

MY VOICE MATTERS

Family Engagement Event Results

2021-2022



"As a community, we are committed to the social and emotional well being of all our students. We seek to develop the individual potential of each student in a collaborative atmosphere that values intellectual freedom and inspiration.

We value families as partners in this work, and as partners in creating the schools' unique environment.

As a community we foster respect for and appreciation of individual and cultural differences; emphasize social responsibility and leadership, community service and good citizenship; and value civility and ethical behavior. "

The goal of the My Voice Matters campaign was to hear from our school community!

A wide variety of ideas for being more engaged with staff and teachers, as well as suggestions on areas where the home-school connection could be strengthened were received from all nine buildings.

Submissions Received:

Seven elementary schools - 325

Middle school - 205

High school - 406

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Categories included:

- **Positive feedback**
- **Fun and/or extra curricular activities & ideas**
- **Curriculum - school day**
- **Food/Cafeteria**
- **Other**
- **Relationships & school culture (*Middle/High school*)**

**Following is a snapshot summary of submissions
that were seen in each theme.**



Fun and/or extra curricular activities & ideas

- provide field trips again
- hold school dances
- provide after-school clubs, sports events
- create events and activities that provided opportunities for students, teachers and parents to engage with each other in more informal ways

Curriculum - school day

- more assemblies
- class ideas included, but were not limited to: dancing, cooking, coding classes, typing, life skills, and cultural differences learning and appreciation
- reduce homework, no homework Fridays
- learning through games, group projects, visual activities, and across grades

Food/Cafeteria

- clear concern at each school about improving the food
- overwhelmingly pointing out the lack of quality and variety
- almost every school mentioned having more vegetarian and Halal choices on a regular basis

Other

comments & concerns were mentioned at each level, but were emphasized more in the Middle/High Schools

- ideas and concerns about the technology, wifi, access to additional social media platforms, and smart boards
- concerns about stress and mental health suggesting time for mediation period, once month Mental Health Fridays, teachers in all classes providing time to destress, are among some of the few

Relationships and School Culture

relationships and school culture issues were clearly expressed at the secondary schools, so much so that we created a separate category for them, but it was also expressed at some of the elementary schools.

- **For the elementary** it was reflected more in the desire for fun and activities that engaged all the students, and included activities with their parents and teachers. They also mentioned having more activities about bully prevention and being an upstander.
- **In the secondary schools** it was mentioned in regards to how to build a district-wide community among the schools and students; learning about and respecting cultural, religious and genders differences; creating better interpersonal communication with students; and other ways to engage the students and understand their needs beyond completing assignments.

Following are specific issues that came up at the different school levels



Elementary Schools

- new playground at Dutch
- restructuring of parent teacher conferences
- extra help periods
- learn other languages
- showcase students talents singing, dancing telling a story during a Friday afternoon
- more book fairs and books in library
- a family garden
- class pet

Middle School

- more club choices and more elective choices
- longer advisory periods
- more time between classes
- sports opportunities for 6th graders
- newer/bigger lockers

High School

- remove bathroom restrictions
- open a coffee cafe
- inquiry inspired learning in all classes
- create an advisory period
- later start time
- provide student parking lot
- more internships opportunities

Next steps to keep this working moving forward:

- This summary report will be provided to each school principal, PTA President(s), Board of Ed members and administrative staff.
- Discussion will be had by each school's site-based team (*composed of parents, teachers, students and administrators*) and these teams will consider how best to address the suggestions brought forward, where possible.
- It is anticipated that many of the cross-school suggestions will be addressed district wide.
- Summary report will also be placed on the Hicksville website as a Family Engagement resource.

We thank you for your participation!

