is being served. I have also heard that some food is heated in plastic which is very concerning. I am considering not allowing my students to order lunch at school.
27. I have heard that the cafeteria sells Monster Energy (or similar) drinks. The school should not be condoning or enabling the consumption of these types of products. Overall, it sounds like the food service in the school is in need of a major overhaul. My child ate lunch every day at their elementary school. The food there was locally sourced, nutritious and affordable thanks to state and town support.
28. Often surprised to hear that kids have had “gummies” or Doritos as sides for their lunches. I would absolutely pay more for higher quality food.
29. Kids do one school lunch a week, but the choices are not terribly healthy (but not terribly unhealthy either). The expense is when things start adding up which may speak to the quantity. As it is only once a week, this is not a big deal.
30. My child isn't too picky about food but it
31. Meals should be balanced nutrition. Having sugary, carb-based breakfasts for lunch, shouldn't be permitted. Pancakes and waffles should not be a lunch.
32. She saw mold on pizza being served and refuses to buy lunch at school anymore.
33. My son brings food from home on some days and eats at the cafe on other days. He says some dishes could benefit from more veggies (sounds like it's coming from me, but he does like his veggies!) in them but has no issues otherwise.
34. My child hasn't mentioned anything about food options, but I would like to see soda and candy removed as options.
35. I hope a slightly larger portion size could be provided to students, especially older or more active students, as their nutritional needs can vary. My student often gets home around 3:30 and is already hungry, which suggests that the current lunch portions may not be sufficient to last through the school day.
36. I let my student order lunch at school when they want the food, but I am very concerned about how much processed food is being served. I have also heard that some food is heated in plastic which is very concerning. I am considering not allowing my students to order lunch at school.
37. My student generally likes the lunch except when it is "express lunch." He prefers healthier options.
38. My 4th grader has very specific tastes and prefers to bring his lunch.
39. I let my student order lunch at school when they want the food, but I am very concerned about how much processed food is being served. I have also heard that some food is heated in plastic which should never happen. I am considering not allowing my students to order lunch at school and have been wondering how to enforce that (without also alienating the student from their peers).
40. I wish the Ray School lunches were more healthy. These are growing kids!
41. It is cheaper to eat at the co-op than it is to eat in the cafeteria. That seems to be a problem.
42. More GF options

43. We need more fresh vegetables, fruit's and real food. It feels like even the teachers won't eat what's on offer
44. I pack a lunch every day in case they don't like the offering at school. They are being offered JUNK - need to increase the salad bar options to what K-5 actually want to eat. No Doritos and the like. The highly processed foods and questionable meats are unacceptable. Some stuff they like, such as the breakfast for lunch days. The pizza is a big NO - too greasy and not good at all. Which is hard to mess up...
45. I think the meals could be healthier and more varieties/versatile flavors if they had more bodies to spread the work out. As it stands there are two people that work insanely hard everyday to get meals out. Another body might help come up with creative menu options and more hands to process slightly harder/more work.
46. The lunch offered at MCS is slop. Promises to change every year and does not. GROSS.
47. My kid loves the HHS lunch
48. The food quality got much worse this year!!
49. 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!
50. It would be extremely helpful to have a lunch menu published for the high school
51. Underwhelmed by lunch options. He eats school lunch once or twice a week.
52. The quantity is not enough for an 8th grader so **** is buying multiple lunches which gets expensive
53. Drinks are WAY too expensive. Also things like chips and snacks. If the School is buying it in bulk, they should be much cheaper for the school and the student.
54. My student buys every day and despite me telling **** no candy or strawberry flavored milk, **** keeps buying it! I wish there were more healthy choices and no candy.
55. My student leaves campus because that is the HHS norm. I wish she would stay and learn to sit and eat with friends at school.
56. Vegetarian options are limited, and sometimes run out entirely.
57. I wish we knew what was the main meal of the day at HHS in advance! We only let our child buy twice a week and sometimes they don't care for it.
58. I really wish more fresh fruits and vegetables were on the menu.
59. We would like to get school lunch but find the quality and selection of food choices to be extremely poor. We have incredible resources in this community to take advantage of local meats, veggies, bread, milk. The amount of processed foods the kids get at school lunch is unacceptable. This is a top concern of ours. Learning and stamina take proper fuel, this is an opportunity where we can greatly improve what fuel we are providing, in addition to cultivating an opportunity to learn about food, where it comes from and how to properly fuel our bodies.
60. The cafeteria choices need to be improved. The quality of the meals is very low. Also unhealthy. It is my child's main complaint about the Ray school.

61. We are vegetarian and this means that the lunch options are very limited. They are also extremely repetitive and not always the healthiest options.
62. My child enjoys the baked goods like muffins and cookies and milk but doesn't order lunch.
63. Some is excellent, but we do wish there were some additional healthy choices - Odwalla smoothies great addition
64. MCS food could be so much better and healthier!
65. More healthy options and get rid of candy soda and junk food.
66. The universal school lunch problem -- if it were healthy enough to suit us, and inexpensive enough to be practical, it probably wouldn't taste very good.
67. We do school lunch out of convenience and my child is happy with it but I wish the options were more healthy and balanced
68. I honestly have no idea what they eat!!! Money goes in, money goes out, happy kid comes home fed somehow!
69. There should not be unhealthy choices like candy and sugared drinks, including diet drinks. Real, whole foods please. Chocolate milk would be so much better. My kids only eat fried foods, candy and sugary drinks at the schools and it is so frustrating that these are even options.
70. Our child used to eat Ray school lunch a few days a week with the prior vendor. Since switching, our child doesn't like the food options. There are only 2 or 3 menu options they will voluntarily choose per month. We'd love to see a better vendor and higher quality food.
71. I wish there were higher quality and more nutritious food choices at the elementary school.
72. needs healthier choices
73. We are vegetarian so my student rarely eats the item of the day because it is almost never vegetarian. She does eat other options (grilled cheese, quesadillas) occasionally, but we try not to do it too much because its not super healthy
74. We used to look at school lunch options and reviewed the menu in advance but it changed so often that we stopped.
75. My child does eat buy lunch at school, but we find it very expensive and might reconsider for next year.
76. My student gets lunch at school 1x every 1-2 weeks. There should be a separate cafeteria line for kids who only want milk, so they don't have to wait in such a long line. BRS does this and it's much more efficient than the procedure at RMS.
77. Too expensive to do everyday and child can buy pastries and other junk with the \$
78. It's rare for my student to eat on site because he says the food is not good.
79. Foods with high sugar and saturated fats should not be served. The quality has gotten better, but it's still resembles fast food. I know we can do better. Look at the Japanese!
80. Eating more at school in May due to the Assassin Game.
81. I hear that RMS has good food.

82. It seems odd to me that the state of play in food service (MCS bad, RMS great, high school bad) is just accepted like a weather pattern or season. A good example of status quo bias.
83. 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.
84. I pack lunch daily. Wish school lunches were nutritious. Could the kids have microwave access perhaps to heat up leftovers?
85. I only choose school lunch (elementary school) to make my day easier as a parent. I know it's not healthy, so I only let my child choose it 1-2 times per week.
86. 5th grader has **** ****, so has to do daily home lunch. Our younger students (Ray) do about 60% school lunch. We like that they can eat things that are different and prepared by someone else, but are underwhelmed by the quality and rotating options.
87. the school needs to offer more healthy choices, less sugary items, no sodas, and all less expensive.
88. The school should invest in more healthy lunch options for our children. Less refined sugar and more fruits, veggies and protein.
89. We are surprised at the ray School level options - they don't seem to be enough or well balanced. Breakfast for lunch on a regular basis is surprising. We'd pay more for healthier options.
90. 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.
91. I continue to be so disappointed with the food at Ray. I would be happier if they served bean and rice bowls every day. There should not be sugar added products served (chocolate chip muffins) or pancakes for lunch. I would be happier with a more limited menu that was healthier.
92. There are some lunch items my student likes but says are rarely served (egg salad sandwiches, shepherds pie are two). Many lunch items seem high in sugar. I do not think dessert items should be served at all - kids can have these at home. I heard ice cream was added one day and students were buying 5 at a time. Ridiculous.
93. Sometimes he eats off campus, but likes the school lunches-- some more than others, but no complaints except that it's cheaper to get chicken nuggets at the coop
94. Keep lunch options as healthy as possible.
95. Love RMS school lunch. Please keep the healthy options coming.
96. My student buys more food outside, but may eat 2-3 meals/snacks per week from HHS café
97. School lunches across the USA are just bad. Don't know how to fix this. My student doesn't like the food and often asks for homemade lunches. Wish there was a better way/service that served real food.
98. No sure the quality, so far no complains from my kid.

99. MyMealtime made it challenging for us to budget and our kid kept overspending. We would have liked to have the ability to limit what snacks our son ate and have more control over his food choices.
100. My child brings lunch but will often buy extra snacks/breakfast or drinks at the cafe. The things she does buy seem a bit expensive.
101. The cafeteria does not have enough appealing healthy options. It should also take out all drinks except water and milk.
102. Increasing vegetarian options is preferred over simply removing the meat from regular menu options.
103. My child prefers not to eat at school, but eats at home instead.
104. -Please get rid of sugary drinks at RMS and unhealthy options at RMS and HHS
105. They see school lunch as a 'treat' but more often than not don't have positive things to say on the quality. Particularly the 'square-shaped pizza' has been referred to as inedible. When children opt for the salad bar, there are few vegetable options but several types of chips, and you are limited to one half of a hardboiled egg. Why does a salad bar lack veggies or limit the healthy choices and instead push the less healthy option?
106. Our kids choose to eat school lunch despite our best attempts to convince them otherwise! We wish the offerings were more nutritionally sound and followed modern data.
107. I am HORRIFIED by what they are passing off for food at the Ray school. Doritos for school lunch. Really!? The menu is repetitive and the content is basically fast food. We have to do better.
108. It would help to have the menu available in advance so we can plan better.
109. Yes, my child eats lunch there every day but it's usually unhealthy, we just don't find the time to make lunch each day.
110. Love Richmond school lunch
111. It sounds like RMS has the best program, but often my kids complain about the hot food options.
112. If we want to hire more help and increase the budget we could probably get better food. There used to be four workers at Ray and three at RMS. This question makes me wonder if people think we can do more with less given prices and resources.
113. Takes too long to get food and not enough GF options.
114. The menu is too repetitive. Need more variety. Need more protein.
115. Please get Ray meals healthy and fulfilling again!
116. 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
117. My student is running up large bills at the Hanover High cafeteria. Sometimes over \$20 a day. Items are too high priced and he visits multiple times a day. This is a source of strife at home.

118. School lunches seem expensive for what you get. It would be great to have healthier options each day. More protein options, with healthy carbs.
119. It also takes too long my kids tell me.
120. It's too expensive.
121. My child buys lunch twice a week and packs lunch the other days. I wish the choices were balanced meals rather than a la carte items and junk food snacks.
122. quantity is a problem, with my kids having to buy double orders of the main "entree" to get what they need. we also don't really know what our kids get when they get salad bar (they say they essentially just east the sides?) or the other options.
123. 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.
124. It's unhealthy most of the time and expensive. The school should thrive to introduce and encourage healthy meal choices only instead of catering to the ideas of "what kids might like". Corn dog!?! Ultra processed food like junk!
125. We used to ask our older child daily about the Ray lunches, but the quality has dropped so much in recent years that we don't bother at all with this younger child, nor do they have any interest.
126. Would prefer healthier options, there seems to be a lot of chicken.
127. School lunches should be healthier.
128. Quality and choice is poor and unhealthy - no regular selection of veg, fruit or salad. Sandwich bar takes too long. Very Frequently food run out !!
129. Kid likes a couple of the lunch options and likes unhealthy snacks. I wish it was healthier and had a variety of options for those with different diets. I wonder if anyone has looked into a way for Vermont families to benefit from the free meals for students that exist s in Vermont. It seems unfair that because our kids go to school in NH, they pay for it when it is free for VT students.
130. 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.
131. The quality isn't great, and I am shocked when I hear that Doritos and other junk food is served.
132. 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.
133. Will get snacks or beverages
134. 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.
135. 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!

136. RMS has a much better reputation for its food, and it seems warranted. My kid occasionally goes to town on the snacks and has even brought some home for me to try in their excitement. That said, the kid is generally picky. I don't think it's the school's fault for this particular youth.
137. I'm amazed at the options available daily at MCS. The lunch staff does a great job.
138. 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.
139. 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.
140. It is expensive and i have no way of enforcing a budget, even if there is no money in by students account they can still buy a soda.
141. Not enough vegetarian options.
142. The food is expensive and I have no way of limiting what my kids can spend - if they have no money on thier account, the school will still sell them sodas.
143. I find it expensive
144. 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
145. Seems that the price has gone up, the quality has gone down and there are options that I do not approve of. For instance, if I put \$ in the account for lunch, I see that my child has purchased overpriced sugary drinks and food, not 'lunch'. So, I am not putting more \$ in the account. He goes to the co-op and spends his \$ there. If parents are funding the cafeteria, it should have reasonable options for good brain food.
146. The food is expensive but our family understands. What we do resent is that our children report that the ****, other administrators, and some faculty help themselves at the cafeteria without paying and sometimes eat the last portions of a certain food before students can access them. Do administrators and faculty eat for free? If so, then disregard the aforementioned concerns. If not, then this troubles us as parents and taxpayers.
147. 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.
148. The food is expensive. While I am sure that there are many healthy options, my student often selects 'junk' food- candy, cookies, soda. I am disappointed that these are sold in the school cafeteria. We have restricted her My Meal Time budget to stop these purchases and send her in with preferred snacks and lunches. When she attended the Ray School and RMS, we felt confident that the in-school options were nutritious and did not require policing via a small budget.

149. The food is not healthy, there are barely any vegetables and fruits at RMS lunch. I understand this is a tricky subject but hot dogs and dorritos is the kind of lunch children should have.
150. RMS lunch is a hit. Ray school is awful and my daughter is frequently calling them out for processed foods, dyes, and awful food. (I've completed this survey primarily on behalf of my RMS student, but also have a 4th grader at Ray).
151. My perception of the food quality is that it is processed and of low quality. My hope is to have more variety of healthy, local, natural options with more integrated fruits and vegetables, whole grains, vegetarian options (tofu, beans)
152. My student is an athlete who is conscious of weight and says he has difficulty finding palatable healthy/lower calorie options
153. Used to enjoy school lunch until the vendor changed. Now our child will only eat ~2 meals per month, which causes their lunch to be less healthy and more repetitive from home.
154. I wish there were healthier options and variety
155. 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 eat lunch because it is too gross or they don't have time.
156. 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.
157. 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 a 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 real meat with a side of potatoes. What is happening? Please be responsive to the group of highly engaged parents on this issue.
158. More healthy options would be appreciated.
159. Kid normally has to buy "double lunch" but doesn't always receive double of everything. Or does but then doesn't eat it, which seems wasteful. Used to buy on "grilled cheese" day just for the cookie, but we squashed that.
160. There seems to be a lot of high sugar food available at breakfast which we do not like
161. It would be amazing to figure out how to have healthier options in school!
162. Some complaints about quality or flavor but mostly pickiness
163. Eliminate the outside lunch vendor at HHS and get an in-house **** like at RMS. Everyone hates the food at HHS and Ray, but loves the food at the middle school. This issue should be pretty obvious and simple to fix. There is poor variety and quality offered by the HHS lunch program, at way too high of a cost for students. For example, \$3 for a small protein bar is absurd in a school lunch room

- setting. We send our children to the Hanover/Dresden school district to receive a high-end education, and the lunch food they receive should reflect that as well.
164. In addition, we do not know from where the products came, and what it is in them.
 165. The school frequently stocks fried food as one of the only alternatives to the main lunch- something like a açai bar could absolutely be what the cafeteria needs.
 166. Very expensive and not a great healthy variety
 167. HHS options are better than RMS or Ray but still depend on the day. There is a big need for fast healthy high protein breakfast options for students with am practices especially but I imagine others who don't eat at home would also benefit
 168. Student tells me menu isn't healthy but packing lunch every day is too hard on my schedule
 169. My child hates the Ray lunch offerings
 170. Ray school lunches are expensive and my children complain about the quality
 171. This district's lunches are very expensive! Would be great to simplify options and make them cheaper.
 172. 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

1. Homework amounts should be far more consistent among teachers of same subjects.
2. I get the sense that my student just gets homework done during the school day and have heard that some students feel like they have a lot of homework. But it really doesn't feel like very much is asked of them and I certainly don't want them to be shocked when they go to high school and have a ton of homework (this is what I hear about HHS).
3. The middle school is under preparing kids for high school. They don't get enough homework to have to learn how to balance their time and multitask. Then they get overwhelmed first year of high school
4. The amount of regular homework has been inconsistent across sides. The intensity and pressure to succeed has been amplified by Schoology and students seeing their grades change on a daily basis
5. If i-ready is going to be assigned as homework (which I don't think it should because I don't think i-ready should be used as a teacher) then parents should be given support material to help deal with what happens at home around this product (for

instance anxiety, sadness, frustration). There was a comment like this in a past survey by another parent and I can attest that it has not been addressed. In general, in the upper grades (4 & 5) I'd like to see more regular homework to support the development of solid executive skills around organizing and planning.

6. I have older children in college. The amount of HHS homework has gone down since they were in school. They were prepared for college. I'm worried that my freshman might not be as prepared for the college work load.
7. I think the resources may be adequate but I don't know if students are directly adequately on how to use it.
8. There is a lot of homework in the honors classes-- maybe too much at times relative to non honors but overall okay. I strongly feel schools should implement AP classes.
9. I think more homework, and earlier on, would be good to help students master concepts more thoroughly and quickly.
10. I think the elementary school could calm down a bit with all the assessment and homework.
11. Junior year with honors courses was overwhelmingly difficult for **** of our kids. They all barely slept three hours per night. Reducing the total homework load for kids taking multiple honors courses at once should be thought about.
12. I don't understand the pressure around entry into honors math vs standard math when transitioning to Hanover High school.
13. 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
14. Curriculum is unclear. Homework consists of unengaging worksheets.
15. The one area of academic focus that I'm not thrilled about is 7th and 8th grade math. I don't want my child learning from a computer program next year. What a way to turn kids off from math and limit them from reaching their potential.
16. I would like to see the school embrace more innovative teaching practices that foster deeper learning opportunities for students. For example, the 4th grade just started their state project, which is primarily gathering and communicating factual information. That is not bad in and of itself, but how could this project be developed to include critical thinking in addition to factual information? What problems are students trying to solve? How are they applying their learning?
17. The school should help facilitate tutoring services.
18. The last option (academic assistance), I don't really know nor has it been needed.
19. We don't get to see the sources/textbooks on which the instruction is based. It's not a big deal but I wouldn't mind having more information. I got to see the math textbook at the beginning of the year. That was helpful.
20. The school should help facilitate tutoring services.

21. Teachers are great. The district has no meaningful visible curriculum that can be accessed by parents.
22. The school should help facilitate tutoring services.
23. I'm not sure how to answer this set of questions, I have made it clear my feelings on the academics are "fine" but underwhelming for performers.
24. The amount of homework my kids have is quite intense. When **** ***, one of the things the schools worked on was coordination of expectations around homework. If every teacher gives substantial homework without talking to one another, the students stay up to all hours of the night to get it all done.
25. She was missing text books
26. Young kids should have zero homework.
27. 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.
28. My answers are specific to my child. It may be very different for other families and students.
29. We've struggled with poorly organized or confusing assignments, when we get involved it's hard to see what's going on. It's not organized like traditional education and we can see the impact. We see in 3 grades, poor planning ahead on surprise assignments. Sometimes is the kids fault, but other times, things are posted during class or days when they don't have the class, and it is a surprise homework crisis.
30. More paper homework please. Get the kids off screens during school days.
31. no homework will make students overwhelmed in high school. too dramatically different
32. My son takes three honors and has SO much homework. It makes it hard to balance with sports and get even seven hours of sleep some nights.
33. I like the balance of education at RMS, especially the balance between academics and electives.
34. Homework if given should be a practice of what's taught in class and not be something that takes hours to get through after a long day at school
35. I think academic assistance is available but not always really accessible, or in some cases required to be accessed
36. A little more homework would be good for helping build study skills and stamina.
37. No open campus. Time should be spend in school. Guidance- health- homework- college prep- So much can happen in that time.
38. I don't have a major grasp on these questions. But that is the middle-of-the-road answer.
39. My answers may seem contradictory but there is an intense culture for success at the school that my kids already feel and it stressed them out. Simultaneously, they really haven't been pushed/challenged as I expected, though I hear that picks up in 10th grade.
40. Too much time spent on "soft skills" outside of core curriculum.
41. Outside of spanish which has been difficult to get the proper level of assistance.

42. I honestly have no idea on the last two. I haven't tried to access the curriculum or academic assistance for my child.
43. I would like the school to share more information about what is happening in the classroom.
44. Students should be able to do work their parents think is important in study hall. How can a study hall teacher have a better idea of what a student needs to work on than that student's parents? ALL textbooks and reference docs/materials should be available on-line to students.
45. My kid is in kindergarten, so the previous question isn't particularly relevant, yet.
46. I don't know about curricular resources or additional educational assistance. That information is probably shared with families on an educational support plan but not given to students who don't get assistance
47. The school district seems unconcerned with academic rigor K-8. People justify this with our test scores. Let me be clear: this is an example of the school district being more lucky than good. The affluence of the community and academic achievement of many people inform this success as much as the teachers.
48. Please provide in-person advanced programming for all students who qualify in ELA and math.
49. I am disappointed in how there is assistance for those falling behind, but less for those who are excelling and would benefit from deeper application of concepts, particularly in math. I worry we are "dumbing down" our curriculum and/or expectations of teachers to support our students who are high achievers.
50. More opportunities for students to opt-in to stretch/challenge experiences or projects
51. In our experience, we wanted more encouragement and support for our child in school. **** came home crying because of academics and friends more often than I was comfortable. **** said when **** went to counselors, **** was encouraged to work it out but again there did not seem to be much intervention. I ended up **** **** **** to help **** work through conflict and hired two tutors to assist with academic pressure. 504 school meetings improved over time. But the initial meetings were disappointing basically stating your child's grades are too good for support despite **** diagnosis and parental report of academic stress despite real effort.
52. Some kids are concerned that the lack of AP classes makes their college applications less competitive
53. we are adjusting to the rigor / academic intensity differences b/w private school experience and RMS. RMS has less HW which reduces academic fatigue - quality vs quantity. I think that more academic intensity would be good - raise the bar a little more.
54. I like homework a little bit it may be nice to have one sheet on a weekend to gage where they are and see how she does with me
55. Transition to school and style of education was a challenge at first

56. There should be more exams and quizzes starting in 1st grade. My fourth grader nor most of her friends can spell with any accuracy which feels pathetic and limits her reading capabilities.
57. There seems to be no discussion with parents about individual student needs in terms of academic support.
58. As a parent of a junior who is starting the college search process, it seems like the pressure to go to college is put on them by their peers and the school.
59. The academic assistance is not clear. Not sure exactly what is offered or how to access it.
60. Parents do not receive returned exams, so it is hard to give specific follow ups for my kids.
61. Please have academic assistance for kids who need more of a challenge - and not just once in a while during "WIN" - my daughter is so frustrated all the time by school math and just needs someone to offer her more work tailored to her needs/a group of kids at a similar point.
62. Interestingly, I have found this year that my daughter has mentioned that multiple teachers don't do a review session prior to giving big exams, and they tend to teach new material on the day before an exam. That seems like poor lesson planning to me.
63. 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.
64. Some classes have too much HW but others are fine. I know there are more resources for academic help but both my kids do not feel comfortable using it or don't feel like it will be helpful. I am a little unclear on what the resources are and how to access them.
65. This is my response for RMS. I will answer differently for HHS....which is too intense and too much pressure.
66. It's a lot of emails from all the teachers and the weekly newsletter
67. A lot of curriculum seems gated behind computerized gates that the staf don't understand how to open.
68. The Help Hub and Academic coaching have been great resources.
69. Work should be a little harder and/more intensive. The kid wants it and asks for it, we want it, but it's not currently bad enough to get tutoring or similar. We try to do what we can at home.
70. It's hard to tell where the pressure to succeed and plan for the future is coming from, but it's intense.

71. 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!
72. Academics are a good mix. That said, one irksome thing that has happened repeatedly is the variation by day/week. My kid is a straight-A student, but there appears to be a pattern where they'll have no homework for many days or even weeks, but then they'll bring home a ton of homework that was given that day and is due tomorrow, often in conjunction with afterschool/sports/whatever events that night. (and not a big project that was known and worked on over a period of time) I thought the teachers coordinated these assignments?
73. Small children (K-2) should have more focus on play, group work, outdoor time, and social development, and less rigorous academics.
74. MCS does not have the staffing to provide support to all the students that need it.
75. There is little meaningful curriculum information articulated to parents. Syllabi and course goals at the very least would be helpful.
76. I think that the school pushes the students more than other schools. I don't mind this but I don't believe the kids need as much homework. They need to focus on afterschool programs and just being a kid.
77. it seems like you can get the level of academic rigor you want. Yes, there is pressure for grades and performance, but honestly that is a useful tool to drive focus and build ambition.
78. Overall the load seems appropriate for our child, but there are some weeks when it can be overwhelming.
79. My son sometimes seems to have an inordinate amount of homework for 7th grade (more than I recall my older child having). The school day is already long (even more so with extracurriculars) and kids need more unstructured down time.
80. Sometimes finding the right resources and curriculum content on the online platforms is confusing (at least for parents trying to support kids!). Can't we go back to text-books?:). Homework is just too much. Kids needing to stay up very late to complete sometimes.
81. The amount and rigor of homework, especially in eighth grade, does not adequately prepare students for high school. The availability, or at least accessibility, of academic assistance is widely varied at RMS. When my student has been able to access support, that support has been effective.
82. 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.
83. not able to make selections meaningfully.
84. It is too easy to coast at HHS. Academic expectations should be higher - students should be stretching to grow.
85. A bit variable across classes.
86. It would be helpful to have an "unsure" column here.

87. We love that there is minimal homework so that our child can do all of their after school activities without the added stress of homework that may just be busy work. Homework is fine if it is intentionally used as part of the lesson that enriches what they are learning.
88. As I said before, bring back physical text books or offer both physical and digital. This would greatly benefit many students. I wish my student's advisor provided even more mentorship.
89. Kids don't want to reach out for help because there is such a culture and pressure for academic excellence, they feel "stupid and embarrassed" to have to ask for help
90. My child is on an iep and is supposed to have a helper in certain classes and states that the majority of the time one is not in class for **** to get help
91. Amount of regular homework: In the lower grades k-2, a lighter homework load is appropriate. I think starting in 3,4 there should be a gentle introduction to homework and then there should be more regular homework. Availability of documented curriculum: I think a list of which computer programs are being used in each subject would be helpful. Then I can go look up the family education material that might help me talk with my kid about it. I'm glad the SAU is posting subject area curricula online. Availability of additional academic assistance: I think kids have access to challenge problems in class. I'd like to continue to have the teachers communicate opportunities to go deeper with material they cover in class to parents so we can explore at home.
92. 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
93. Since grades are not the focus in elementary school my answers are very different than what I might say if my child were in HS but they aren't yet.

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

1. Question above depends on our jobs.
2. We're waiting to see what happens in the upcoming mid-term elections.
3. Our youngest is 3. Hard to say at this point what the future holds.

4. We moved to Hanover for the schools but every year, we considering leaving Hanover for a better school district but we love the community we have built here.
5. The tax burden is difficult to sustain now. I will likely relocate in the next few years, which is sad. I liked living here.
6. Really not sure what the future holds. We do not have roots here but we love the area. So its kinda a coin flip as to whether we stay or leave after my youngest graduates.
7. Wish we could stay
8. 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
9. 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.
10. no idea
11. might stay in upper valley, we might leave, we might stay. "Undecided" would be my actual answer
12. Some kids in the classrooms (our kinder has one), shouldn't be allowed to be in class with the rest of the kids. They're too distracting, physical with the kids - nobody should have to deal with physical issues like some of these neurodivergent kids dish out. It's unacceptable, disruptive, difficult for everyone else. Perhaps they need their own classrooms. So many days my kids say they didn't get to go to Forest classroom because there were kids that wouldn't behave and not enough help to manage them. So many days the kids come home having been hit by kids that shouldn't be in the group. I don't care that it's "public" and the district rules state whatever - physicality of kids on kids needs to be managed better. Look at the diets...
13. We live in Lyme but don't plan to leave (despite the taxes) -- though it's tempting!
14. We didn't move here for the schools. We lived here before having children.
15. We are soaked with taxes. We have roots here, but I could see moving farther away. Too much spending. The school budget drives most of the spending, but then there is add on spending and town meetings totally SUCK. I can't stress that last part enough.
16. **** ***, 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
17. We live in Lyme and plan to move to another part of the country or world
18. Would be great to build out more materials for new families to the district. We came here not too long ago and it was incredibly confusing. Didn't realize we had to pay for school lunch so my child had no money in her account on the first day since he old school was free. Also didn't understand how electives worked and our first contact with it was a confusing email asking us to choose options without giving any

context for how this process works, how long you're in the electives, what the electives are, etc. Band / Orchestra etc we didn't know if you have to have your own instrument. Just some things that new people don't get how it works so a packet of info would have been nice to have.

19. we won't rush out--maybe 10-15 yrs
20. We won't rush out, but can envision a change in 10-15 years.
21. Maybe.
22. Taxes are just too high. We can't afford to stay here longterm if that doesn't change.
23. We will probably move to a town with a school that offers better math and English curricula.
24. I am overall very happy with our schools. Most of the teachers are great and my kids have had mostly good experiences. I am very upset with HHS athletics and with RMS math — those experiences were harmful to my child and have damaged my relation to the school. I also think writing this is pointless and my hands are tied with raising this through other venues: I strongly feel that if I talk more than I already have to athletics, there will be repercussions for my kid.
25. That's a long way away for us, so we may have a different answer by the time graduation comes. If taxes and expenses keep rising as they have been, then we'd need to move.
26. Unfortunately, I would not recommend the Hanover public school system to friends, especially for a child with a learning disability.
27. We are relocating due to a parental job change, but are staying in the Upper Valley through our last child's graduation.
28. get me out of here lol 40k in taxes is nuts
29. Our youngest won't graduate from high school until 2040 which makes this question irrelevant for us.
30. A lot of where we go could be dictated by our jobs. However, because our children grew up here, we hope to stay so they have a familiar place to return to when they leave for college.
31. We might leave, it's a possibility, but we feel that we are lucky to live here.
32. It is more about our house size - we would want to be able to downsize our house, but finding something small in Hanover/Norwich is challenging.
33. Family has lived here since **** *
34. I want to stay, but not sure I can afford to pay such incredibly high property taxes
35. 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.
36. Already thinking of moving to another, less expensive community.
37. Wouldn't mind exploring the world some more, but certainly not until after graduation, and Hanover is so good for many aspects: great schools, low crime, many social things, low taxes, good activities for seniors when we're in that phase, good place to be for climate change, Dartmouth cultural events, driving distance to Montreal, Burlington, Boston.
38. This is not a hypothetical situation for us. Our youngest child is about to graduate HHS at the same time as I'm being offered a lucrative package to relocate with my

company that is moving. I turned it down and found another job here in the area so we can keep living here.

39. Too expensive to live here. Not enough housing options - this area does not provide the variety we need as a family
40. Currently, living at **** ** to live here. When we **** - we likely won't be able to afford to live in Norwich/Hanover.
41. A nice thoughtful question. We like the Hanover community and could easily settle down here for life even after the kids move out. It's a great town, Dartmouth offers great events, it's perfect for climate change, building equity, and has generally good resources for aging in place. That said, we do occasionally get stir-crazy and need to run away sometimes. I can see us staying here or possibly moving on, but it wouldn't be related to the schools either way. That said, we're certainly not planning to go anywhere until everyone graduates!
42. We really have no idea.
43. We will probably continue to live and work in Hanover until retirement, perhaps 5-6 years after our daughter graduates from high school.
44. We moved up here for work, but still own a home in **** **, so we may well sell our Hanover property and return there.
45. If we move, it will be for other reasons
46. this country is cooked.
47. Our roots in Hanover are **** ** and we can not afford to live anywhere else right now and do not anticipate that in the future even after our student graduates.

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

1. Students are not bully neither they welcoming I don't think there is such thing as a community for newcomers
2. Privatization of afterschool sports is harming community connections and inclusion of all students
3. Lack of political diversity
4. Too much ed-tech/"learning apps"/videos
5. Lack of political diversity

6. The library collection does not have a well balanced selection of books that cater to more conservative values or outdoor interest like hunting and fishing
7. Administration that feels insensitive even though thinks is sensitive
8. Lack of oversight of programs such as varsity hockey
9. After my daughter's 3 years at RMS, I still feel like I know very little about her teachers. Without parent-teach conferences, there are very few opportunities to get to know teachers and feel a connectedness with the school. I'm very happy with the quality of education she is receiving, but wish I felt more connected to the RMS staff as a parent.
10. Leadership at the school
11. unevenness of teaching quality
12. Get rid of the excessive and unnecessary technology in schools!
13. Preparing our kiddos for a world with AI
14. A real playground (all season!) at MCS is lacking.
15. This is a privileged school system with abundant resources. I hope respondents appreciate that!
16. So far, very happy
17. Technology in schools is an issue.
18. Wealth divide. Don't ask students who apply for March intensive financial support to prove how they will fundraise. Either ask everyone, or make it work. Don't make student athletes have to fundraise and then reward those who 'win' fundraising challenges when we all know their wealthy relative wrote a big check. There is a stark difference between those who have and those who don't. Give each student the same opportunity to thrive that is not based on their family's wealth.
19. 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
20. Something is not right with the schools, I can't propose a specific change.
21. Too much screen time at school
22. school lunch program
23. Crazy sports practice times... I understand court availability is a problem, but him getting home at 8:30 or 9:00 is also a problem
24. Too much ethnic diversity
25. A fair number of behavioral problems for "COVID-era" kids
26. See above
27. I feel too new to the district to judge this in the context of the school district as a whole
28. Academic intervention for **** and counseling support
29. Need more incentives to attract (and keep) talented teachers and staff
30. Lack of accountability for students who misbehave.
31. Finding balance with AI and technology
32. MCS school and grounds are in need of a lot of work.

33. HOUSING!!! Despite being a nationally recognized school (and rightfully so) enrollment at Ray is declining at the same time our budget is projected to double within the decade. If we don't address housing and bring more families into the community, we're in big trouble
34. Students are relying on AI to achieve high grades and not getting caught.
35. Pressure of feeling the need to go to college
36. Entitlement-students receive a lot of benefits but don't have to give back. I think there was a missed opportunity with Portrait of a Graduate and not requiring 10 hours or more per year of community service. Also, requiring practice during spring vacation? So no family vacations anymore??
37. Would like to see AP courses as part of the curriculum (beyond Calculus)
38. Math
39. Stronger Music department
40. Keep recruiting and retaining top teachers - pay them to stay!
41. I wish the school meals were healthier
42. The calendar is so disruptive. 50% of the school weeks are not 5 day weeks plus snow days/delays.
43. Concerned that sometimes ineffective teachers skate by without consequences
44. I greatly value the small class sizes at MCS and I am worried that this will change
45. I think the biggest challenge is facing Hanover Norwich schools are the budgetary crisis that is going to result from education reform in Vermont. I hope this school board can get out in front of this and find a solution that ensures Norwich is participating meaningfully in the statewide Vermont system, but at the same time doesn't destroy the educational opportunities available at Hanover HS. It's going to be very tricky.
46. Please keep building in more outside time beyond the playground.
47. Afterschool programs, support for working parents
48. over-reliance on digital technology; particularly Schoology
49. Inclusiveness
50. High achievement culture; lack of emphasis on character growth and too much emphasis on academic and athletic achievement.
51. tech use in kindergarten/1st grade
52. School leadership is poor and not acceptable for any school, especially given the amount that taxpayers provide to support the schools and students.
53. housing is so hard for us, we have moved ****
54. Indoor facilities- the school itself needs to be updated and upgraded
55. tech and unhealthy teachers providing bad examples

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

1. We need more racial and ethnic diversity among the teachers and staff to reflect our wider world for students of color, their families and the entire community.
2. For example, when my kid wants to try a new sport, they either think they cannot start because they are not good enough, or they sign up and there's not enough players because all the "good athletes" are off playing the club version of the sport.

Not to mention the club sports keep kids so busy that they are not around to play and build friendships with the non-club kids. And there's the cost and time associated with travel sports that can exclude some families. I wish parents would chill out with the sports craziness. I don't know if SAU can do anything about this.

3. Increasing student openness to different political ideas and encouraging a wide variety of political opinions. Despite Hanover being very lopsided politically, the school has done a nice job overall remaining unbiased and politically neutral. While the school should encourage debate among students, the school should always remain politically neutral. Students should be taught HOW to think, not WHAT to think.
4. A more balanced representation of political ideas would be welcome, as would encouraging students to be open to a variety of political views. That being said, overall I think the school and district does a nice job of remaining unbiased and staying politically neutral. Schools should be a safe space for students to share their opinions, and I think some students might benefit from a gentle reminder that there is more than just one political ideology and that it is ok for people to have different opinions. Perhaps reminding students you can have a different political stance from someone and still be friends.
5. 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.
6. Feels like some of the honors science/math classes are just too hard for kids who aren't naturally brilliant but want to be challenged by honors science/math; and the non honors classes feel too easy and unfulfilling. There is a huge gap between the two
7. Many children at RMS have been subject to a few children's ongoing harassment, including my own. Only when I threatened to engage legal counsel was any action taken to keep the harasser away from my child. As I understand it from many other parents, this child continues to harass other students on a daily basis.
8. I think kids are over-tasked and saturated. I want my child to have some responsibility and get a sense of all the possible things to learn and do, sure, but the idea that they set their college prospects with 5th grade travel lacrosse or strings, or math is too much. There's a more reasonable middle ground. Not sure this place hits it.
9. My child has navigated these issues well but they have damaged a lot of her friends and former friends.
10. 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.
11. 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.

12. Pickup for grades K-1 is becoming unwieldy, there isn't enough parking for the number of parents who have to be at the door within 1-2 minutes of pickup. Kids should be kept at the door for long enough for new parking to open up before pickup is considered "late" and kids are sent to the office. This is a minor issue.
13. Have not been impressed with quality of instruction or administration
14. The academic jump between the schools is too big. More can be done to bridge the gap and prepare the students for the next level of schooling.
15. I can't wait until my child can participate in school-sponsored sports so I don't have to shuttle her around to activities after school as much.
16. There should also be better counseling services within the school.
17. Academic rigor is specific to RMS. Otherwise, everything feels just fine.
18. Consider PowerSchool and its benefits. Perhaps updates don't have to be immediate. Consider turning off during exam time so exam results are all released after the exam period concludes.
19. I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS
20. There should also be more access to student support services.
21. One teacher noted that my kid's **** was an "issue"
22. Rigor is exceptionally high and should remain so. That said, there is too much homework most nights. The same demanding level of rigor could be maintained with 25% less homework, making more time for family/community connection. Similarly, great to see athletic excel, but scale back the time. There is very little time for family, and there is no downtime for ambitious students.
23. The elementary buildings are falling apart.
24. Our child is receiving a great education, but the world is challenging. For students of color and LGBTQ students, I think there is a underlying level of stress and unease that's palpable in school and outside of it.
25. I wish it were easier to learn about what after-school/extra curricular activities are available
26. To reiterate what I said in the previous responses, I wish we would use more traditional (on-paper), non-technology-based learning methods.
27. The **** minute daily drive almost broke my ****. It would be amazing to have some sort of bus option, or to have a 3-4 day week vs a 5 day week in the upper grades.
28. Thank you for offering middle school sports! It would be nice if the schools were able to hire and retain staff members that are more diverse. While the Hanover and Norwich bubble is nice, the whole world isn't like this.
29. More rigorous content knowledge
30. Strange that some sports provide transportation to practice- baseball soccer, and then a bunch do not provide transportation- skiing, tennis, jumping, crew.
31. 50 minutes on the bus is too long. We need advanced math for the bright students. The nation's physics and science and engineering schools are largely filled with

- people education outside the country -- which would be great if we were doing brilliantly and they were doing even better -- but when we are doing too poorly, as a nation, to educate children who can't afford a private education -- that's bad.
32. I know that not everybody needs more rigorous teaching but it should be there for those who do. Too much in-school time is of no benefit at all -- I can't even disagree with him when he says he would learn better & faster if he skipped school, some days.
 33. 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.
 34. bus ride is too long to do anything after school.
 35. Not overly concerned because I have a happy kid who loves school, loves friends, and is learning and growing. But there are some important curriculum content and delivery decisions for our **** ** to make, across all subjects.
 36. It doesn't seem like there are many clubs and it is hard for parents to encourage kids to participate especially in early grades. More info on when sign ups are and info on clubs and when they meet would be helpful.
 37. We'd love to see more afterschool clubs and options at school that aren't sports (e.g. a book club)
 38. Bullying (physical and psychological) is a problem and RMS doesn't address it unless forced to do so by parents. RMS does not follow the Dresden policy on bullying.
 39. Behavior on the bus and bus driver's responses to student behavior makes taking the bus challenging for my child
 40. 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.
 41. I love the secure entrance at the Ray school. Can we please have that at RMS and HHS too?
 42. Our experience is with young kids at MCS, where we think everything is beyond fine-
-everything is amazing.
 43. Mold, leaks and plumbing issues still? Unacceptable.
 44. the new playground feels like an easy way to bully... keep kids trapped on that spinning thing, really required abilities to not get injured
 45. Kids can be cruel, and testing limits is part of the human development process. However, it is much easier to be mean behind a keyboard than if you have to say it to their face, thus the tested limits are more extreme than ever before. Kids today lack empathy because the online world strips the human element. If the mean comment may cause you to get punched in the face, you are less likely to say it. If you leave a mean comment online and close your device, it is much easier to go about your day than it is while nursing a bloody nose. I'm not promoting violence,

but rather the hopefully obvious point that if we don't start both teaching and practicing empathy at home and at school, it will only get worse until something catastrophic happens. It will rattle the community temporarily, but the masses will move on and one day forget entirely. Kids are exposed to the horrors of the world on a daily basis through the news; we don't need to baby them. We can have age appropriate conversations to dispel the 'sticks and stones'. Words hurt far more.

46. Balance is extremely important to our family in regard to our student's mental health and well-being. She is able to manage it, but the intensity of academic requirements coupled with the intensity of athletic requirements, make balance extremely challenging and require more household support (packing food, driving, etc.). I am VERY concerned about how much sleep my student is able to get in order to achieve her goals for academic and athletic pursuits - I would be happy to see a later start time to allow more sleep, though I understand the many complications with this. I would greatly prefer my student be able to take the bus or some sort of ride-share, both from an environmental aspect and from my time and energy spent in drop off and pick up (we do not live "in town" - however we do not utilize the bus because it would require even less sleep for her).
47. 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
48. There may be a "forgotten middle" of the kids who are average, but not excelling or failing.
49. School should start later to allow students to get more rest for both their physical and mental health.
50. 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
51. Primary issues with academic rigor (too much) are at RMS but issues with lack of special education attention/access was at MCS
52. We had our first bullying issue as parents this year, despite a combined 12 years in the schools. The schools handled it reasonably well, but communication wasn't great. It gave me doubts that I didn't have before.
53. Everything that made the Ray School exceptional seems to have gone away. Ecosystem studies, Colonial Days, sing-alongs, chorus. Instead I hear about so many different tests.

54. 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.
55. 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.
56. The school building is very dated and somewhat rundown. While it does not necessarily affect the academic rigor, it's kind of a downer. Not reflective of the perceived or actual affluence of the town.
57. Rigor is very dependent on which SAU 70 school. There is not enough rigor at RMS to prepare students for HHS. At Ray, it depends on the teacher.
58. 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.
59. We had an unexpected change in the kid's extracurricular schedule this spring. Instead of doing significant kid-related travel every weekend, we had... nothing. It was incredible. We played games, did local things, hung out with friends, cooked together, relaxed. It probably won't happen again for years. We need to collectively find a way to bring that back. The balance of time issues are very real.
60. 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.
61. Too much homework over vacation, too much homework assigned and/or due outside of class time.
62. 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.
63. Not that I think you are doing anything wrong, I just think these are always the three things that should be challenging for the school.
64. It would be really nice if the bus from Lyme left later in the morning. The bus leaves and arrives too early. Why not later?
65. The issues that we have experienced have all been related to school leadership competency and prior experience.
66. I think that MCS needs a better playground.
67. Our child is doing fine and is generally happy. Our only real wish is that he was more inspired academically, but it's hard to tell if that has anything to do with the teacher quality or whether that's just his own personality.

68. I wish there were more opportunities to socialize / get to know other families. The PTO doesn't really offer much. We are new in town and it hasn't taken almost the entire school year to make any connections with other families. Not sure if that's something the school can help facilitate.
69. My son does not seem to have maintained many friendships from Marion Cross or made new friends with Hanover students. I recall my older child having the same experience. I don't know if there is anything the school can do about this, or if it is just the reality of middle-school/early adolescent transition.
70. I was very surprised to learn that students are drinking *during the day* and showing up at school obviously inebriated... and that teachers are aware. Difficult to fathom this one.
71. Quality of curriculum: I'm disappointed in the reading material and the books chosen to read. the kids read more in 5th grade than in middle school :(
72. Certain activities that should be fun like carnival becomes a slog because no one can choose to be with friends (it's random placement), advisory could be fun (and some are) but some groups are not fun and forced socialization isn't going to make kids friends
73. I wish we had a later start time.
74. Answers differ a lot between schools. Rigor seems right at Ray and HHS, very low/ not enough at RMS.
75. More gym space is needed so the PE teachers can have smaller class sizes

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

1. Need to teach study skills and homework management with such rigorous academics and hold students accountable. They need guidance now so they can survive and thrive in college.
2. Mindful Ed-Tech/"Learning App"/Video Policy.
3. consistency among curriculum with teachers teaching the same subject. Some much more rigor than others in the same grade level/subject.
4. Kids are increasingly trying to take AP exams to stay competitive for college, and the lack of AP classes is really hurting them. Because Hanover High grades so difficultly in hard classes (relative to other schools) and lacks AP, our top kids are really not succeeding in college acceptances as many parents are hoping relative to other

schools. This has become a huge topic of conversation among parents who have moved to Hanover for the school system.

5. Consideration of less lengthy homework assignments for honors courses so that people taking multiple such courses can handle the combined load.
6. The Norwich to RMS jump
7. continue and expand project-based learning and ensure access to outdoor education for every grade level
8. I am concerned about the new math curriculum and its ability to prepare students for college level math
9. Vast inequities regarding opportunities due to cost
10. Letter grades are needed by later elementary
11. smaller more personalized instruction for kids with learning differences
12. Additional attention to learning a second language. Higher quality language immersion/instruction.
13. Options for advanced/highly capable students are needed at the Ray School
14. Middle school math curriculum
15. So far, very happy
16. Deeper learning
17. Teachers checking in with students who have overdue work and finding out what is going on
18. I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS. please
19. Leadership at the High School Level
20. Focused groups within class for academically excelling students
21. I don't really know....
22. something is not right and the curriculum seems off in many cases. We need more traditional content to be taught.
23. The 8th grade math program is a disaster. I have had kids come up through the entire Dresden system, both Norwich and Hanover, and in my opinion this is the biggest problem in the district
24. No homework until middle school or high school
25. Make march intensive more meaningful
26. Making sure that equity doesn't get in the way of students being able to move forward more quickly if that is appropriate for them. This is being done to some extent (well), but not always, and is often teacher-dependent
27. Too much homework
28. Get rid of 9th grade "methods". Would love to add another language but with all the time he already spends, it's hard to see how
29. The Math pedagogy seems to upset others (not us) - but having this as a point, within the middle school, where some of our friends have opted to leave the school district, is concerning. I want to keep those families that are finding themselves going to Cardigan Mtn School.
30. 1) need to include writing/composition for students, (2) need a lot more rigorous and a faster pace for the math curriculum.

31. More geology and science in general - my kid really likes it
32. More STEM
33. German is very popular because it's super easy- otherwise they would be little demand. How about a one semester survey class of Chinese? Nh
34. Significantly increase world language programming at the younger grades. One course should be required in high school.
35. Clarity around AP classes / test prep
36. 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.
37. More direct instruction from teachers
38. I feel too new to the district to judge this in the context of the school district as a whole
39. See above
40. AP classes
41. Less learning via screens
42. Longer days with more breaks
43. middle school math curriculum needs attention. My student LOST skills during 6th grade math.
44. Provide classes for sophomores and up to help w daily life tasks. Maybe an elective or combine w extra math requirement
45. AP classes would be nice
46. Non traditional sports opportunities for wider access
47. More ability for advanced students to work ahead.
48. Change to Spanish or Chinese (instead of French) at MCS
49. Personal finance classes
50. make teacher tech knowledge part of their job performance requirements
51. Personalized curriculum, in the sense that the teachers adjust their approach to individual students, proactively.
52. Drivers Ed, we need this in the schools and to be accessible for our students.
53. More communication with parents if students are struggling, not just a poor mark at the end of the quarter where parents then can only react to an issue.
54. Gym
55. Not enough scope for electives.
56. Educational assistants in the younger grades and a support room
57. I less interested in consistency of curriculum — which seems to be fetishized - and more interested in teacher's providing thought-provoking interesting curriculum. It seems that the curriculum is becoming more boring and rote in the interest of standarization.
58. Managing technology; how it is used, protecting our young students and adequately preparing them for the future.
59. Change the Wednesday schedule. It's too many classes in too little time.

60. Kids don't know how to socialize with people they aren't friends with to a debilitating extent. Be able to talk to acquaintances is something these Covid kids have lost.
61. special ed and ot services expanded in lower gradees
62. As a taxpayer and parent it would be great to view a well articulated vertically aligned curriculum K-12. The lack of communication and transparency is primarily at the high school level.
63. Not enough rigor at RMS, especially English and Social Studies. Not enough curriculum outside of math and ELA at Ray. Teachers are making it up, we're super lucky to have a proactive experienced teacher this year finding social studies/citizenship curriculum but shouldn't be up to luck or individual teacher
64. I'd like to see more guidance provided to the students - help them with goals and the path to achieve those goals. Parents own the "life goals" conversation, but teachers and councilors can help a lot... and parents aren't equipped to know the details of pre-requisites (some of which are coming in middle school) that define a path.
65. From the second grade perspective, things seem pretty good.
66. The math program needs to be re-evaluated.
67. Help kids navigate SATs (offer mandatory prep course), ACTs and AP testing-they don't feel confident they are prepared and don't feel the school offers guidance
68. Less I-Ready, more handwritten math
69. Need chorus and music opportunities which do not take away time from recess
70. Too many celebrations and days off

48 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 45 answers

1. It doesn't have to be one on one, but help when a student struggles with a concept so that they don't fall behind. More help when they are out sick and come back
2. less tech/fewer screens.
3. Kids should leave MCS after 5th grade
4. March intensive is a relative joke for someone who can't afford international travel. And the prior year we had to pay for programming that partially didn't happen yet we didn't receive a partial refund
5. 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
6. I would like to share some reflections on the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors sequence at HHS, based on my child's experience and conversations with other families. Before 9th grade, there was already significant concern about taking Methods Honors. Some friends strongly advised against it, and even families whose children did well described it as very demanding. My child chose to take the course, and while he has been doing well academically, the experience has still been quite stressful. A major challenge has been the strong focus on detailed grading criteria and constant attention to scores. He often feels pressure tracking grades and

worrying about performance. While I fully respect the rigor and high standards of the course, the level of strictness can sometimes create anxiety that feels counterproductive to learning. In addition, precise wording in assignments and lab reports is heavily emphasized, and small issues in expression can significantly affect grades. While accuracy is important, I wonder whether there could be a bit more flexibility in grading to better support learning and improvement. Looking ahead, many students are already concerned about Chemistry Honors being even more demanding, which adds to anxiety. While we appreciate the dedication and rigor of the teaching, it is also important that grading practices support students' confidence and engagement in science. Overall, I hope the program can continue to maintain high academic standards while also ensuring students feel supported and able to focus on learning, rather than excessive concern about grades.

7. Appreciate current class sizes
8. Yes, I would like to see teachers in one grade collaborative and get on the same page more.
9. Change the way that honors classes are perceived. Those kids believe that kids not in the honors classes are 'dumb'. The pressure is too much.
10. The middle school math curriculum and progression is a bit confusing and I wonder if there is a way to optimize so that students at all different levels of ability continue to be engaged and challenged.
11. I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS
12. I would add more languages
13. By rigor I don't mean MORE, I mean supporting teachers in keeping up with how student's use technology to ensure they are able to teach the most effective way(s) possible
14. Get rid of French and add one of Russian, Arabic, Chinese
15. Language programs at RMS are great, but this has been our child's first opportunity to study Spanish in school. Kids at Ray get such a great start to Spanish, and even they could use much more time.
16. There is no need to cancel school so that 1/4 of the school takes the SATs.
17. It would be great if MCS had Spanish. Also an improved language curriculum in general; students are not learning French.
18. If the school maintained its current performance and policies, that would be great. Don't cut anything!!!
19. Math program for 7th grade needs urgent change
20. Because there are so many electives, they are not offered with enough frequency so that a student can necessarily enroll in their desired courses, and rotations often aren't publicized so students cannot plan years out (in order to take a less frequently offered course).
21. It would be great to have world languages map better across schools and to languages offered at the high school.
22. see above, my kid moves from MCS to RMS, my understanding is that there may be opportunity for some more challenging match experiences

23. It does seem like there can be wildly different teaching and learning happening between identical courses taught by different teachers. I wish that was different. It's always a let-down to not get "the good teacher" for a course you need to take.
24. When students switch teachers at the 2nd semester there is not a way to meet the teachers and I don't recall getting an email of introduction from teachers. I would like a chance to know the teachers if he/she is new for 2nd semester. There is a big jump from a regular class to an honors class. Some regular feels too easy at times and some honors classes are too rigorous.
25. World History and Geography!!! Our kids come out of high school with very little knowledge of either!!! AP course and college credit courses!!! Honors courses are worthless!!!
26. Would be nice to have educational/active afterschool stuff besides KAST. KAST is fine, but is basically glorified babysitting by high schoolers. I don't mean that in a mean/sarcastic way, but it could be so much more.
27. We also need more trade options and to have our students introduced into these careers and not pushed into college.
28. A lot less is taught within school time in comparison to what is given in homework
29. I wish my pre-k child had gym this year. She really enjoyed it last year.
30. The superintendent's survey email mentioned that Mandarin appears to be coming, which is fantastic! I like the idea of clubs based on interest, and not just sports/competitive stuff, although those are great too. How about clubs related to hiking, board games, movies?
31. Again, most of the issues we have encountered are a result of poor school leadership (mostly at the HS level). This affects the culture and often serious cultural issues are not addressed. Our children have learned to avoid these issues and feel that school leadership is unaware of doesn't care. They joke that they often see the **** walking about town during the school day.
32. need better writing instruction at the middle school level (and elementary). Same with math - it feels like the middle school will need time to recover from the unusual approaches promulgated by the **** **** regarding the math instruction
33. It might be nice to offer some additional options for world languages
34. It would be great to have more language instruction, but I wouldn't call this a 'pressing need.'
35. The math situation at RMS is a real problem. I appreciate the intention to create a differentiated approach, but our kids were the guinea pigs in a failed experiment. ****. **** approach is MUCH better - still differentiated, but offering real instruction (albeit through videos, but at least they are **** and consistent with **** teaching style/goals), clear goal setting, frequent progress check-ins, clear expectations on a weekly basis. I encourage this model to be expanded across at least all 7th and 8th grade classes. Also, more communication and clarity with parents and students in 6th grade about what is ahead and what the implications are would be very valuable.
36. Knee jerk reaction following criticism around dated curriculum means 7 years later we have very little (if any) history/ social studies curriculum at Ray to my knowledge

(and that of teachers I've chatted with). We need to move on this now! English at RMS (not including **** who hasn't compromised on rigor/high expectations) is a joke. Level of prep when students arrive at HHS for 9th grade English is SO far behind Crossroads and Lyme students. Even the top students spend a ton of time catching up on writing skills that are really middle school milestones.

37. Opportunities for more challenging academics for students who are ready or you are going to lose them to boredom.
38. freshman year was viewed as a "waste of time" and repeat of what my student had in 8th grade at ****. Alignment of STEM curriculum with what is expected and required by top tier schools is not there. The population is priveledge and advantaged to start with so I don't think its noticed but comparing the curriculum at HHS with what **** had at a top public high school in the **** suburbs I have been underwhelmed. My **** not having taking physics by the time **** applying to college for example is bizarre to me.
39. We have serious concerns about how math was rolled out this year and am worried about 8th grade math being mostly on the computer.
40. There is a big jump between the amount of work in 8th vs high school. Also every teacher seems to have different rules and teaching styles (more at Ray than RMS)..
41. I think French should be taught with Canadian accent due to our close location
42. I'm happy HHS is offering German.
43. 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?
44. How much time is my child semi-passively looking at a screen or clicking buttons at school each day? I don't know the answer, but I'd like to know. What would be a reasonable total amount of time each day from the school district's perspective?
45. It doesn't make sense that Math and Science have honors tracks but English and Social Studies don't. Academic Rigor at RMS is very spotty with a few strong teachers unwilling to lower the bar but the norm, especially in Eng and Social Studies, is embarrassingly week. At Ray, need to figure out how we teach History. Reaction to criticism during / post pandemic was to stop teaching history which isn't a viable option. Our 2nd grader's AWESOME teacher has created/brought in her own social studies/citizenship curriculum where there is a huge void. We are thankful for her leadership and dedication but this shouldn't be up to an individual teacher to solve.

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.

1. not too many assemblies
2. A Social Worker
3. Less focus on advisory, stress-related games. Not felt to be helpful.
4. Super aggravating that the school discourages parent connection
5. So far, very happy
6. I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS.
7. Provide better quality food
8. None of these
9. none of this
10. Improve food choices and increase elective options to include theater
11. Better-qualified guidance counselors in RMS
12. See above; also, there should be more equitable access to school trips and students should not be forced to choose March intensive opportunities based on their family’s wealth or lack thereof; HHS is. Ongoing a good job on economic equality and equity issues
13. Building stronger connection between parents, and between parents and teachers
14. Please change the school lunch menu and caterer for healthier options.
15. I think schools should focus on academics; families provide support.
16. I feel too new to the district to judge this in the context of the school district as a whole
17. MCS seems to have cut student support services way too much in the last few years
18. Better individualized academic progression - originating from the teaching staff
19. Real performance management for teachers that takes into account parent feedback.
20. Every type of relationship counseling - how to be a supportive, a good listener, respectful, being a good partner and friend, stress, resilience, social emotional should be taught alongside sex education and mental health.
21. More awareness of what's going on beyond the bubble of the Upper Valley; inclusive of cultures, religions and political issues.
22. School culture. The visible and acted upon message that students are the priority.

23. More focus on executive functioning.
24. I'd like to see more support and guidance regarding academic and career goals, which will in most cases increase motivation.
25. this is not the responsibility of the school
26. Introduction of how student support team works to all families, especially new families
27. Advisory and small group learning pods

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

1. allow students to use a school space for telehealth appointments so that they miss less school
2. More connection all around would be great...between students, teachers, and the community.
3. Access to accelerated curriculum for students who have expressed the readiness for it. My 7th grader **** * and has learned nothing in math since entering RMS. Address ongoing daily harassment by a few students that the administration ignores.
4. I see the culture of the school as still in need of change particularly in regard to some boys' attitude of disrespect toward girls. In my opinion this needs to get stepped on very strongly. It's a blight on an otherwise good school system.
5. I would like to see longer unstructured recess in middle school.
6. Our concerns are only at the high school level.
7. I think when you have a spring festival (forget what the field day thing is called) and it is known that less than 50% of the population shows up for it, then I believe it needs to be re-evaluated. We forced our kids to go and they came home saying that it was horrible because there were so few people there.
8. We need a massive garden at Ray. And we need to utilize the local farmers and food producers for the food programs at school. That will create community cohesion.
9. Major concerns is a lot, I think the school works hard, but that connectedness and getting exercise are important for developing minds. I love the extracurriculars and quality of the teachers overall! Wonderful school and hard working staff and faculty.
10. All the things I mentioned above need to be in-person and not virtual.
11. Personal finance was a great addition to the curriculum. It would be helpful to have more classes like that, perhaps a cooking/healthy eating and home/vehicle maintenance class.
12. In spite of the IEP, academic performance has stagnated.
13. March intensive should have travel options, particularly for older students, but should also include required exposure to knowledge, systems, and skills that will help build a understanding of basic life skills, civic skills, and career understanding: such as basic car maintenance and repair, basic home maintenance and repair, gun safety, dog training, interior/exterior plaster and painting, garbage disposal and recycling, small engine repair, trail maintenance, emergency services, forestry, road building and repair, etc.

14. Very few electives are motivating or appealing to my student
15. none of that is necessary, just a big waste of taxpayer funds
16. I actually think the HS does a tremendous job at this, but it is a large and continuing challenge for some kids.
17. I feel like the school has a very competitive vibe, so I picked things that could help mitigate that. It feels like a primary focus is being "good" at things
18. It's great that we donate on a monthly basis to the haven but I'd love if Hanover kids had a better sense of how many resources are available to them and that this isn't the case for everyone everywhere. It would be nice if kids had ideas about how they can give back (if able) meaningfully to the larger community. It's easy in some ways to live in the Hanover bubble but not everyone gets to live this way.
19. 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.
20. Therapists and Mental Health/Wellness counselors of the Global Majority will be helpful.
21. "Known bad" teachers rarely see consequences. Rather, we parents have to band together and make lists of "individuals to avoid" - which we use to make one-off scheduling requests. It would be better if our concerns could be collected at the end of each year in a systemic way. A parent performance review.
22. There was a 3rd grade event where the kids had to carry heavy water to and from the golf course(?) to symbolize how hard it can be for some cultures to regularly access water. I loved that. Making those connections to the wider world (Hanover is good, too) is so key to education.
23. It seems good already. These are such important things, it is always worth improving.
24. More focus on being part of a learning community, not disrupting others' learning opportunities. Consequences for negatively impacting classroom environment.
25. The kids are so busy that it can become isolating. The RMS socials are a great way "to just hang out". More opportunities like that would be great. We do a few small-group, 1:1 friendship stuff, and that's great. But I think there could be more "bonding" opportunities beyond sports.
26. 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.
27. For my child, student tutoring wasn't a great option.
28. less phones = more student connectivity

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.

1. Struggles with work overload management
2. This school is clique-y and it doesn't seem easy for Norwich and Hanover kids to mingle.
3. A particular teacher's methods don't seem to benefit most students in the class, or in fact may be detrimental to most.
4. Harassment and boredom
5. Inability to communicate after school or changes in plans due to no personal technology
6. struggles with reading/****
7. Lack of communication about certain opportunities until it's too late
8. He always wants more recess and interaction with his peers.
9. Disengaged faculty and administration
10. So far, very happy
11. The gym not being available at lunch time as the **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** **** so the kids can play volleyball. Physical activity is excellent for mental health and focus. Staff it so they can be in there!
12. My 9th grader says he has no friends, but isn't necessarily upset about it. That worries me.
13. no others. but I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS.
14. High School **** is unprofessional and not effective.
15. Bullying and safety on the bus
16. Wants better food quality. No more yellow government cheese and fake syrup
17. Lunch program
18. The current political climate creeping into the classroom in a one sided way
19. Boredom
20. Boredom
21. Focus with so many distractions like screens
22. My student struggles with behavioral issues from time to time
23. Again, a fair number of behavioral challenges impacting class forward progress

24. Grading practices
25. See above
26. My child would like to be challenged more academically.
27. 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
28. Getting bored in some classes
29. being bored and not adequately challenged
30. DRIVERS ED IS A NIGHTMARE! We cannot find a drivers ed program that works. I don't understand why NH doesn't teach this in school like so many other states. This is a totally bonkers system that hugely disadvantages certain families.
31. The building and grounds need serious improvement
32. More time for recess or outdoor learning
33. Need more time to finish assignments per 504
34. Communication — difficult to find information about what's going on, doesn't seem to be a consistent place where a parent can look — lots of silos
35. Support and uplifting of minorities
36. Needs more academic rigor and access to singing, theatre, sports - though SAU 70. Why do we need to drive kids all over the upper valley AFTER school to access some of these items! a Blue Ribbon school should have extracurriculars!
37. Lack of engagement - teaching staff letting them skate because they "aren't a problem"
38. Honestly, boredom from not being challenged. They dread school.
39. Boredom, especially in math class
40. Time management and home work pressures.
41. Minimal time to delve into classroom work; disruptive classmates.
42. Social issues with friends; not conflicts per se, but in-group/out-group/click issues
43. sensory regulation
44. School leadership seems checked out, not trustworthy, and self-serving. Students are not valued.
45. Kids who misbehave get zero consequences and ruin it for everyone else
46. If a student has a different political belief they do not feel safe to express themselves
47. Son seems kind of lonely sometimes.
48. Screen time
49. Passing time
50. disruptive students not being disciplined properly and continuing to distract others who want to learn. kids need to learn that actions have consequences.
51. headaches from screen use
52. More welcoming environment for sports or athletic opportunities for kids that are not naturally athletic.

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

1. My student isn't challenged nearly enough academically, and when they are, the challenges are wildly unequal teacher to teacher. Some teachers do and expect

absolutely nothing of the students, others are wildly inconsistent from student to student. In each case I am alluding to, stories of inconsistent grading practices and unequal treatment of students have been eerily the same from many years now past.

2. HHS and the whole district/community fall into the liberal bubble/echo chamber—much of which is not wrong but stifles more balanced dialogue
3. Mostly normal social challenges, making friends, conflicts with friends, etc.
4. Unless you are looped into a parent network or had an older student go through you miss awareness of certain opportunities
5. Revolving door of low talent administrators
6. 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.
7. My child has **** and ADHD so reading and writing is a real struggle and navigating course work with those disabilities is challenging.
8. I think the curriculum needs to be more rigorous in ELA and math. I think there should be more social school-sponsored events. After school activities and performing opportunities would foster more social connections among peers.
9. Our concerns are only at the High School level. Our 4th grader has had a great experience.
10. There needs to be a monitor on the bus who can address disciplinary issues. It is not safe for the driver to handle these issues while driving, and the drivers do not seem trained or equipped to do so.
11. The playground/fields is prime time for social pressures. It's natural for there to be social hierarchy but teaching more about social acceptance and anti-bullying is key for elementary school children.
12. Hanover is intense. We love that it prepares our kids for college, but the pressures put on kids feels excessive.
13. 3rd grade must be a shift in the social dynamics...lots of pettiness.
14. Academic pace at HHS is generally punishing. Stress during college admissions cycle was absurd. Better now in senior spring!
15. 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.
16. I worry about the high school transition generally--more work, more pressure, less time, less sleep. and for kids with add or other learning needs, this can be very tough.
17. Our son has **** and getting to school on time, and all other activities that require planning and time management are extremely difficult for ****. Any help in this area would be great for students like ****, and perhaps all other younger students.
18. Fortunately I think most official school activities seem to avoid most of the us-vs-them of the current political climate... there's nothing HHS can do really about where it finds itself.

19. other student behaviors disrupt the class and hold everyone up.
20. English. Again.
21. Political climate is only an issue when teachers make it an issue. Politics should be left at home and teachers shouldn't express personal political views in the classroom. The 1st Amendment does not give teachers the right to say whatever they want, while teaching. The Supreme Court has ruled on or addressed that issue multiple times.
22. 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.
23. Seems very engaged and happy, though not particularly challenged (he's confident about getting all assignments done – great! – but does so very easily and fast without it sometimes taking more time/effort.)
24. Math
25. He gets stressed about homework because he's busy, but it's part of learning time management and is not unreasonable
26. it's tough for her but she seems fine, it's hard for me lots of focus on being athletic in the community not necessarily at the school
27. Generally academic concerns so she can keep up since she's starting to dislike homework.
28. School culture is not ideologically diverse, biased towards politically progressive values
29. I am concerned that my student didn't have proper academic foundation, and maybe is not thriving in that arena. Do the teachers give concrete feedback on writing? Grammar, punctuation, etc?
30. I've noticed my child does not seem to feel comfortable approaching their teachers and asking for help with a problem. They don't even feel comfortable asking them questions about assignments. It seems like more focus on in person communication and tolerance of uncomfortable moments or practicing asking adults questions would be helpful to him.
31. 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.
32. Separate bullying issues, from different kids, in and out of school, spooked us a bit. Ray response was only adequate. Oddly enough, the HPR response was a bit better (though still not perfect).
33. Math
34. No issues here, but we hear plenty of other things from other families.
35. sometimes feels pressure of workload.
36. Our child is often tardy to one class because there is not enough time to get from one side of the school to the other. They often won't use the bathroom during the day because they are supposed to do it between classes and they worry about being tardy.
37. 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.

1. Not being challenged enough academically
2. Too much screen time
3. Time management to fit in all they want to do!
4. No concerns with my child at this time
5. Time for themselves!
6. Social media
7. Friend conflicts
8. Fitting all of the activities into to the day and preserving space/time to rest and get work done around the house.
9. So far, very happy
10. Not having any friends, not enough cultural diversity
11. It is hard to schedule social activities with friends (since everyone is so busy with extracurriculars). It would be good to have more social events scheduled through the school.
12. Not enough time out of schoolwork to maintain desired level of physical fitness.
13. Time management is getting more challenging though it is still manageable.
14. I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS

15. My student is staying up later than we would like because we are supplementing his education at home (and fitting in extracurricular activities) and then he needs to get up very early for the bus because it is an extremely long route.
16. feeling overwhelmed with the thought of school the next day
17. none of this
18. Screen time
19. Similar behavioral issues occur outside of school as well
20. None of these. 1st graders are still in building social skills and character phase.
21. Unstructured socialization with other kids
22. My student would like easier access to snacks. But he's 11, not sure we have to address his concern.
23. Mostly fine, but some issues related to ADHD and associated anxiety and self-esteem issues.
24. it's a competitive global job marketplace- will she be ready?
25. Time for sleep
26. Balancing everything, Also, the proliferation of electronic devices among student
27. Learning how to deal with emotions and feelings in constructive ways
28. having a planning focus
29. Their projects and interests being delayed by school
30. Diet
31. Serious health issue of a ****
32. Time for rest and downtime
33. Too much homework and busy work (eg annotations)
34. I have **** **** - big change for my child.
35. academic pressure at Hanover High
36. Time Management
37. Time for family or just to relax and introvert
38. Time management, too much time on screens with inability to self regulate
39. Feeling valued at school. Knowing that students come first.
40. hard to find extra curriculums of interest when sports aren't the main interest.
41. Screens - we're struggling, as is our child.
42. Time for family with extracurricular (athletic especially) commitments
43. Managing their ADHD

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

1. School needs to move faster. Kids can absorb a lot more information at a young age. Too much time wasted.
2. Getting enough sleep is tricky when there are evening extracurricular activities that go late, there is a commute home, and then homework. This then compounds over time.
3. We still cope with the loss of **** **** seven years ago. **** grew up without a ****.
4. Concerns about cost of college. Very concerned about federal policies limiting reproductive freedom and racial and gender equality.

5. Very concerned about anti-education legislation at the state and federal levels that might affect educational quality.
6. My **** grader's **** is exposing **** to hate speech. I've alerted **** school counselor, but I'm considering escalating the issue beyond the counselor.
7. My student is staying up later than we would like because we are supplementing his education at home (and fitting in extracurricular activities) and then he needs to get up very early for the bus because it is an extremely long route.
8. Our 4th grader has had a great experience.
9. So much homework. Please have teachers talk about test days and how much homework feels reasonable.
10. Our 8th grader recently went to a school sponsored talk where Hanover high school students were sharing about what to expect next year. One student told them that they do a sport and school and are up till midnight or beyond with home work. That is terrible. My daughter immediately felt stressed out - she wants to do well and tries really hard and I'm worried Hanover high school is going to push these kids too far. Sleep is important and it should be a red flag to the district if students are saying they're up till midnight or beyond to make it all work.
11. this child currently has no real concerns as an 8th grader--i think likely to change next year and i hope the support is in place
12. Generally all good - Time for homework (along with everything else) and not getting enough sleep are related.
13. School takes up a lot of time with relatively little learning to show for it -- which means we can't find the time to teach her enriched math ourselves.
14. It would be nice if the school day were time well spent. (And of course in some classes it is)
15. I am not worried about ICE now but I could be when it comes to kids at the schools. I want to believe things will be okay in the bubble but that is likely naive.
16. Grandparents on both sides of family have health issues and need care. We have not been able to spend as much time at home to support children as a result.
17. Most of my child's time is spent on homework if not afterschool activities
18. 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?
19. Trump scares my kid. It's an insane world out there. We're constantly trying to balance communicating openly or euphemistically around the dinner table about the world, especially with kids of different ages, particularly if we're trying to acknowledge various perspectives and trying to rationalize irrational behaviors.
20. It can be hard to stay positive for the kids for all stuff going on in the world today.

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.

1. More college preparation
2. I'd like to see greater diversity SAU70 but I don't see this as a large or costly measure. If anything SAU70 needs to become more affordable for working families, not less, so taking on budget increases isn't a good idea. Figuring out how to control rising healthcare costs is what we need to address.
3. increased teacher and Ed assistant pay. Freeze or decrease Admin pay.
4. Introducing AP classes
5. Staff support at the element school (teachers' aids) should be supported more strongly.
6. New leadership at MCS
7. hiring more special ed teachers
8. Mental health focus for kids
9. Additional educational support (reading, writing and math services)
10. Teach Japanese language at high school
11. More opportunities for deeper learning
12. Let MCS kids go to RMS for 6th grade
13. Physical training for kids who may not be athletes but can improve basic skills through coaching. Like tutoring but for PE.

14. I would like to see a multi purpose turf field at MCS so that students could practice right after school.
15. AI learning, entrepreneurialism, robotics -- I support a big shift/full focus on teaching them what they will experience in the (future) real world
16. New buildings (elementary)
17. we have to level taxes and costs, most normal parents aren't earning more with respect to inflation. Please keep costs lower.
18. More opportunities for individual projects vs testing, especially at the high school level
19. More community space for kids to hang at school and study!!
20. higher quality teachers (especially in high school french, RMS math)
21. More technology focus to keep up with a changing world
22. Try not to rely on online programs for learning (the programs like IXL that lower score if you get a question wrong, and then feed you more questions until your score goes back up). Please be careful with these - they often don't promote learning, because often the students don't understand what they did wrong and why they got the question wrong, so just redoing more problems won't help with that. These programs cause students a lot of stress and the learning benefit is often quite minimal. As an **** who thinks a lot about learning and education, I am quite concerned with much of what I see in programs like IXL. Maybe these programs can be used to "drill" a particular concept, but they are not promoting deep learning and understanding.
23. improve special education services, 504 services, and general academic support services
24. expanding special education and T2 support
25. Focus on mental health and relationships
26. Consider earlier April break
27. Improved athletic fields and availability. It is ridiculous that my RMS student (I have two students and refer to them both in the survey, the other is in the HS) has to be driven to the Dresden fields after her school day but during my work day.
28. Having been in the Pre-k "shoes" in the past, this would have been amazing
29. I think the middle school should have a multi purpose, full sized turf field so that there are more opportunities to extend the shoulder seasons.
30. Students in some sports hit a dead-end in high school Can we bring back JV hockey to let them keep playing?
31. Continue the Alignment of Curriculum
32. Improvements to mathematics instruction
33. MCS probably needs more maintenance / facility improvement budget
34. My kids will be out of the school system by then so no opinion
35. Climate related curriculum
36. See above: do a study of what offerings st the schools are inaccessible to the most economically anonymous and offer financial support to those students and families. You are not focusing enough on socioeconomic diversity and need to address that blind spot.

37. Bring 6th graders from Norwich to RMS
38. Native language speakers in world languages in the middle school.
39. To priority for us: More spaces for preK at Marion Cross!! There are too many students that don't get a spot!
40. Better awareness and support for families of children with learning disabilities
41. Hiring more highly competent teachers
42. Also offer Sign Language as a kinesthetic language that supports different kinds of learners
43. Tutoring
44. Please fix the school calendar! Why are we out of school ALL THE TIME in the winter months!
45. Recruit and Retain Teachers and Staff - Pay them to stay!
46. Better school meals
47. Increased focus on improved academics and curriculum - please stay committed to core educational excellence!
48. Teacher quality. Managing out teachers.
49. Parent-involved performance management for teachers
50. increased attention and support for mental health for students
51. AP courses and SAT prep in school
52. quality of facilities
53. Creating physical classroom/building space that is nurturing, with natural light, plants, etc.
54. If there are to be sports programs added, I feel it needs to be done with more notice and more organization than this year. It disrupts other community programs and stretches families too thin because they haven't been able to prepare in advance. A school preschool program would streamline expectations for incoming Ray School students (both typical and kids with developmental delays)-and greatly improve communication among stakeholders.
55. trauma training for all staff; this is imperative for an inclusive school environment where students are not ostracized for behaving differently due to trauma
56. Provide more support at MCS, including a support space
57. Organizational structure and less cronyism.
58. need better math and writing education at Richmond & Ray
59. A support space at MCS
60. The Ray School is a dilapidated building and needs to be renovated or entirely rebuilt.
61. I'd like to see a plan to go from "one of the top public schools in NH" to "best HS in the US". Aim high - HHS has the potential to get there. Continue to lean into HHS's strength in civics - this is crucial for our students, country, and world.
62. find better math teachers if you can
63. get rid of tech
64. Expanding Pre-K at Marion Cross. There is a long and growing wait list.
65. New world language - American Sign Language
66. After-school clubs

67. Drama, debate or performing arts in each grade

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

1. more acceptance of conservative Christians. Should not feel attacked for beliefs.
2. Diversity goals, climate action and other such overly political projects don't have a place in a public education. It is good to discuss them (in social studies class), but not appropriate to spend my tax dollars on pet projects.
3. Why did you eliminated advanced / gifted & talented programs?
4. We won't benefit from universal pre-K here, but strongly support it!
5. 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.
6. The school day should start at 8:30am.
7. The school day should start at 8:30am.
8. Drivers Ed would be such an amazing addition, but the ability to offer it to all the students would be difficult given the amount of time and then, do you pay for those who opt to take it outside of school? Difficult dilemma.
9. Please try to reduce spending and lower costs.
10. Improve the climate for students from underrepresented groups including racial, ethnic, and gender identities.
11. having a first period free so they can sleep in a little two days has made a HUGE difference in my child's health and happiness
12. More indoor sports facilities would ease scheduling pressure and eliminate (maybe!) some of the late night practices
13. MCS could use a facelift!
14. Again- more fairness across all sports.
15. The lack of facilities drives the ridiculously late practice times mentioned before.
16. there should be more emphasis on fundraising outside of the budget. If the school wants something that is not required, they can create a go fund me and do it themselves rather than forcing on the tax base.
17. In an AI world - building social skills is essential.
18. All 6th graders in the district should start middle school together.
19. great if high school could start later- teens need sleep! great if all sports could be through the schools.
20. DRIVERS ED!!!!
21. 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.
22. I do not live in Hanover/Norwich, but I do feel that sponsoring afterschool programs is very important. It supports our local workforce by providing a safe place for kids until their parents can pick them up after work.
23. We really need another indoor gym. Also the outdoor facilities at Ray and MCS are in poor shape.

24. The MCS side playground smells like sewer gas. There is no sand in the sandbox. The "new" playground is pathetic.
25. **** is more artsy than she is STEM-focused so old skool home eco would be interesting esp if it involves cooking different cuisines of different cultures.
26. School should start at 9am and end at 3:30pm
27. Can't stress enough how much it would help if school could help organize driving lessons.
28. Would be easier for us if school started later, since it's a 45 minute drive to get student to school.
29. Need to do more for those that aren't going to college or are struggling to keep up. My child suggested teachers coordinate test schedules during their Wednesday meetings.
30. 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.
31. Love the upcoming addition of Mandarin Chinese!
32. I appreciate the effort and success on all of these recent undertakings.
33. Hire GREAT staff, and allow them to be GREAT. Do not overburden them with testing and prescribed curriculum. Allow them to be creative.
34. 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.
35. I think quality child care is critical for supporting young families in the UV
36. Driver's ed
37. I like the idea of general "afterschool" activities for Ray and MCS, and not just KAST. I greatly support the concept of "afterschool activities" that are not just exclusively related to sports. New world languages (not so Eurocentric) and later school start times would also be essential.
38. 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).

39. All of our current concerns are centered around HS leadership. They have been for years. We viewed this as poor leadership on the part of former **** who were not addressing poor leadership and conducting adequate searches for qualified school leaders that could have brought about positive growth and change for faculty and students. Too much status quo.
40. 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?
41. HHS seems to provide adequate to strong academics. Richmond and Ray are lacking. The math setup at Richmond is particularly abysmal, and by the time a student gets to HHS they have read very few books and had very little training on writing. There needs to be much better coordination between schools, and better opportunity to accelerate, particularly in math. If you want to take calculus before senior year in this town it turns into a "do it yourself" project for the parents at the middle school and elementary levels, which is a bit odd for a town that prides itself on its educational opportunities. Its the same for becoming a great writer.
42. A few more opportunities for MCS kids to visit RMS prior to 7th grade, to lessen the impact of new kid/new school.
43. These would be great additions, but I'm also wary of further increases to the school budget that make this community unlivable for middle and working-class people.
44. Allow the Lyme students to return to the RMS athletics and co-curricular activities that they previously attended.
45. Our kids belong to gyms outside of school, but they haven't been great ways to maintain social interactions....ways for kids to be with friends and active especially in the winter would be nice if the budget allowed.
46. Hiring and strongly supporting a more diverse staff.. I find this a bazaar choice to even have. Maybe just hire people that are best for the job and wont quit.
47. My other child has lots of mandarin speaking friends. He would love to take mandarin. Also after school school sponsored sports such as nordic and alpine skiing would be ideal with less logistical challenges for parents. Combine afterschool child care with sports or activities
48. I think teaching students to sign, it provides many opportunities for all level learners to have learning a language to be more accessible and the portrait of a graduate competencies of communication and empathy will be emphasized.

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

1. As I suggested above, I think SAU70 would benefit significantly if a survey asking parents about satisfaction with all teaching staff with room to voice why would go a long way towards investigating teaching quality, consistency, and ultimate student wellbeing.
2. There needs to be a right sizing of Teachers (need more) and Admin staff (need less) ... any questions along these lines would be welcome
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. It would be nice to have a progress bar so that I can stay more engaged with the survey because I know when it is going to end.
6. I have concerns about the Methods Honors and Chemistry Honors courses at HHS. While I value academic rigor and understand the importance of high expectations in honors-level classes, the current structure, workload, and grading expectations can feel disproportionate and not always aligned with deeper learning goals. In particular, a significant amount of student time is spent completing lab reports and assignments that must follow very specific and sometimes unclear ****-specific expectations, which are not always consistently communicated in advance. This can shift the focus from understanding scientific concepts to meeting detailed procedural and grading criteria, which can feel inefficient and stressful even for strong and motivated students. In addition, the overall difficulty and grading expectations in these courses can feel significantly more demanding compared to similar honors-level courses in nearby schools, which raises concerns about consistency and fairness in honors placement and evaluation. For many students, achieving top grades in these classes can feel very challenging, even when they are highly capable and engaged. Another concern is that this structure can unintentionally reduce students' intrinsic interest in science. Instead of encouraging curiosity and exploration, the heavy emphasis on grading criteria and performance can cause students to focus primarily on grades rather than developing a deeper passion for learning. For example, my older child, currently in

10th grade, has found Methods Honors to be very stressful and is hesitant about continuing into Chemistry Honors, even though **** enjoys taking honors-level courses. My younger child, who will enter 9th grade and is very interested in science, is already aware of these concerns and feeling anxious about these courses. Overall, I believe it would be helpful to review the balance between rigor, workload, grading consistency, and learning experience to ensure students are appropriately challenged while still maintaining engagement, confidence, and a genuine interest in science.

7. Please try to reduce spending and lower costs.
8. The way that parking passes are distributed to students is unfair.
9. Maybe list a final question that is a catch all like "Anything else you would like us to know?" I would write: You guys are doing a great job! It's hard to run a middle school and you're doing great. The electives are fantastic and allowing students to progress in math at their own rate is also wonderful. Keep up the good work!
10. Ask about open campus and cell phone use.
11. Should probably ask about the Bus, ex "are you satisfied with your child's current bus situation" or "do any of the following concerns pertain to you and your child regarding there bus situation" we've been happy for most of this year but have certainly had some hiccups, I think it's a subject that's overlooked
12. Don't combine strongly supporting teachers with increasing diversity - both are important but they are different
13. It is TERRIBLE that we have to pay \$55 a month for parking at a Public High School.
14. You could ask more questions about satisfaction with opportunities for input and engagement from/with parents.
15. How is the school handling children who are misbehaving?
16. Questions about the leadership- **** **** **** ****. More school culture questions.
17. The questions around social media and AI tools in learning seem understated. As a parent, I wish I knew more about appropriate technology by age, how to use it in a healthy way and so on,
18. School and administration need to safeguard the entrance at RMS and all doors at both schools. Suggestions from staff for protocol have been ignored. Past RMS **** (not ****) and HHs **** don't seem to share the concerns of those monitoring the doors and the students that use the doors and report back to parents.
19. Get some consensus on the school calendar - please!!
20. Please ask questions about how the curriculum can improve - in each subject matter, re: methods, and the use of improvement science methods to ensure that curricula changes result in improvement to student learning
21. 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?
22. I think it might be interesting for you to ask parents what kind of student they have/how they would describe their student. Hanover high school is fabulous for certain kinds of students, but doesn't work as well for other kinds of students. I think that if you are a classic "good student" you can do anything you want at

Hanover and it is really just a terrific place with terrific resources. I have one kid like that and I just can't say enough good things about the experience that they are having. But kids who may not fit that mold can have a different experience. I think trying to get at that in a survey would be very instructive. Who is falling through the cracks? Which kids feel "less than" in a highly competitive academic and athletic environment?

23. What do you think about the Honors program? Should we have AP courses instead? Should we provide SAT prep since high schoolers are required to take the SAT? Isn't that an equity issue?
24. Seems pretty thorough, but thanks!
25. How can we incentivize teacher retention if teachers with families cannot afford to live in Hanover/Norwich?
26. Ask about parents volunteering in the schools? Ask about what parents need?
27. I'd be curious to hear public opinions about all of these open enrollment things for New Hampshire.
28. I would like to see questions related to families' experience with Powerschool and Schoology.
29. You should ask more about how parents feel about chrome books for elementary students and technology use within classroom
30. Do your kids have enough time to spend with friends?
31. Q) Does the parking lot situation at pickup stress you out? A) Yes/No/Not applicable (child rides bus, walks, bikes, KAST)

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

1. This survey is too long. Maybe do multiple smaller surveys. The key is fairly quickly send us the results to get us engaged and inclined to do more. Most survey results drift away and the participants are not looped into the results. And have a community discussion about the results and what, if anything, these results will be used for.
2. Teach the classics. Teach math. Offer support for advanced students. Work hard, play hard. Ray is a beautiful place with lovely people. Kids should not be staring out the window bored.
3. Teachers should teach. Screens or computer hosted prepackaged scripts should not replace the teacher. I am not against the mindful use of technology - primary source info like a picture of space on a screen or a short video of the Olympics can

be a great part of a lesson plan. Teachers should not outsource teaching to a video lesson or i-ready type app.

4. For high school, would love to see more teachers taking a few minutes to write notes on the report cards for students to read. Usually Q1 all teachers write a quick note about performance, but after that, slowly fades to maybe one or two teachers writing notes (in our case, the Honors classes.) Only one Q3 note from a teacher. My kids read them and I suspect it helps counselors when it comes time for letters of rec. Thanks!
5. 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.
6. Thanks for everything over the years.
7. Inconsistent experience across administrators. The ones who think they are doing great need the most training to improve their awareness and consideration of varying perspectives. The school district performs well on paper more due to parent resources than the schools themselves.
8. Overall great experience here!
9. 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.
10. Playground and parking areas are unsafe and not managed safely. Dated equipment, bad driving, ice slide - literally no safety consciousness. Have witnessed several significant preventable injuries
11. I hope teachers are more qualified and trained especially in middle and high schools.
12. In general, I think there needs to be a greater sense of urgency when a student is falling behind. Also, in 3rd Grade, a student should have reading and math homework every night. I think homework is the most effective way to loop parents into their student's current strengths and challenges. The formal testing does not seem to be specific or timely enough for quick interventions.
13. Yeah, this should be designed to reflect multiple children in SAU70
14. 1) The schools need to spray for ticks. It is a huge health issue. 2) Substitute teachers need to be paid more to increase the quality and quantity of candidates.
15. 1) If a student scores in the "Needs Most Support" category on testing, parents should be notified within 24 hours (maximum three days) by the teacher to set up a meeting and discuss necessary interventions. The lag time between testing and results being sent home is very concerning. It should be standard protocol for teachers to take the timely initiative to address the students most in need. 2) The schools need to spray for ticks. It is a huge health issue. 3) Substitute teachers need to be paid more to increase the quality and quantity of candidates.
16. I think there is definitely a case of "haves and have nots" at Hanover. When my child attempted to advocate for **** and switch classes due to concerns around the teaching style of the teacher who **** had before, **** was told to give it a try. ****

went and then again tried to switch. **** was told **** could not. I attempted to get more information and was told that the school does not switch people out. When I mentioned that I knew for a fact that several people had been switched out, there wasn't a good answer. Over my time at Hanover, I find that parents with connections or have influence or affluence get what they want and those who don't, are given the runaround. It is a large issue that shows itself regularly. If Hanover wants to be the school system they desire to be, they need to have a conversation about how they want to handle this reality. It is a well known thing talked about within the community.

17. We don't think our student was protected and represented fairly from a religious perspective.
18. 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
19. Please try to reduce spending and lower costs.
20. Ask about learning styles
21. College prep counseling starts too late and many students feel pressure to get a private counselor.
22. Nope, thanks. My kid loves Hanover High.
23. please coordinate the sau70 break schedule with Dartmouth's breaks. the majority of kids have parents at the college, why not sync the schedules?
24. Thank you to everyone at HHS for all their kindness and assistance over the last four years. We are very grateful.
25. Thank you for asking for our opinions.
26. March intensive is amazing - but of quite inconsistent quality
27. I was only able to select one grade when I have 3 kids at school.
28. I am really pleased with the high school leadership and my kids experience. I support the continued alignment of the experience.
29. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback about my family's experience with the schools. I appreciate it!
30. Don't change the school times.
31. I love this school and the staff. My children are truly and well cared for; there is love at Ray. Thank you so much!
32. Please shorten the survey and help us understand what each of these questions are used for so that we can give you better informed responses.
33. Thank you for listening and working to improve our schools!
34. We are deeply concerned about the 'self taught' math curriculum planned for the 7th grade. This is an inappropriate academic plan for young learners, especially with such an important foundational subject. Given the immense resources of the school district when compared to surrounding communities - why are we doing this? What does the research and science tell us about this (poor) decision, especially regarding the reliance on screens/computers rather than in-person instruction? We can and should do better!

35. More direct communication between teachers and parents is critical. 7th grade math needs urgent attention and return to in person instruction
36. There doesn't seem to be enough opportunities for parents to meet one another and organize projects and events to support their students. Why isn't there a way for parents to organize a diversity committee? There are very limited ways for parents to be involved and support the school.
37. Allow elementary students to wear Halloween costumes on Halloween!
38. Thank you!
39. I strongly believe high school students should be introduced to political science and that American students, in particular, understand the direct and outsize role played by American policy decisions in uplifting or impoverishing other nations.
40. Board is very engaged but also seemingly unaware: spending differences between schools and on students for unnecessary things; wage gap between teachers and others is growing; meanwhile, other districts can't pay for a \$150 course that is required or pay for supplies that are needed when new staff are hired. How much was this survey? I hope it generates some improvement because I think the money could have gone to people or reimbursements for items that were cut from budget and people paid for themselves.
41. School calendar - changes were made without asking. Why are we out of school so much in the winter - this is very hard on families. And why is the summer short by 10 days this year?
42. We love Hanover and Ray school. Thank you!
43. Thank you for the work you do!
44. Please ask questions about how the curriculum can improve - in each subject matter, re: methods, and the use of improvement science methods to ensure that curricula changes result in improvement to student learning
45. 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.
46. Thank you for all the wonderful staff and SAU do to bring quality education to our students. I have one minor issue that I would like considered. Please ban cigar smoking from HHS graduation. My allergies to the cigar smoke, made my older child's post-graduation miserable. Additionally, people are dropping ashes on the expensive turf. I too like traditions, can we think of a new tradition. Thank you!
47. I just want to say that any issues we've experienced are not due to individual teachers' lack of dedication or caring. It seems like more of a cultural issue where academic decisions and pressure are driven by statistics (i.e., achieving high standards and ratings on paper), while leaving behind the actual needs of the individual children. I think the schools have the right elements in place but we need to look at whether these elements are being applied in such a way to meet the needs of children who are not naturally driven to perform at the highest levels.

48. Implementation and access to an equitable curriculum, regardless of disability:
There are inconsistencies in implementation that affect access to instruction and assignments. The 504 process has not consistently ensured equitable implementation across settings, and consistent posting of assignments with clear expectations has been an ongoing issue.
49. How school is being effected by current political climate.
50. There is something challenging about students socializing positively and even with staff, maybe not quite bullying, but a general intolerance and othering of students who are perceived as different. It is a tough one to work on, I'm sure, but it feels necessary and if not particular to this community, more accepted a part of the culture here than elsewhere. I do not think this (or any of these topics) is solely a school issue, as families play a role, too. Thank you for your work and asking for input.
51. 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.
52. We think MCS is amazing and are truly grateful for this wonderful institution/school system!
53. Thanks for doing these deep dives every year. These efforts do not go unnoticed. I appreciate it.
54. 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.
55. Thank you for all the work you do.
56. Mental health should be considered as important as physical health. Too much stress has longterm repercussions. Learning how to navigate stressful and potentially socially tricky situations is very important. Indisputably more important than knowing the exact dates of World War II.
57. It is important to note that I am grateful that the SAU 70 schools do not introduce or impose any general ideological mandates. That said, there are distinct pockets with the school system of intolerance and exclusion. The RMS library is the primary example of intolerance, actively excluding children who do not fit certain categories. That is unacceptable in our community. I have **** **** at RMS and **** **** on **** own accord avoid the library because of the intolerance of the library ****.
58. I've been curious about the fact that it is emphasized that students are advised to reach out to teachers for missed work or for help and reaching out to friends to get assignments or "notes" is not mentioned in syllabi, orientations, etc.. That was a major mechanism when I was in school and it was a nice way to foster connections. It might reduce work for teachers (or maybe create more headaches). Not a criticism...just a thought.
59. I am perplexed why there are so many Pride flags and symbols in the RMS school, especially in the library? Isn't this a public school. Personally I do not care what

anyones personal orientations are, that is their personal business, but I 100% feel that this should not be a part of my child's public education.

60. Hanover High School should come up with a class name and rally program. Here's how it works: The freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes all come up with a class name/mascot and choose class colors (i.e. The Phoenix class of 2026 with colors black and red) . Every new freshman class would have the same mascot and colors. (The freshman cubs with colors brown and white) When they moved to sophomore year, they would "inherit" the class mascot and colors of the graduating senior class (The freshman cubs would become the new phoenix class and take on the red and black color scheme). Each name/mascot would cycle through every three years. Hopefully that makes sense. In the mid-fall, the school has a rally day where all classes compete in the gym, utilizing their class mascot and colors. They pick a theme and design a large poster, short skits/cheers to go along with the theme, and make up song parodies to fit the theme and mascot. Competitive games are played as well and schools develop simple mascot related costumes that all students wear at the rally each year. Local community members act as judges and pick an overall winner based on the games, cheer, song, poster and overall spirit shown. The winning class mascot and grad year are engraved on a plaque. The class mascot follows the students sophomore through senior year and they would graduate as the "X class of 2026", like "the Phoenix class of 2026". This would tie each class to all other classes carrying that same mascot into the future. It helps to create bonds between classmates as well as the other classes, past and present, who represent that same mascot. I know this is an out of the blue idea, but I've seen it done well. It brings a lot of camaraderie when a class gets to represent a cool mascot and colors and then pass that down to their "younger sibling" class. You could even tie-in a big brother/big-sister/big-nibling type mentorship to this, where the seniors would become buddies with a freshman to help them acclimate to HHS before passing on their class name at graduation. It's just a quirky idea, but I truly believe the students would have a lot of fun with it and the long term benefits for social cohesion would be undeniable!
61. It would be nice if the school had a system for helping student athletes interested in continuing their sport in college. The timelines for recruiting are so challenging to navigate. These conversations should be happening with players, counselors and coaches or the **** starting in 9th grade. Each student athlete is on their own to figure this out. This is something private schools do very well and is/was our main reasons to investigate sending our children to private school
62. 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.
63. 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 ****.

64. I think the schools could benefit from tax-deductible fundraising, people would be happy to direct their funds to local stuff rather than more wars. And it would lift the burden of property taxes for those who struggle living here.
65. I want the school to provide rich educational experiences rather than computer-based scripted correction.
66. Thank you for listening !
67. 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?
68. Why do many schools have a health class which students go to and our elementary schools don't. I feel there is power in students knowing they are explicitly learning about health and a certified health educator should be teaching health not a classroom teacher. It's not the content I necessarily concerned with, it's how it is taught so students have the skills around making healthy choices throughout their lives. Please see <https://www.shapeamerica.org/standards/health/new-health-standards.aspx>
69. Very thorough!