

SAU70 2026 Survey Free-Text Answers: RMS Edition

April – May 2026

Based on 688 completed surveys across all 4 schools. This document includes answers from the 143 completed surveys that identified Richmond Middle School as the student’s school. Free-Text answers for the whole SAU and the other 3 individual schools are available separately.

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

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

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

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Total	--	2,873	2,749	654	--

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
→ 19 RMS 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. 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.
3. I have flexibility, but everything come on expense of work time. So many things are technically doable, but they all have a cost.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Perhaps there is a different threshold for snow days? It seems that the communications sometimes 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.
7. 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.
8. You didn't allow for families to select when they have kids in multiple schools and grades. FYI.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. 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.
12. With volunteer jobs it would be informative to know what is needed and what the job entails; ie time commitment, expectations
13. full-time working parents, 3 kids
14. 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
15. Are there volunteer opportunities at RMS?
16. The issue is managing two or more kids who have different after school or weekend extra-curriculars, especially in the middle school for sports that do not include bussing for away games (e.g. baseball).
17. We have preschool and toddler kids at home, with part-time or no childcare.
18. 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.
19. Mom could volunteer some Fridays Dad doesn't have any extra time between current school schedule and appointments

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
→ 16 RMS answers**

1. Hoping to stay after last child graduates from HHS but the taxes are making it unrealistic without a student
2. We paid almost double for a house to live in this school district instead of moving to Lebanon.
3. But I wish we'd known they weren't top-level.
4. When we moved into the area - we had a choice in Lebanon, but felt like we would eventually move to Hanover for the schools.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. The school system is the only reason we choose to live in Hanover.
8. 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.
9. Our commute/work schedules were also a factor.
10. I have a **** helping
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. In the Upper Valley for jobs, but Hanover specifically for the schools!
15. 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.
16. We can't afford most houses in Hanover. We have **** **** situation in an ideal location.

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
→ 21 RMS answers**

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. Taxes are making it increasingly difficult to remain in Hanover. Trying to stay until children graduate
4. Our property taxes and town spending is out of hand.
5. 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.
6. Expensive housing and daily cost of living, e.g., food
7. 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.
8. 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!)
9. Main issue is the constant climb in property taxes.
10. I could not afford to live in Hanover or Norwich
11. 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.
12. 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!
13. High property taxes
14. Currently **** in Hanover. Very limited housing options and extremely expensive housing market. Makes it hard to stay.
15. Our property taxes went up by 81 percent last year
16. Real Estate is expensive
17. My answer was different when this survey first came out, but different now, improvements
18. Rising taxes cut into college and retirement savings. At the same time, we appreciate the value this community places on public education.
19. We are a ****-**** family with **** grown ups in college.
20. We do okay, as long as we budget, but it is expensive to live in Norwich.
21. 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.

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
→ 35 RMS answers

1. Im not sure they are prepared for high school (have **** ***)
2. Too much bullying and the student hates to report due to retaliation
3. I just would say, there could be a stronger “growth mindset” mentality being instilled in the middle school...otherwise very satisfied.
4. Child has not been academically challenged despite requests
5. I was disappointed that **** IEP was not implemented and not surprisingly **** ***) SAS scores fell significantly.
6. Math program is not adequate. Lack of rigor
7. My child has **** ***) and she is so well supported at school. I'm so thankful for that.
8. 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.
9. This student is pretty precocious and feels a bit bored with school. In particular, I think the math situation is a little bit challenging.
10. Math curriculum in middle school has been disjointed. otherwise great
11. Overall great experience. My sense is that you could improve the rigor of the academics.
12. The elective options are impressive.
13. 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.
14. He is challenged and supported.
15. 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.
16. 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.

17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Generally satisfied, and the teachers and staff are fantastic, but in comparison, our previous school district offered many more field trips, and extra-curriculars.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. we wish there was more diversity in the area and more opportunities in that regard
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. I love our teacher. I'm not thrilled with **** ****.
28. 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.

29. 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.
30. 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.
31. Concerns regarding an inappropriate **** teacher have been brought to the **** with no apparent investigation or disciplinary action. The inappropriate behavior is continually reported.
32. entered playing **** instruments, planning to be a **** musician, by ****- **** grade dropped out of all music programs due to teachers.
33. We are pleased with the education our child has received this year--especially the foreign language study. Outstanding!
34. Our child has been very happy this year. So many opportunities to try new things and make new friends.
35. The definition of 'bullying' would benefit from clearer guidelines to ensure consistent application and prevent misunderstandings or misuse by students and parents.

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
→ 20 RMS answers**

1. Teachers are great but the curriculum could improve
2. My child's 6th grade teachers seem great and invested in their students' success.
3. We have had great interactions with the majority of teacher, and guidance and minimal with ****. Math has been our only problem/concern
4. 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.
5. We do not feel particularly connected to the middle school teachers, but have not had issues.

6. 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.
7. New **** **** has been great
8. Awesome work, RMS! Our child especially loves Spanish and woodworking.
9. RMS **** ignored emails sent about middle school accomplishments that related to RMS teams/students outside of the Athletic department.
10. 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.
11. Some teachers are wonderful and others are so-so.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. problems with consistency in posting assignments
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. My child does very well in school. Loves the teachers and friends. We feel **** **** isn't awesome.
18. 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.
19. 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.

20. 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.

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
→ 35 RMS 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. 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.
3. 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.
4. Coming from the high-touch experience of elementary school, it has been really hard to gauge what's happening in 7th grade and what our student is learning.
5. 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
6. Tutoring (Spanish) from HHS students was not beneficial. Students only signed up to add to their college applications
7. 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.
8. I've heard of instances of bullying during recess.
9. It seems that many students use technology inappropriately in school to play games according to our child that can at time be disruptive to the learning of others.
10. Very little writing in English; didn't love self led math
11. 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.

12. My sense is that middle school math expects the student to teach themselves the material or attended an expensive tutor to provide the necessary instruction.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. I wish that the all-state music opportunities had been more widely shared directly with parents as they were in previous years
16. 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.
17. 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 (**** ****)

18. 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.
19. The 8th grade math program is abhorrent. There needs to be a real teacher, not only video instruction.
20. 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.
21. You should ask RMS 8th graders how many books they were assigned this year. 8th grade ELA is astonishing in its lack of rigor.
22. The RMS math program is very problematic. The practices around the Advanced Math Class need to be reworked.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. Woodwork was incredible!

27. 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.
28. 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.
29. I wish math was more structured with regular HW practice. We loved 6th grade English and wish the vocab and poem memorization would continue.
30. 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.
31. The math approach might work well for some kids. It seems an odd way to offer ms math.
32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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.
35. 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.

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
→ 29 RMS answers

1. **** ***, our child attended a Charter school. We are not currently looking at alternative school options. The question above says “ever.”
2. 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
3. Kumon
4. I was not satisfied with the Ray school but RMS have been a great school for my kid
5. We left private schools to move to Hanover public schools. Very happy with the move for all of our children!
6. We sent **** to private school earlier in **** life (**** **** **** **** ****), we have considered doing so again to provide **** with academic stretch opportunities.
7. We used to **** **** ****, I've thought about going back to that effort.
8. She needs a school where she would be challenged to learn and grow - but we can't afford it.
9. 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).
10. for high school, never for middle school. it is still a possibility for high school
11. 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.
12. The lack of academic rigor at RMS is concerning.
13. We've looked into schools for children with **** and ADHD.

14. 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 ****.
15. we transferred to RMS from a private K-8 school for the ****/**** school year
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Was at Crossroads Academy until ****/****
20. Our solution has been math tutoring for ****
21. 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 he is doing and **** is now in honors English after having an IEP for 5 years in SAU70. **** left the district **** years ago while still on an IEP and behind in **** reading. Despite having an IEP he didn't improve.
22. We encourage RMS to up the ante on academic challenge. **** of our kids do not gravitate toward English or ELA (**** has ****); and yet, as sixth graders, **** favorite class was English because **** experienced it as the most challenging. Even our child on a 504 plan says **** would like to be more academically challenged at RMS. Teachers are very supportive, but we worry that our kids are not well-prepared for high school expectations.
23. Last year I had to replace RMS with a **** **** math program because the school program was not meeting our needs
24. We moved here to have the best public education in the state. Living here is costly enough.
25. Necessary for elementary. Not for middle school. Hoping not to need it for HS, but it is a thought.
26. Some occasional grouching about one-off issues at the school, but I think it'd be hard to escape that at any school.

27. 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.)
28. I **** **** my kids before we moved to the district. I don't have plans to take my kids out of school at this point.
29. We've thought about alternative schooling due to our child's social challenges. We also have a family member who works at a private institution making that more affordable

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
→ 29 RMS answers

1. Parents have been regularly helping in math, especially during the awful 7th grade experience.
2. Have been supplementing math due to child not being taught level appropriate or challenging material since entering RMS
3. Kumon
4. 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
5. Vlacs
6. Should not be necessary
7. We have considered tutoring for reading/special ed. Our child receives special ed at school, but it was limited this year
8. My child regularly meets with a reading specialist outside of school and is enrolled in a VLACs math course.

9. 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.
10. math tutor for older child because her RMS math instruction was not good.
11. Needed my child to have math instruction.
12. We try to give her advanced work ourselves at home, but it's hard to find time.
13. 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.
14. No but my child has taken math courses online
15. 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.
16. While my child's IEP supports her at school with her current work load, she still does not have solid foundational reading skills.
17. 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.
18. we did this in the past - it was 3 mornings/week before school and it worked well.
19. 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
20. VLACS
21. 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.
22. We have considered a tutor in Spanish
23. Math
24. Despite being on an IEP, my child is not getting the help she needs to improve.
25. Again, I was forced to replace last year's math program with something more suitable
26. Some reading stuff back at Ray in the early years, nothing currently, no need
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. Only wondering if my child needed something specialized subject or more challenging

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
→ 12 RMS answers

1. Use to go to Kumon and is taking an AOPS class.
2. 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
3. my child does duolingo for fun and loves it!
4. 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.
5. Per our previous response, our experience is that RMS is not adequately preparing our children for high school academics.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. My **** is studying Mandarin remotely with a tutor because **** is interested in this language and it isn't offered in the district.
10. 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.

11. My student is part of the middle school Honors band, but we cannot afford extra lessons for him.
12. He does outside violin

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 → 10 RMS answers

1. My student gets outside tutoring for **** * language which is not taught in this district.
2. 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.
3. It is the structure of the math curriculum.
4. Dyslexia
5. As above
6. Love of singing
7. I think the program in sixth grade he was able to not do much and now needs more support
8. it is for AMC8 for which the school does not provide curriculum
9. Not offered in district.
10. Private language classes currently to communicate with Extended family

28 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 25 answers → 8 RMS answers

1. quiet girls get more attention and help than busy boys. Someone needs to help the busy boys
2. 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.
3. This was in the third grade at the Ray School.
4. This only applied to math, but we get music lessons for fun
5. RMS math has not been good. 8th grade better than 6/7, but still lacks live teaching. Everything else has been great.
6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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
→ 21 RMS answers**

1. Lightning soccer year round
2. RMS track, Lightning soccer and Ford Sayre skiing.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. soccer when it was still Parks and Rec, track/field with RMS, Ford Sayre xc ski.
6. Lightning soccer
7. 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?
8. Our son's sports have not been included in the school (RMS) sponsored sports during his 8th-grade year.
9. 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.

10. 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.
11. Karate Practices
12. Would love to see more clubs like kickball and mountain biking for those that are not as interested in organized team sports
13. I'd love to see more non traditional sports/ fishing, pickle ball, hiking
14. **** does fencing with Upper Valley Fencing
15. Tennis at the RVC
16. Upper Valley **** and **** ****
17. there is not a great space for the kids to practice spring and fall sports in the winter
18. The RMS sports program is a nice addition to everything. Some minor growing pains, though that's to be expected in the first year.
19. Hanover Heat basketball and rec/RMS soccer and basketball.
20. Limited options of sports.
21. Hanover Rec's Cross Country Running, Ford Sayre Cross Country Skiing, RMS's Track and Field, also **** **** with Norwich Rec's **** **** program

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
→ 22 RMS answers**

1. some confusion for 6th graders on Parks and Rec path versus school sports programs
2. More options and coaches needed
3. My child is in 6th grade so I have not yet experienced middle school organized sports.
4. It was a bit unorganized at first (she played girls' basketball) but I am hoping this is just growing pains getting the program launched.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. See response to question 28 as it's applicable here.
8. I wish there were more robust offerings within the sports, and a better-functioning athletic department.
9. 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 ****.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. **** was too draconian about attendance.
15. 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).
16. This was a good first year of RMS managing sports but there is room to grow with quality coaches and communication.
17. Too late for us. I hope it helps other families at the middle school. Looking forward to the high school sport program next year!
18. 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.
19. Middle school baseball is tough because it is not run by RMS, not bussing to away games, and no fields at the school.
20. 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.
21. The activities he would be interested in weren't offered
22. These afterschool athletic activities has built our child's confidence in making new friends, pushing themselves, and learning to be a part of team.

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
→ 17 RMS 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. play has been great
4. UVMC
5. school play, school chorus, private music lessons
6. It's a nice idea but my child is too busy with athletics afterschool. Also, some things are cost prohibitive.
7. Choir - and he really likes it! ****. **** is awesome!
8. school band?
9. 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.
10. We couldn't keep up with music outside of school, I wish it was in school
11. Chorus
12. Private piano lessons
13. Music through the RMS programs, but nothing outside of that. There's some interest there, but sports and other activities tend to win out.
14. 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.
15. Our child does RMS band and theater (in the Oz production) and takes piano lessons with a private instructor.
16. By this age, we had to decide between sports and music lessons. Our daughter chose sports.
17. We thought he should try theater. But schedule wasn't compatible with current commitments and he wasn't super interested

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
→ 11 RMS 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. **** ** is a gem! ****. **** too!
6. Is this a thing at RMS? I didn't know.
7. lots of growth and progress in the choral program! Great job ****!
8. Scheduling conflicts with sports make after-school arts programming, like play rehearsal, really tricky!
9. 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.
10. In **** we had so many more lessons and group opportunities
11. 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.

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
→ 7 RMS answers

1. psychiatrist, but not through the school
2. My child works with a psychologist as needed.
3. Other kids do.
4. ADD
5. I can tell the level of academic stress is increasing, but not to the level of intervention.
6. Divorce in ****. Otherwise, no.
7. I assume you misspelled “through”

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

23 responses to “Other (please specify)”. After removing “no” and similar answers → 19 responses → 8 RMS answers

1. we do have a landline phone they can use
2. My student uses text messaging through his tablet
3. Our kids access YouTube at home.
4. Youtube
5. We also have a landline phone for calling friends
6. Primary platform is YouTube
7. Maybe some gaming platforms
8. Roblox - age appropriate settings and use in family room around us

62 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 57 answers
→ 17 RMS answers

1. Sad. Had to get a smartphone in May since they need it for 8th grade trip

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. He only uses Discord for Quizbowl competitions.
5. I discourage social media and think it's a disaster for kids.
6. No social media or phone or smart watch. Pretty old school here. Corded home phone and access to a laptop for school work.
7. Everything listed above is garbage and a complete distraction.
8. My child doesn't use social media and unapproved apps because of potential for bullying and other crappy stuff.
9. Just learned about the Snapchat... not thrilled about it and monitoring closely!
10. Computer at school and one at home, but only for academic work.
11. 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
12. Can access some of these occasionally from parents phone
13. We are holding off on giving them a cell phone until high school.
14. We encourage the school district to ban cell phones at school entirely - from the moment students arrive to the moment they leave.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. We have a family computer and tablet that he uses for homework, some youtube. Enjoys games at school library

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 → 43 answers → 8 RMS answers

1. 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.
2. never carry any device to school. Only school provided
3. 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.
4. I love the idea of phone free, but understand from my child that it isn't actually enforced consistently. I wish it was.
5. I'm neutral. (It does impact some of our day-to-day, but we work around it.)
6. He just got a new phone
7. this is the first year our student has had a phone so we don't have a comparison
8. no network in Hanover, no difference, very unsafe

91 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 87 answers → 21 RMS answers

1. 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
2. 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.
3. I do like the smart devices ban; we restrict such things due to the negative impacts, particularly on middle school brains.
4. Excessive use of technology and AI are taking away students creative abilities and independent critical thinking.
5. 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

6. I highly support that
7. I think less devices = more learning and healthier minds
8. 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!
9. 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.
10. Fully support phone bans. Watches should be included
11. My kid is a rule follower. It is not an issue at all.
12. 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.
13. 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/.
14. I think it's great the bell to bell
15. Please review this article: <https://ssir.org/articles/entry/era-of-relational-intelligence>
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. I'm very pleased with this policy and my **** says students are much more focused and engaged than in **** **** ****, which had no such policy.
19. 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
20. 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.
21. 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

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
→ 29 RMS answers

1. 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.
2. I don't love that math class is taught by videos. It is very difficult to go back later to review concepts.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. homework being given in math is often on screens at home.
12. My student spends more time watching videos at school for classes than DHMC pediatrics group recommends for healthy development of a child's brain.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Way too much learning through screens a videos.
16. 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.
17. It is really hard to limit access to screens, it creates so much relational conflict.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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"?
22. 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.

23. 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.
24. 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
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. I wish the schools would not use computers or screens at all at school, other than in Technology class.
28. 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.
29. Really hard to reduce screen time. Very tempting to use if unlimited.

Q44: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q43: What are your thoughts on AI (artificial intelligence) technologies, such as ChatGPT, for use in school or for school projects? Please select up to 3 of the most important choices below for you.*

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

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. I think 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)
6. I would modify the above to concerns not serious concerns
7. 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.
8. I'm OK with AI spelling and grammar checkers, but against use of AI to compose answers. AI for research is a mixed bag.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. BIG subject here! We need to be able to harness AI - if we don't do it properly, it will be a mess.
12. 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
13. 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 where 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.

14. 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.
15. Keep AI out of our schools.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Let's set up proper guardrails for students and teachers, please. If teacher 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.
20. 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.
21. Tough one. It's useful and applicable to me in my job, but I'm nervous for this generation growing up with AI.
22. 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.

23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.

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
→ 38 RMS answers**

1. It would be nice if RMS posted their lunch menu ahead of time like Ray school does
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. My student is a vegetarian and complained about limited vegetarian options at RMS. **** has since started bringing lunch from home.
5. Mostly eats school lunch. Likes it some days and doesn't like it other days. Brings lunch from home occasionally.
6. 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.

7. She saw mold on pizza being served and refuses to buy lunch at school anymore.
8. 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.
9. My student generally likes the lunch except when it is "express lunch." He prefers healthier options.
10. The quantity is not enough for an 8th grader so **** is buying multiple lunches which gets expensive
11. Vegetarian options are limited, and sometimes run out entirely.
12. I really wish more fresh fruits and vegetables were on the menu.
13. My child enjoys the baked goods like muffins and cookies and milk but doesn't order lunch.
14. 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.
15. I honestly have no idea what they eat!!! Money goes in, money goes out, happy kid comes home fed somehow!
16. needs healthier choices
17. 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
18. My child does eat buy lunch at school, but we find it very expensive and might reconsider for next year.
19. 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.
20. Too expensive to do everyday and child can buy pastries and other junk with the \$
21. I hear that RMS has good food.
22. 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.
23. The school should invest in more healthy lunch options for our children. Less refined sugar and more fruits, veggies and protein.
24. 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.
25. Keep lunch options as healthy as possible.
26. Love RMS school lunch. Please keep the healthy options coming.
27. No sure the quality, so far no complains from my kid.
28. My child prefers not to eat at school, but eats at home instead.
29. Love Richmond school lunch

30. It sounds like RMS has the best program, but often my kids complain about the hot food options.
31. It's too expensive.
32. 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.
33. 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!
34. 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.
35. 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.
36. 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.
37. 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).
38. Student tells me menu isn't healthy but packing lunch every day is too hard on my schedule

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
→ 26 RMS answers**

1. 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).
2. 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

3. 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
4. I think the resources may be adequate but I don't know if students are directly adequately on how to use it.
5. I don't understand the pressure around entry into honors math vs standard math when transitioning to Hanover High school.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. More paper homework please. Get the kids off screens during school days.
10. no homework will make students overwhelmed in high school. too dramatically different
11. I like the balance of education at RMS, especially the balance between academics and electives.
12. 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
13. I don't have a major grasp on these questions. But that is the middle-of-the-road answer.
14. I honestly have no idea on the last two. I haven't tried to access the curriculum or academic assistance for my child.
15. I would like the school to share more information about what is happening in the classroom.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.

19. we are adjusting to the rigor / academic intensity differences b/w private school experience and RMS. RMS has less HW which is reduces academic fatigue - quality vs quantity. I think that more academic intensity would be good - raise the bar a little more.
20. This is my response for RMS. I will answer differently for HHS....which is too intense and too much pressure.
21. 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?
22. 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.
23. Overall the load seems appropriate for our child, but there are some weeks when it can be overwhelming.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.

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
→ 14 RMS answers

1. Question above depends on our jobs.
2. 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.
3. Wish we could stay
4. might stay in upper valley, we might leave, we might stay. "Undecided" would be my actual answer
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. we won't rush out--maybe 10-15 yrs
8. We will probably move to a town with a school that offers better math and English curricula.
9. Unfortunately, I would not recommend the Hanover public school system to friends, especially for a child with a learning disability.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Already thinking of moving to another, less expensive community.
13. Too expensive to live here. Not enough housing options - this area does not provide the variety we need as a family

14. 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!

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 → 11 RMS answers

1. Privatization of afterschool sports is harming community connections and inclusion of all students
2. Lack of political diversity
3. Lack of political diversity
4. 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.
5. So far, very happy
6. Something is not right with the schools, I can't propose a specific change.
7. Too much screen time at school
8. Academic intervention for **** and counseling support
9. Finding balance with AI and technology
10. Math
11. housing is so hard for us, we have moved ****

77 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 75 answers → 16 RMS answers

1. 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. To reiterate what I said in the previous responses, I wish we would use more traditional (on-paper), non-technology-based learning methods.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. We'd love to see more afterschool clubs and options at school that aren't sports (e.g. a book club)
11. 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.
12. Behavior on the bus and bus driver's responses to student behavior makes taking the bus challenging for my child

13. Primary issues with academic rigor (too much) are at RMS but issues with lack of special education attention/access was at MCS
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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 :(

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 → 14 RMS responses

1. Middle school math curriculum
2. So far, very happy
3. something is not right and the curriculum seems off in many cases. We need more traditional content to be taught.
4. 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.
5. 1) need to include writing/composition for students, (2) need a lot more rigorous and a faster pace for the math curriculum.
6. Significantly increase world language programming at the younger grades. One course should be required in high school.
7. See above
8. Less learning via screens
9. Longer days with more breaks
10. middle school math curriculum needs attention. My student LOST skills during 6th grade math.
11. Non traditional sports opportunities for wider access

12. Personal finance classes
13. Personalized curriculum, in the sense that the teachers adjust their approach to individual students, proactively.
14. The math program needs to be re-evaluated.

48 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 45 answers
 → 14 RMS 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. 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.
3. Get rid of French and add one of Russian, Arabic, Chinese
4. 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.
5. Math program for 7th grade needs urgent change
6. It would be great to have world languages map better across schools and to languages offered at the high school.
7. 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!!!
8. 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?
9. It might be nice to offer some additional options for world languages
10. It would be great to have more language instruction, but I wouldn't call this a 'pressing need.'
11. 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.
12. We have serious concerns about how math was rolled out this year and am worried about 8th grade math being mostly on the computer.
13. 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)..
14. I think French should be taught with Canadian accent due to our close location

Q56: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q55: What are the most pressing student support and service needs within our schools? Please choose up to 3 of the most important answers for you below.*

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

1. not too many assemblies
2. So far, very happy
3. None of these
4. Better-qualified guidance counselors in RMS
5. Real performance management for teachers that takes into account parent feedback.
6. More focus on executive functioning.

31 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 28 answers → 11 RMS 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 would like to see longer unstructured recess in middle school.
5. 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.
6. All the things I mentioned above need to be in-person and not virtual.
7. 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
8. "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.

9. It seems good already. These are such important things, it is always worth improving.
10. 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.
11. 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 → 11 RMS answers

1. This school is clique-y and it doesn't seem easy for Norwich and Hanover kids to mingle.
2. Harassment and boredom
3. struggles with reading/****
4. So far, very happy
5. Boredom
6. Need more time to finish assignments per 504
7. Honestly, boredom from not being challenged. They dread school.
8. If a student has a different political belief they do not feel safe to express themselves
9. Son seems kind of lonely sometimes.
10. Passing time
11. 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 → 9 RMS answers

1. My child has **** and ADHD so reading and writing is a real struggle and navigating course work with those disabilities is challenging.
2. 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.

3. English. Again.
4. 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.
5. Math
6. 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.
7. No issues here, but we hear plenty of other things from other families.
8. sometimes feels pressure of workload.
9. 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.

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 → 7 RMS answers

1. Too much screen time
2. Time management to fit in all they want to do!
3. No concerns with my child at this time
4. So far, very happy
5. Time management is getting more challenging though it is still manageable.
6. Their projects and interests being delayed by school
7. Serious health issue of a ****

23 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 20 answers
→ 6 RMS answers

1. Concerns about cost of college. Very concerned about federal policies limiting reproductive freedom and racial and gender equality.
2. 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.
3. 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
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 → 19 RMS answers

1. 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.
2. increased teacher and Ed assistant pay. Freeze or decrease Admin pay.
3. hiring more special ed teachers
4. Physical training for kids who may not be athletes but can improve basic skills through coaching. Like tutoring but for PE.
5. I would like to see a multi purpose turf field at MCS so that students could practice right after school.
6. we have to level taxes and costs, most normal parents aren't earning more with respect to inflation. Please keep costs lower.
7. higher quality teachers (especially in high school french, RMS math)
8. Native language speakers in world languages in the middle school.
9. Better awareness and support for families of children with learning disabilities
10. Hiring more highly competent teachers
11. I don't have an opinion.
12. Also offer Sign Language as a kinesthetic language that supports different kinds of learners

13. Tutoring
14. Increased focus on improved academics and curriculum - please stay committed to core educational excellence!
15. Parent-involved performance management for teachers
16. increased attention and support for mental health for students
17. AP courses and SAT prep in school
18. quality of facilities
19. The Ray School is a dilapidated building and needs to be renovated or entirely rebuilt.

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

1. more acceptance of conservative Christians. Should not feel attacked for beliefs.
2. We won't benefit from universal pre-K here, but strongly support it!
3. Please try to reduce spending and lower costs.
4. We really need another indoor gym. Also the outdoor facilities at Ray and MCS are in poor shape.
5. School should start at 9am and end at 3:30pm
6. I appreciate the effort and success on all of these recent undertakings.
7. 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.
8. A few more opportunities for MCS kids to visit RMS prior to 7th grade, to lessen the impact of new kid/new school.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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

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
→ 7 RMS answers

1. 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.
2. Please try to reduce spending and lower costs.
3. 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!
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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?
7. I'd be curious to hear public opinions about all of these open enrollment things for New Hampshire.

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
→ 14 RMS answers

1. Please try to reduce spending and lower costs.
2. please coordinate the sau70 break schedule with Dartmouth's breaks. the majority of kids have parents at the college, why not sync the schedules?
3. Thank you for asking for our opinions.
4. Thank you for listening and working to improve our schools!

5. 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!
6. More direct communication between teachers and parents is critical. 7th grade math needs urgent attention and return to in person instruction
7. Thank you!
8. 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
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Thanks for doing these deep dives every year. These efforts do not go unnoticed. I appreciate it.
13. 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 ****.
14. 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.