

I apologize if you mentioned this already but will this be live streamed?

It would be nice to restart after school activities like movie night and bowling. The elementary age children could also benefit from additional club options like lego club, ski club, book club, or any other additional enrichment. This could provide helpful social interaction outside of the typical classroom setting and memories the children can carry with them.

It would also be beneficial to hear of programs in outside districts (future high school option districts) that GD does not provide. For example Pop Warner programs or other club options. This could help kids begin friendships with their future peers and give them opportunities to try things that GD cannot or does not provide.

I understand that providing these options can take considerable time and resources and in a time like this it could be difficult, but the benefits could be great! I'm also not sure if there are underlying reasons we don't get info from other schools so I'm curious to know if that is even a possibility.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for parents to make suggestions. While there is always room for growth I am overall pleased with our district and trust that my children are in a safe and supportive environment. Thank you!

I have been advocating for mental health services to be brought into GD. I am currently using health insurance and paying co pays for my girls to see a mental health counselor to work with them on coping with anxiety connected to COVID19. I am a mental health provider myself and know of school districts that are offering this service. I would like to see GD offer this so that my girls have the resources available to them that they need to get through this difficult time. Thank you.

I am wondering if it is really necessary to serve refreshments and give people a reason to remove their masks in a group setting at a short one hour meeting. Most adults can go without for an hour. Hopefully refreshments will be removed from the larger group setting. Is the intention for parents to attend 2- 3 hours of these meetings if they have children in multiple age ranges? I suspect some questions might be age specific, but many will apply to all age groups. I am not sure of the purpose of having 3 sessions other than hoping to limit the number attending each one...perhaps ask people to RSVP by time slot to limit numbers or have an RSVP that caps out for each time slot once full. To use this meeting as an example that would apply to students, I generally will not send my kids to a school activity that involves removing their masks (Ie Builders Club caroling in December with the plan of refreshments in a group after, or indoor sports teams without masks). Unfortunately not knowing who is or isn't vaccinated makes me err on the side of not participating, particularly in any close spaces.

We would like to request a 8th grade meeting with students, parents and administration to discuss and nail down attire for graduation.

I know COVID took a toll on many things, but I hope to see things come back little by little. I remember attending "writing celebrations", concerts and parties with my older two. They had fun special days that they looked forward to doing. Now there is nothing for them to look forward to beyond their school work. We need things for them to make memories with. Another important thing I would like to see this year is kindergarten graduation for my little one who hasn't seen a normal school year yet.

Allow football players to play football for Averill Park modified since their coaching staff has advised it is currently not allowed by GD. There is a large group of current 5th graders who will age out of youth football after 6th grade.

Ready for the mask mandate to end! It distracts my son, he has a hard time breathing in it, and it has been proven cloth masks do nothing. It's absolutely unnecessary and ridiculous.

1. Why is there a athletics team "cut" policy in place for middle school sports? GD has a small middle school, and students may have benefited by being kept on teams for physical activity, practice, and social time during the pandemic and the winter. Was this a good time to use a "cut" policy? Was it discussed? Research shows kids benefit from even just practicing and developing skills.

2. Are there any programs or plans in place to foster both the emotional and sensory needs/enrichment for all students in a classroom? Many schools see these as classroom wide needs and have plans/equipment in place for all students as the needs have grown in the recent past due to the very restricted and stressful

environment brought on by the pandemic.

3. Can there be more information on curriculum for all grades made public? Is it strictly common core?

Thank you!

No masks.

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I also don't receive the school emails

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*How come students are being pulled out in the hallway, reprimanded for wearing pajama pants and have consequences when the dress code does not state that they are not allowed

*emails being sent to teachers/principal/staff that go in answered

*RTI services are not being provided to students who are supposed to be receiving them

*Teachers are putting their political views out to students and expecting them to agree with them.

*Students are not allowed mask breaks throughout the day

*Lack of communication about grades to parents

*Teachers not taking responsibility for their lack of classroom management skills and blaming the students for work not being completed. Lack of follow through of the teachers part.

*Social emotional needs of the students being overlooked in various classrooms.

*hours or homework is being provided instead of intensive/direct instruction.

*There needs to be higher expectations and follow through for the teachers. The last 3 years the lack of education being provided is unacceptable.

- Get rid of the 6ft rule, the state says 3ft is fine. Maybe that way we can free up the extra classroom so 6th graders can take Spanish again.

- Bring back ALL school functions, including the 8th grade Washington Trip. (The Dutch Apple is not exciting) nor does it compare.

- Let the kids wear flannel (loungewear) pants to school. It's not a code of conduct issue. We are a public school district.

I want to make sure that it is recognized how much you have continued to allow kids to be themselves in school and allow them opportunities to have some "normal". We could have never imagined that school would ever look like this but it is important to note that you have: kept students in school full time, allowed for recess, continued with special area classes, and if student is out, virtual classes are available. These are things that many other districts have not been able to do (and some still can't).

I have no doubt that as we move out of this "covid" period and hopefully return to more normal circumstances, that you will all have the students best interest in mind. Please let us as parents know how we can support you in doing this! and THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you for all you are doing!

You CANNOT enforce masks in school anymore. There has been no appeal filed and no "stay" issued by a court. It is now unlawful to enforce these mandates anywhere, currently, as of today.

There might be some sort of common ground for the activities and the pandemic to exist at the same time safely, but only if done safely. We don't need more outbreaks

My kids would love if the morning tv show was reinstated. They would also be interested in a running club or cross country and the drama club.

Would like to see study hall for 7th-8th graders if schedules allow in the future eliminating recess if necessary or alternate between the two.

What is being done to make sure that the concerns brought to individual members of the administration are captured in a collective place (excel sheet/share point/google docs)?
There needs to be a structure in place where these concerns are captured, addressed, action plans are formulated and communication is sent out to the parents so that everyone is aligned with what is happening at the school.
This could be achieved through different opportunities to address each grade separately and /or elementary vs. middle school separately.
I am aware of many instances (directly and indirectly) where the administration was alerted to a specific issue and replied with canned of "we will looking into it" with no follow through.
This will no longer be tolerated.
Consider putting controls in place to account for the administrative decision making process as demand to provide parents the necessary visibility will not go away.

Suggesting introduction to Spanish. My son had it at his previous school for pre-k 3 as one of his "specials" and he found it to be very fun and exciting. Prior his "specials" were music,art,library,gym and Spanish now he only has art, music and library. As with any other part of education building upon the basics only makes for a better education. Prior with Spanish as a special they would learn one word and do a project with the one word. For example the word was Pez for fish so they cut out and decorated fish and traced the word for fish in Spanish on the fish they decorated.

Please consider assigning a liaison for the TSL aftercare program who can have a constructive and positive, collaborative ongoing relationship with the TSL team. TSL is widely used in the capital region. Many of the districts on FB show their aftercare program and highlight the location and activities and the overall look and feel tells me the school's likely collaborate with these TSL programs and why shouldn't they? The goal should be to have a good, positive impact on the program and offer help, not just criticism. The kids are currently in the Library with basketball practice going on. They need more options. The cost to parents is very affordable, and the people are good to the kids. The kids like them. The fact that they at least take good care of them and are kind to them is such a relief. Aftercare is important. Some districts have homegrown options, many use TSL. Almost all districts have these programs and they are very important and a great need. No one is asking that the school use their money, but possibly helping them make sure the kids have space and room would be nice and having a pleasant open line of communication that focuses on the betterment of the kids. If I housed a program at my home, even if it wasn't mine, I would want it to succeed. I think some of the other districts likely see TSL as an asset, not a bother. The impression I get is GD sees it as a bother. I would hope that this can be something considered and again looked at as a positive move.

Masks should stay until Covid surge lessons. Masks are helping to keep kids safe and school open. Parents/visitors should not be allowed back into the building until the pandemic is better controlled. Effective treatments are still not readily available and accessible. I feel the school has done a good job of keeping kids healthy and in school where they can learn best. No need to rush dropping precautions, the pandemic is not over yet although we all wish it was!

While we were unable to attend, I was glad to see the notes and slides posted.

Judging by the notes, kids of younger parents seemed to have the most issues with masks. To our family, we just don't understand. Wearing a mask protects those around us, why would we not want to do that? We are fine with mask wearing and would like it to follow the scientific guidelines embraced by people who know more than we do.

With that said, I would like to see more activities come back if they can be done safely. Science club, Odyssey of the mind, and the middle school musical are high on my kids wish lists. Enrichment activities would also be appreciated- especially by our oldest!

As for the uproar about father/daughter and mother/son dances- they are creepy and outdated. Celebrate the family whatever it looks like, absolutely, with things like the back to school carnival, concerts, and other presentational events!

I know more people need to be involved with the pta, but for many of us it is hard to find the time. Is there a better way to communicate out to parents what is needed? Facebook, twitter or email with specific needs. For instance, "we want to have a sledding event, are there parents who are willing to organize or lead?" Specific requests are easier sometimes.

The past two years have been interesting to say the least. I do worry about our kids, but I believe they are going to be ok. I also worry about teachers. This is a terrible time to teach and many parents do not understand that now teachers have to teach everything they did, in addition to having to deal with everything Covid adds. I admire teachers greatly and would always like to know how I can make their life easier. What can I do as a parent to make my child, their classroom, and the school in general more successful? They have so little time, but communication is key.

I don't know if this is what you were looking for, but it's what I have! As I said, we want our kids to be successful and happy in school, so if there are things we can do to make that happen we will!

Thank you-

Put the kids first. Involve middle school in fun events, let them be middle schoolers. bring back the morning news that they use to be able to do. Let the little kids have a K graduation like they always had. When you live in a small town most people don't leave it, the nostalgia and traditions are what made the school special. Change is not always good or necessary. Those things were loved and enjoyed by many in the district. Stop making policies banning ridiculous things like flannel pants and store bought treats. There is absolutely no good reason behind it and it makes you seem cruel. Focus on the kids, what makes them happy not 2 50 year old women. Stop having activities focused solely based on raising money for the school. The school isn't hard up for money. Hold events just for fun. Bring back extra events in the school and allow parents to attend them (with a mask on) mystery readers and parents are not unnecessary visitors. Mental Health matters and the fun stuff is what makes the kids happy. It's an elementary school, not a college or a boot camp. Ease up on all your rules and policies and PUT THE KIDS FIRST.

Week leadership, lack of parent board collaboration and communication, lack of school officials accountability and problem solving issues as they unfortunately keep happening.

There needs to be another town hall scheduled in the near future as an opportunity for the parents who were not able to attend.

The agenda of this town hall should be posted ahead of time with more time allocated for the parents to voice their questions/concerns and less time for the administration to validate their agenda.
When will the next town hall be scheduled?

If the purpose of a town hall meeting was to hear parent concerns, why was a 40 minute presentation from Admin given on information that was sent prior to the meeting? What is the Admin's responsibility now that the information has been given, collected, and shared? When can families expect solutions to these concerns? Not plans for change or theoretical conversation....actual change?

There is nothing rooting these kids in GD. With no after school activities, minimal in-school activities, and limited sports, a "punch the clock" mentality has been created where the kids show up, learn, and leave (job vs. career). There is no pride. There is nothing keeping them connected to the school other than academics. There is nothing to look forward to (and no, wearing wacky socks doesn't count). My kid HATES going to school now.

Give the teachers space to run their classrooms. Allow them to use discretion, expertise, and their love for the kids to drive the day.

Allow the kids to read morning announcements.

When do/can the parents have a say in the tenure of new staff?

- PLEASE focus on bringing back enrichment classes next year for 7th grade, specifically enriched math and some type of additional science.
- Please try and address behavioral issues differently. When a rule is broken or a group of students has misbehaved, address only those involved and not the entire class.
- Bring back advanced art for 8th grade.
- Focus on creative spring outdoor activities for the kids: field day, outdoor middle school dance, back to school carnival.
- PLEASE bring back in-person parent teacher conferences. What a loss to not meet your child's teacher (face to face) and make that connection at the beginning of the school year. I have a second child in the Troy district who had both an in-person open house and p/t conference in the fall, and in a few weeks there is a second in-person p/t conference.
- Consider having a spring musical and maybe include 6th grade. This could possibly be arranged outdoors.
- I am still unclear what exactly is being done to address Social Emotional Learning. Please explain further how the guidance counselor and social worker will address this on a day to day basis.
- PLEASE consider returning to a longer middle school day.
- Try to include 6th grade in the spring band concert (if concerned about COVID, perhaps have a concert outside. I know Troy did this Spring 2020).
- Any chance of grades 5-8 going on their "big" field trips this spring? The Statue of Liberty, Bronx Zoo, Wild Center and Mystic Aquarium (all previous trips) are outside.
- Please focus on trying to create more small cohorts for students. Being a smaller sized school is difficult because we are limited to the number of ways we can split up students in a grade level that only has two sections, not to mention the fact that the kids are surrounded by the same classmates for 9 years. When it's possible to break the class into smaller sections and mix up the class dynamic, I know it has a positive impact on the students because these are the experiences my daughter talks about the most when she comes home from school. Examples of these type of things that are happening now include: Mrs. Fecura's book club, band lessons and even just being able to play cards with Mr. Martino during recess.

First, I would like to note how several teachers have gone above and beyond this year. Mrs. Ryan has made herself available to Earth Science students beyond the school day since they have so much to get done in such little time. Mrs. Bucher and Mrs. Hancock always make themselves available for extra help. Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Ryan are doing an amazing job to keep up with the demands of the Health Office. Kudos to them!

I so appreciate you taking time to meet with parents and hear some feedback. To be honest, I have felt very frustrated over the past year. It is hard to see other schools in our same county moving toward opening up quicker. It makes me feel unwelcome even if that was not your intention. One of the things I always loved about GD was it being such a close knit community and I just don't feel like that anymore.

As you stated at the meeting, communication really needs to improve. Classes and courses were changed before school started. It wasn't so much that they changed, it was that we didn't even hear about the changes until open house, ie: Earth Science did not have a lab scheduled. There was also no advanced art and no honors English. Parents should have been notified prior to school. I get multiple e-mails and communications about covid . While this information is important, I really want to hear more about other things. Many schools are starting to move away from so much covid communication at this point.

Also, I feel the parent teacher conferences could have been in person. One or Two parents masked with a teacher over 6 feet apart could have been doable, as was done in other schools in our county. We were not notified until very close to the day of, and even then, it felt like they only wanted to meet with certain people. Teachers made themselves available, but I had to do conference calls on multiple afternoons instead of meeting with everyone on 1 day within a half hour. Many parents want to meet with teachers to see how their child is doing or to ask questions about the course/curriculum, not just those parents where their child is struggling.

My child's biggest complaint is that they are disciplined as an entire class or grade because of the actions of one or a few students. You know who those kids are, please direct the consequences appropriately to those students and not to those who were not involved.

In general, I think there should be more student input from middle school students and maybe even 5th graders. Middle school needs more clubs and activities. I understand we are a small school, but we only have 2 clubs for Middle schoolers in addition to sports--Yearbook and Builder's Club. Could you look into giving a stipend to teachers or aides to run additional clubs? It seems like that is what they do at other schools.

Please bring back whole school FIELD DAY! Not with the Boosterthon and not going out for one relay race. The whole day with the whole school. It is outside.

One more random question, can you please put the stall doors back on all of the girl's bathroom stalls? I don't see why they were taken off. There would be a wall separating the students.

Again, thank you so much for holding the Town Mtg and opening up the lines of communication. I hope only positive things come out of this and GD can start to get back to some normalcy. I really want my 8th grader to enjoy their last few months at GD. Thank you for listening and all you do.

8th grade/Middle School: My concerns center around the ability to differentiate and keep instruction engaging. I am hoping that this is just a by-product of the pandemic, but the opportunities for higher achieving students to be challenged and engaged has diminished. Thankfully, there is now band, but there is no more Odyssey, no Earth Science lab class for a class that demands 1000 hours of lab (which they are expected to do during class or independently), and no more book club for 8th grade (Mrs. Fecura has been AMAZING in providing this opportunity for Jackson over the past few years). I have been increasingly concerned about middle school, as I now have had 2 children go through. There doesn't seem to be enough rigor and challenge- with the exception of advanced math and Earth Science- and there is little to NO communication from teachers (including parent teacher conferences). I think the limited options are driving families away from the middle school.

