

SOAR V COMMUNITY RESEARCH



PARENTS SURVEY 2023

APPENDIX: VERBATIM COMMENTS

April 24th, 2023

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Reasons why child attends another school and not HPS

Q. If you answered “yes” in the previous question, please tell us why your child is not attending Hudsonville Public Schools?

More frequently cited reasons include:

- ❖ Personal family reasons, such as divorce and custody arrangements or a parent works for another school district
- ❖ Prefer a Christian school education
- ❖ Preschool program
- ❖ Prefer a smaller school environment
- ❖ Special education needs
- ❖ Former student harassed or bullied too much at HPS
- ❖ Do not agree with public school’s culture; political perceptions.

Current parents (n = 129)

A Christian education is important to us

All of our children went to a Christian based early school. We are thinking about switching them all back to a Christian school now as well.

Bad experiences in the middle school with indoctrination. Daughter was convinced she was non binary, when in actuality she is a tomboy who feels deeply for her friends.

Because Hudsonville DOES NOT have a zero tolerance policy and does NOTHING to discipline bullies so I had to pull her out of school!!

Because my child was assaulted twice last year resulting in months of OT therapy still receiving care for. Hudsonville did not want to hold the other students accountable and offer any services or needs even medical assistance when injury happened. It was all swept under the rug by administration up to the superintendent. The anti bullying and zero tolerance is all smoke in mirrors as things are continually swept under the rug. They protect the attacker/bully and leave the victims shamed and fearful to attend school.

Because my daughter was bullied so bad she changed schools

Because my ex husband and new wife wanted him in a Christian school and couldn't get into Hudsonville Christian.

Because of Covid guidelines my daughter did not want to attend HPS (Riley middle school) She is finishing up homeschooling this year. Because all guidelines are gone now, she is looking forward to coming back to HPS next fall for 8th grade.

Being taught ideas not approved and teachers pushing their lifestyles and beliefs on students. Also kids identifying as whatever they want and being allowed to use whatever bathroom they choose made my children very uncomfortable. Teach basic academics and life skills and leave the rest out of schools!

Better child care option and closer location.

Bully issues due to gender identity

Concomitant daycare/preschool hybrid at Georgetown Christian

Considering moving our kids to Hudsonville Christian. We do not want our kids participating with the "Ruler" program. Disgusted with the books that are in the high school library with the inappropriate sexual material, and lack of family values.

Convenience, preschool is closer to dad's place of employment

Cost of pre school

Culture invading the school....ie vape, drugs, gender confusion

Custody agreement for 2 in high school & 1 in 6th.

Daycare type Pre-School she has attended since 4 months, starting PreK in Hudsonville next year

Different needs that weren't being met by HPS

Does it matter that I have considered moving my child because the school board very clearly couldn't care less about the safety of my child, or any marginalized child in our district? Probably not. Since they clearly DO NOT CARE.

Family situation, previous marriage.

Feeling uncertain about DEI/gender related conversations currently taking place.

From JPS district- when I talked to the [REDACTED] response was "can't do anything more/better here".

Goes to school near biological mom

GRCHS for a smaller school experience and diversity for his high school experience

He is attending a 3 day a week Christian preschool. We like that he receives biblical teaching in addition to academics.

He is in the preschool program at HCS, we liked that they offered a nature-based option.

He needs one to one for best learning. His learning needs are different but we have not yet received a diagnosis. He had been in CI at Park and we did not realize how little he was learning. At the end of elementary, it was recommended that he enter a certificate of completion program. We believe he has more potential than that.

He was being bullied at Hudsonville and nothing was done about it

Hudsonville High School was entirely too big. We went to a parent teacher conference for our daughter when she attended HHS during her freshman year and the teacher did not know who she was.

Hudsonville is getting way too big and the opportunities for my child to participate in extra school curriculums is very slim. We wanted to send our children to a school where they would have opportunities to continue to participate in the activities they enjoy into High School, so we pulled our oldest to attend Jenison instead where there are more opportunities.

I am an educator for Kentwood Public Schools. My son attend elementary with me and my daughter attends HPS ECC.

I am unhappy with some initiatives in the district. I am appalled by some of the books that have been allowed into HPS libraries and classrooms. The fact that there is no catalog of classroom library materials is concerning. It is my perception that the administration and some, not all, teachers, are encouraging a "woke", liberal agenda in the classroom.

I DO NOT appreciate the government pushing their agenda on our kids. It's a horrible travesty for our children and the nuclear family in general. The teacher's unions definitely DO NOT help the situation. Well some people think it's a racial or discrimination issue, it really has everything to do with the values that we hold dear, and they are not against people of other races or genders. The problem is, there's so much confusion out there and it's only making matters worse for our kids.

I don't agree with all the SEL being done and have seen how far behind these kids are when compared to kids at the private schools. We feel our youngest will be in a much better learning environment at the private school.

I have 1 at Unity Christian because that is where friends are

I have one child doing online schooling now due to bullying

I have strongly considered transferring or homeschooling due to the push for DEI/SEL and other politically driven curriculums.

I live in Byron Center and my ex husband lives in Hudsonville, when we divorced I wanted them to continue to go to Hudsonville because I love it and so do they. My step children already attend Byron Center.

I pulled my daughter out of [REDACTED] because of the treatment she was receiving from the staff. She was also being sent home every day because they didn't want to deal with her, then they reported her as unexcused absences resulting in harassing, calls, emails, & mailed letters.

I wanted an outdoor education program for my kindergartener.

I've been thinking about home schooling. Haven't been happy for the last 4 years with the special needs program.

It's a question of family values and parents rights.

JCS preschool program

Jenison international academy

Lack of diversity and lack of educational support for special needs.

Lack of programming for academically talented children

Left because wanted more of a Christian influence in the school!

Lives with his Mom

Moved and bullying issue for one

My 10th grade daughter struggled in a traditional school setting due to anxiety and ADHD. It was incredibly difficult for her to keep up with a 7 hour school day followed by 3-5 hours of homework. She was always behind and no teachers really ever reached out to offer support or help. The only person we ever heard from was her guidance counselor after we initiated conversation regarding her struggles. We opted for an online option through Jenison.

My child could use his bike to go to the soccer practice. More convenient.

My child moved to Jenison for the performing arts program.

My child was bullied and harassed at [REDACTED] last year and we no longer felt it was a safe learning environment for him.

My child was getting bullied. Before 1st hour on day 1 he was bullied 27 times. I only know this because of the tally marks on his arm that evening.

My child will attend preschool next school year

My daughter goes to Allendale High School after a rough year

My daughter is 5 & she was not ready for kindergarten. I wanted to put her in a young 5's thru Hudsonville but learned that was not available this past year. I didn't put her in pre k because I did not want her to attend 5 days full time, its too much for her and there was not another option so I chose a different school.

My high school son attends the West Michigan Aviation Academy. One reason, we chose to send him there was due to the smaller class size. We like the smaller community feel. Another reason is their strict behavior policy and dress code. The students wear a uniform that we believe will help prepare our son for the business world--"Dress for success!" We've been saddened by the lack of a dress code at Hudsonville schools, especially in the last couple of years. They also have a strict behavior policy and they don't tolerate disrespect and bullying of any kind. To conclude, my son is interested in engineering and they have many opportunities for him in this field.

My husband [REDACTED] teaches at Jenisons ECC. So my girls attend there.

My Junior attends Zeeland Public Schools - Venture Academy - because there is no alternative high school option at Hudsonville.

My son was in the EI program from 1st grade-4th grade. The EI program was great at [REDACTED]. Then it [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He moved to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had no experience with special education. [REDACTED] made everything difficult. We hired an advocate last year, and got nowhere. Our son is autistic with extreme anxiety, so EI wasn't the best fit, because the point system is extremely strict and rigid. You cannot be rigid with rigid kids; you have to be flexible to help them learn flexibility and feel safe. I was hearing awful stories about [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] EI, and [REDACTED] was constantly calling the police on the EI kids, so we decided it was safest for our son to withdraw him from HPS. He now attends Michigan International Prep School through Ovid-Elsie. My son really wishes he could attend in-person, but it's not a good environment for him. All he learned was that he could avoid work by getting sent to seclusion... So he wasn't really getting an education. Now that we're educating him virtually at home through MIPS, he is getting a better education, BUT he's missing out on friends and social practice. I really wish HPS could support my child and meet him where he is without involving the police all the time. The police should not be called on children with IEPs and documented anxiety disorders and Autism... [REDACTED] told me that the EI program is based on "empirical data," so I requested current data supporting the EI point system, and she told me she could not provide any current data. That seems like a big problem to me. After spending a year begging [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and spending thousands of dollars on an advocate, we decided it was time to leave. HPS criminalizes EI kids. Kids with IEPs start facing criminal charges at age 12, and that is just bonkers to me... How does this set up anyone for success? How does this make a child feel welcome and understood? Trying to get [REDACTED] to understand my child last year was like hitting my head against a brick wall... Kids go into fight or flight when cornered, scared, elevated, etc, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] just call the police... Awful and sad. My son REALLY misses in-person school, and he'd love to go back, but I don't want to just end up in court with him due to his disabilities.

My youngest goes to Jenison ECC so she could ride the bus with our neighbor

Need pre-school to be full day M-F, so I take her to a school that offers it.

One daughter lives with mom

One of mine attends Jenison Public's virtual school, he struggles with ADHD and the virtual school is a perfect fit for him. We love it!

Our 3 year old son attends Holland Public for their DHH services. He will eventually attend Hudsonville Public

Our 4 year old is at Georgetown Christian preschool because we were on the waitlist at ECC.

Our child attends preschool at a private school but will attend Alward next year for pre-K.

Our children attend Hudsonville Christian until Kindergarten. We switch to HPS in 1st grade. We like our young children to be surrounded by people who share our beliefs and values but appreciate the diversity of people HPS brings once they are a little older.

Our current living situation made it easier for our son to attend preschool in another district.

Our daughter wanted to participate in a Spanish Immersion program. We did not move her to HPS for middle school, because she is on an IEP and the small classroom size of her current school suits her well.

Our youngest attends Hudsonville Christian for Preschool and will also for Kindergarten. She will attend HPS in 1st grade and on. We did that with my older two as well. We want a Christian education when they are small and when it is more affordable (tuition rates are less for preschool and Kindergarten). I also didn't want my kids in Kindergarten 5 full days.

Our youngest is at hudsonville Christian. They had a nature based program and we did 3 year old preschool there.

Our youngest is very impressionable and we felt he needed an alternative path.

Preschool is cheaper at the Christian school and they have a nature based program

Preschool nature based at Christian - will attend kindergarten at HPS

Preschool oin Jenison

Preschooler at HCS , great school with nature based preschool option available

Religious pre-school for their half-day schedule and our daycare situation.

school atmosphere, smaller class size, strong encouragement of student character development, many STEM opportunities

School getting too big. Class sizes too big. Bullying issues. No opportunity for sports.

School that better meets our values as a family without the DEIB.

Separate states. Divorce/custody mess.

She decided to move to her dads

She had a poor social experience at HPS her freshman year. HPS does not offer a virtual or hybrid option. She now goes to JIA.

She is staying with her grandparents in Otsego

She wanted to go to the same school as her friends but next year she is transferring to Hudsonville

Social Anxiety

Spanish immersion at Jenison

Step child at Jenison because other parent lives in Jenison

Step child who's mother chooses to home school

The children have 2 different biological mothers - 1 chose to pay for West Side Christian School, the other acknowledges public school in Hudsonville is superior

The high school is too large and our child loves sports but will likely get cut from all HPS high school teams. He needs opportunities to stay involved in sports. Also, we prefer smaller class sizes and a study body where he can know his peers closely and have a sense of community; therefore, we transferred him to a smaller private school.

The public school was not a good fit for him.

The student chose to be homeschooled because he/she did not like the environment in the high school.

There was a cheaper preschool option

They attend a christian school because we like them to learn from a Christian perspective.

They have to attend Grand Haven Public School because of their mom's address

They live with their mother in Allegan.

They wanted to try a different school.

To get a Christian based education until Kindergarten

Too large of an environment for a child with high anxiety.

Too much non educational content in the classrooms and hallways. Virtue signaling everywhere. Our child was bullied by the "with us or against us" mentality that this programming fostered in her classmates. I hope the new board can implement change, but we assume this will take years and will be moving our other child next year.

Two reasons 1. We like the Christian influence of a Christian school including many times peers and teachers who hold the same views 2. We liked the Spanish immersion that Calvin Christian allowed

Various reasons. We want our kids to go to a school with a dress code, and no cell phone use allowed. (Our younger kids are at school where they socialize at lunch) We want our kids in books not on computers. We like computer and internet time to be limited. These are only a few of our reasons we have chosen a private school for our younger kids.

Virtual learning

Wanted to do Christian preschool

was not able to get help she needed

Wasn't receiving enough help for his reading deficiency.

We are considering moving to another schooling option if the school board's agenda does not support all students.

We are moving our middle schooler to jenison in the fall as it's more inclusive to arts and theater as well as a smaller school with more attention to the individual students.

We are not happy with the way Hudsonville handles things. And what they allow to happen there.

We choose Christian education at least through 8th grade for our kids

We didn't feel our daughter was ready for 5 days a week and the cost at HPS was much higher.

We do not like how a lot of politics and people's views and books in the school are getting pushed on kids even as early as preschool aged. We believe that teachers should be there to teach and the upbringing religion politics should be taught and learned at home.

We felt our non-IEP student had lack of professional reading support. We also weren't completely satisfied with HPS's read program.

We have a medically fragile child who is homeschooled, and we opted out of Hudsonville for 2 because of the climate caused by some of the parents.

We have one attending West Catholic High School. She started as a Freshman at Hudsonville HS and benefits more from a smaller school. She did not have positive peer interactions at Hudsonville.

We live out of district, but I wanted the older kids to finish at the school their friends were at.

We moved and our other kids are attending another school

We moved and this sibling is much younger in elementary at the time. Our Hudsonville child was already driving and in 11th grade at the time of our move.

We reside in Allendale and our youngest children attend Allendale Christian School.

We send our children to Hudsonville Christian to help foster a foundation in their faith. Due to costs we have to transition them Public Schools in 1st grade, but have a growing concern of what secular views they could be exposed to and influenced by at a younger age.

We share custody of my step children so they go to a closer school to their moms house.

We started at Hudsonville, and were happy. But in recent years there has been a shift in the school culture. It seems to have taken a hard left which led to my son being marginalized for being a conservative Christian by a teacher. The SEL being implemented, the tolerance for "furries," the pushing of the rainbow agenda especially in the high school, the complete lack of parental support by the administration, and the undermining of our values by the teachers particularly in the middle and high school led to us removing three of our children from HPS.

We want our children to be taught the Christian faith at school. We love Hudsonville public (and I am a staff with HPS) but our family decided that shifting our kids to Hudsonville Christian is what is best at this time.

We were required to have our children in a Christian school because of my husband's employer, but now those rules have been changed so he could switch and it might happen, but we want to have it be our son's choice, and right now he is anxious to change and leave friends.

We would love all our children to have a Christian education. We currently can not afford to pay elementary private tuition costs.

Other residents (n = 18)

All 5 of my children were pulled from HPS due to the ridiculous COVID mandates, CRT/DEIB, Ruler, Doug VanderJagt's lack of integrity, LGBTQIA agenda etc..

Because of the bullying and lack of help.

Christ should be central to education and all of life.

HPS could not provide the needed flexibility and supports (alternative path to graduation, options to obtain credit other than time-in-class, social-emotional learning for all students, etc) to allow her to maintain on-time graduation while in an intensive outpatient (3 days per week) treatment program for an eating disorder. She moved to a school that offered virtual courses, options for credit attainment that measured content mastery and are not based on time, and where teachers and students were fluent in mental health/SEL in order to create as supportive and neutral/positive space for her recovery journey.

I am worried about the treatment my family will receive.

I work in JPS.

JPS has better academics and better fine arts programming. Both my children are multiple state champions in the marching band.

Lack of Leadership, discernment and integrity within the upper leadership and administration. Examples then and now show ineptness in capabilities and Talent and the lack of caliber that is needed to fulfill parent and resident requests and overall direction.

Live in Hudsonville. School of choice to Jenison - smaller schools, slightly more diversity

Not confident that the resources are available to properly educate my autistic kids, much like public schools everywhere; and even less confident that my wife and I will be respected as a lesbian couple in this school district, or that my kids won't be bullied for being autistic and having 2 moms and that bullying will be dealt with accordingly

Our children are not attending Hudsonville because we don't want them to be taught the things that we don't agree with.

Prefer school other than HPS (grandchildren) or live outside the district

School of choice to Jenison where I am employed.

Spanish Immersion Program

They are my grandchildren. Pulled out this year because of what was going on with Ruler, SEL, all the books being allowed in the schools.

We took our oldest child out of HPS after kindergarten. This decision was made the day before first grade in fall of 2021 when HPS announced kids would be in masks again. This also followed after attending many board meetings discussing CRT and SEL and what that was going to look like being implemented into HPS.

We were not pleased with our daughter's K experience at HPS, homeschooled for a year, and then found a charter school that we love.

You don't have Spanish immersion nor Spanish in the elementary schools

Additional comments on School and District Environment

Q. Do you have any questions or comments School and District Environment?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ The district can do more to address misbehavior, discipline and bullying, both at school and on the buses.
- ❖ Some parents feel that programs that encourage positive behavior are not effective without also having negative consequences for inappropriate behavior.
- ❖ Specifically, some parents do not feel the district and their larger Hudsonville community are supportive or welcoming to ALL students, leading to students harassing others for race and sexual orientation without consequences for their behavior.
- ❖ Some parents feel that the district is not supportive of families with what they describe as “traditional” values.
- ❖ Parents still note that communications from individual teachers and schools declines as their child ages and progresses through the grades.
- ❖ More vigilance to assure security, especially with checking everyone at the office entrances at the school buildings.

Current parents (n = 233)

According to my students who attend HPS, the bus is where all the "bad stuff" happens... inappropriate behavior, language, bullying, etc. Drivers who are made aware of it from either students who have witnessed or been on the receiving end most likely do NOT address it.

All buildings need cameras.

All the answers above when choosing "Elementary School" was specifically South Elementary where my son attends. I can't speak to the other Elementary schools. I am so happy my son attends South. The teachers, staff and Mr. Heagle are AMAZING and my son loves the school. He had some social problems that have come up in the last 2 years that he was there and they all were addressed and the issues stopped. Amazing staff!

Allowing children to act like animals “furry” is extremely disturbing to me. Also, bullying in the lunch room is not monitored as it should be. Stories I’ve heard from my children are heart wrenching

Although I am not familiar with the PBIS, I am impressed with the relationships my children built with teachers in a very large high school. I have always felt I could reach out to those special mentors if I was concerned about my child AND they would do the same.

As a parent who is not the norm for a Hudsonville resident - we are liberal and believe in rights for the LGBTQ and trans community, and that all races should be treated equally - it has been disheartening to see what has happened lately with our community and school system. From the vote for new school board members to a public library being voted against twice, it is clear how this community thinks. It worries me how students who aren't white, straight, and Christian are treated by fellow students, some faculty, and parents of students.

As we have taken a more regulated approach to online/texting for our children, I am unable to determine a rating for the district there. As for bullying in the middle school, My child has not experienced it nor witnessed it but I am aware of previous incidents for other parents that have been unaddressed/underaddressed. Zero tolerance needs to be the standard there with quickly escalating repercussions and special attention given by the staff specifically around reprisals from friends of the original perpetrator.

At the high school level, the parking situation and parking lot is not sufficient nor safe. Doors are locked but often found propped open by construction staff or parent/student groups after hours. Doors are opened by anyone for anyone who knocks. In the evenings there is nothing keeping people from wandering hallways in all areas of the buildings. In summer neighborhood kids can easily access the building and have been found playing in the school. I think a very vocal minority of community members who are against the reality of there being different types of diversity among our student population have prevented staff and students from truly being able to understand those differences therefore blocking the right to grow to respect (not necessarily agree) those who are different. I feel putting computer devices in the hands of every student wasn't the best idea for all students. Despite efforts to block things students know how to access those blocked sites. I love that they have at least tried to bring down instances of bullying and cheating with phones by use of phone hotels at high school level. I would like to see AirPods and smart watches also added to the list. The school is HUGE and the reality is that we have every sort of person walking the hallways and we still have work to do to make every one feel like they belong. A lot of the problem isn't in the working of staff or district employees it's the influences coming from the home and community that are negatively impacting what happens in the school. Our job is to educate and we need to continue to do that for EVERYONE despite push back from the community that still lives in the mindset of 20 years ago and before.

At times the [REDACTED] doors have been open when arriving in the morning. Would like to see more consistent security at this building.

[REDACTED] has gotten better with [REDACTED] taking over. Still has a lot of work to do but that will take some time

Because my children are able-bodied, cis-gendered, and white I believe their experiences are pretty good. But I worry about those who are not.

Building a sense of belonging in HPS classrooms and buildings at all levels is critical to students' emotional, mental and physical safety. This should include addressing social-emotional topics such as: empathy, kindness, respect, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in age-appropriate ways as part of a continuum of teaching life skills. Students and staff are asking for more mental health supports and resources in HPS- as the experts of what is needed on a daily basis in our schools, they should be given the tools they need to address these highly concerning issues. Supporting students in getting these belonging, SEL, and mental health needs met will increase their ability to be successful academically, as well. Schools today look very different than 20 years ago- HPS should be actively working to meet the current needs of students by listening to students and the HPS staff who work with them daily. While parent and community in schools can be very helpful, it can also become incredibly toxic when we stop listening to those whose decisions impact the most- our kids and their teachers. I have seen an increase of HPS board, parents, and community members increasingly participating in toxic behaviors, prioritizing their own wants and fears, over the past few years- and every time, I see the kids being the ones who lose. With the increase in teacher shortages, HPS must prioritize staff retention by creating a supportive climate, as well. Again, the biggest losers when staff leave are the kids.

Bullying needs to be addressed, kids need to be seen and valued by not just the teachers but also administrators

Catering to "special" students to the detriment of all others in the class is a problem at every level. Those kids need personalized support instead of holding back the whole group.

Children who stick up for themselves should not be punished as much as the bullies

Communication is excellent at [REDACTED] but very poor at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The level of education drops as students get older. There is no hope or help for struggling students in the high school. There is little to no teaching happening at the high school level. Students are on their own unless parents help. Anything my daughter has learned in math or science has come from me alone. I find out what the course requires, learn it all myself and then teach my daughter. It has been extremely stressful. We have asked for help, but it is not there. The teachers do not care about whether the students learn anything or not. We are also concerned about the language and sexual focus of so much of the high school reading, curriculum and general teacher interactions.

Complaints about bullying seem to largely fall on deaf ears. My middle schooler had been struggling with being bullied for 2 years straight and he stopped speaking out at school because nothing ever changed.

Crop tops: dress code at high school is terrible just by some of the social media pics that are posted by HPS you definitely don't enforce the dress code! Power school: should be accessible by parents at ALL grade levels to see the progress of their students! High school parking lots: terrible design of that parking lot! Not big enough and there is no good flow out of that lot! Afraid there will be an accident someday or already might have been several! Terrible design! PBIS: the entire team of PBIS, SEL, RULER needs to be gone out of HPS! Yes, a select few may need it, but not ALL students!

Dr. VanderJagt and Mr. Szymanski are awesome

Drop off and pick up lines at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are a MESS... it would be helpful to have a staff member presence as some family members camp out in the line waiting while other cars are going around. Some students get out on the wrong side of the car where vehicles are passing theirs - very dangerous, huge safety concern.

East Kentwood has metal detectors at entrances.

Every time I have visited [REDACTED] for anything, I've been able to walk in the front door without being stopped or questioned. I've always walked into the office for whatever I needed, but after reading this questionnaire I now find it a bit alarming.

FGE parking lot has been challenging due to the ongoing construction project. It's been hard to have the already-small parking area reduced in size. We have been overall very pleased with the environment (due to the leadership) of both FGE and RSMS.

For obvious reasons, security and safety are top of mind and a top concern. Would love to understand security measures currently used and any additional planned to keep kids and teachers safe.

Georgetown needs a more secure way for kids to get picked up after school rather than just letting them outside to go with whoever picks them up. Also, bulletproof glass would be good for safety.

Get rid of these people on the school board.

Great schools for the neuro-typical, middle class white children. All other students deserve more.

Having a door and glass between order and chaos is no solution to protect kids. An armed security guard and armed teachers would be better

HHS looks the other way at those doing drugs and smoking weed in the bathrooms. Every student knows what's going on and which bathrooms are to be avoided for this reason. Same with locker rooms between classes.

How satisfied are you with how Hudsonville Public Schools COMMUNICATES with you to keep you informed about... My answer to this question relied on how satisfied I am with how HPS TEACHERS communicate with me.

HPS is great for kids who do not have any special needs. HPS could not, would not support my child with Autism/PDA, anxiety, and ADHD. If he was bullied, he was the one who got in trouble. If he had an issue, he got in trouble, instead of staff working with him to try to figure out what the problem actually was. He is driven by work avoidance, and so all he learned is that if he got sent to in-house or seclusion in EI, he got to avoid work successfully. He was not getting an education. I spent hours in meetings, to no avail.

HPS is so focused on the outlier that they have forgotten about the mainstream.

Hudsonville badly needs more focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. I'm still disgusted that the school board largely gave up on this critical issue due to a vocal minority. I often regret choosing Hudsonville schools for my kids due to the lack of diversity and unwelcoming environment of many in the community including Ottawa Impact supported members of the school board.

Hudsonville is one of the WORST districts for addressing bullying. You do NOTHING to discipline these kids. You have "talks" with them. It's ridiculous especially when there is proof of bullying. Suspension should be mandatory and maybe this crap would stop. I'm so ashamed of how the school handles this.. also the high school seminar teacher needs to keep her own political beliefs at home and not the classroom.

Hudsonville public is a great school district through middle school. I have put three children all the way through (all are graduated) and have one currently in middle school. Only 1 of my 3 graduates actually graduated from Hudsonville and he did not even walk or participate. ALL 3 experienced bullying and harassment starting at the end of middle school and continuing into high school. Nothing was done about it even after numerous meetings with principals, counselors, and teachers. I am currently struggling with where my 6th grader will go to school in his near future. I wish Hudsonville would do better at the higher levels of education. The elementary schools and teachers are wonderful!

Hudsonville schools and the teachers have done a phenomenal job with my daughters education. Thank you

I absolutely love how our kids at Park are regularly interacting with students of varying abilities. It blows my mind how those experiences translate to the outside world when we see other-abled individuals in the community. They have a deep level of awareness and respect and I admire that so much. I wish they had a way of describing them outside of "CI kid". They don't mean any disrespect when they say it - it just sounds so bad. I hate to mention this because I have no recommendation for a better way, but thought maybe you do. I desperately wish for more DEI in HPS and I so appreciate the inclusion happening at Park.

I absolutely love the staff at Forest Grove and speak highly of the entire district. I wouldn't dream of moving to another district. With that said, it weighs heavily on my mind with the school shootings that occur and how the school would be able to either defend itself or prevent such incidents to happen. Are the back doors locked during school hours and how does that interfere in case of fire?

I agree with the fact that positive behavior intervention is very valuable, but I do think there is a time and place for negative consequences for repeat negative behaviors. It seems teachers can be hamstrung with certain students if they're never able to have policies and procedures that involve negative consequences in addition to positive consequences.

I am concerned with the amount of blatant racist and homophobic actions of students that I hear about from my children, particularly at the middle school level. My kids also report that they don't think these issues are being adequately addressed by staff.

I am disappointed in how students in this school district treat other students who are not religious or who do not follow traditional gender conformity - this occurs from elementary through high school and it is emotionally distressing for the affected students and there doesn't appear to be much involvement from staff to identify or address this poor behavior.

I am disappointed that the Board and community has thwarted recent diversity efforts. Our teachers need this training. I answered that I feel HPS is safe, based on my own students' experience, but I am not sure that is true of our black and brown students, or even those who come from homes considered "non-traditional" by many in our community.

I am more concerned about the school board and community members who do not support efforts that would increase feelings of belonging and safety for ALL students, but particularly marginalized students.

I am new. I feel South Elementary is an excellent environment. Worried about a lack of investment in math into middle school. There should be two high schools.

I am VERY concerned with the recent changes to our school board what the future of Hudsonville public schools looks like. We have some ultra conservative individuals on our board that are trying to implement rules and regulations that are already having devastating effects on other areas of our country.

I answered no a lot because the junior/senior high doesn't apply to my child. I believe the SOAR program is a joke and a waste of school resources. We need to focus less on feelings and more on education. Teach our kids how to function in the real world, not a world where everyone gets a trophy for trying. As far as feeling safe in the parks lots, nope! The school should have a police officer or armed guard outside the schools at all times. If the school is concerned about school shootings and I have a feeling that is what this survey is about, then the focus should be on protecting our children.

I appreciate ALL of your efforts caring for our children. You're invaluable. If any school district deserves an excellence award, it is you. Thank you for teaching my son so well. Again, I'm grateful for all of you.

I believe in the high school level our kids are just another number. It is hard to make good connections in a school of this size. I also think that trimesters have a role in not making good connections with teachers and classmates.

I believe that something should be sent to the parents about keeping racism and heterosexual norms in their house and out of the schools.

I believe that the schools have provided safe environments for all. I'm not sure if that has changed in the past few years. I don't know what came out of certain parents demanding particular signage and flags to be removed from buildings. I believe those items help to foster a welcoming environment so I hope they have been allowed to remain. I do know that there are students who continue to not accept others and I know it is impossible to "catch" all of their behavior. That said, I do know that faculty and staff do all they can to intercede in situations they are aware of and I thank you for that.

I believe the district has taken measures to ensure the safety of staff and students to the best of their ability...the reality is if there is a shooter that wants to target a building there are measures to slow them down but probably not prevent all of our worst nightmares. With that said I'm not in favor of arming staff, etc. It is a culture, climate and legislation issue not a Hudsonville issue. I think the district is trying to put in place curriculum and resources to improve meeting the needs of ALL students but the reality is when you live in a community that is willing to close a library over a book that provides representation of a minority community, the message is loud and clear that you are not welcome in the community. So the issues are community issues not necessarily faults of the district. With that said, the district needs to continue to fight for ALL students regardless of the BOE and the parents that are filled with fear. I do think that there are some more systemic offerings the district could provide regarding social media, bullying, mental health, etc. It takes more humans and it takes resources. I've seen this district grow immensely since I was a student here. I believe one of the great challenges is making sure that every student feels seen and heard.

I can only speak for my students. We value safety, ownership, responsibility and respect in our household, therefore my students demonstrate this in and out of school. I have definitely seen students who lack in this area (at the elementary level). I can appreciate the district trying to make this a priority, but I feel that no matter how much you create PBIS programming at school, if a student is not receiving these life skills at home, they will not demonstrate them at school either.

I did not like that the communication piece was not separated by school level. Our elementary school is all around exceptional at all forms of communication. The ECC was the same. [REDACTED] school is horrible at communication at all levels so i had to average out my answers. I would prefer to give credit where credit is due and give constructive feedback to the [REDACTED].

I do not feel that it is the schools responsibility to teach emotional behavior as every family has different beliefs. I do believe that there should be school rules that are enforced equally while the children are in school but this should not include pushing acceptable social behavior that is determined by funded government entities.

I do not think we can ever do enough to be certain that our schools are physically safe places for our students. Our American fascination with guns will continue to haunt our students. ~ We, as a family, have concerns that not enough is being done to help students of color fit into the district. Our three children, over the past ten years, have talked about how too many of our high school students are not welcoming of POC in the hallways of the school. DEI training, for our staff and teachers, would be helpful. Our BOE has disappointingly been swayed by the loud voices of our community who fear anything that will help create a more welcoming district. This needs to change in the near future. Board members who can not get behind DEI do not have the best interest of our students in mind when they are making decisions.

I do not think your buildings are secure. Children should not be getting off the bus and walking around the school alone. Waiting outside alone for the doors to unlock and are also not supervised. The drop off is dangerous as many cars speed past others with no order.

I do think that a VERY small minority who seem to have a loud voice in our district, and I KNOW that our board is catering to them (against the views of more level-headed, less EXTREME people on the board).

I don't have a lot of experience with bullying and inclusion. We haven't had a lot of problems. But we are white typical middle class family. I am not sure how somebody who doesn't fit in that box feels. My middle son has been picked on some in school and it hasn't been noticed by staff. My son typically doesn't say much until it is too much time has passed to bring it to anyone's attention. I do wish there was a little more awareness during the school day by staff.

I feel bad for the kids that do not "fit in" or who are falling through the cracks because they aren't at the grade level they should be at but the school just pushes them along to the next grade so they get further and further behind.

I feel Hudsonville is in a tough environment with community members being divided on what is the best for the district in terms of different initiatives and topics, such as SEL, books, LGBTQ, etc. It is emotionally draining as a parent to constantly work with administration to ensure what is best for the students is being followed to ensure we are an inclusive community. I also feel some of the HPS Board of Education members do not have the best interests of the district in mind and that is also a battle where some members do not acknowledge community members reaching out. The principals, administration, and teachers are both Bauer and BMS are absolutely wonderful to work with, and HPS also has some great bus drivers.

I feel that the school is biased towards school athletes/high performing students. I know of several scenarios where these students were involved in inappropriate behaviors at school and little to no action was taken. Other than a phone call home to parents. No disciplinary action was taken, this is not teaching these students that these behaviors will not be tolerated. I feel like cell phones should also be more restricted during school hours. I know my daughter who is in high school is able to use hers all day. When I thought there was a NO cell phone policy.

I feel that there has been such a “woke” shift that the mainstream kids are getting hurt. I believe that the definition of ALL does not include these children anymore. Everything “new” is shoved in their faces and it becomes a matter of reverse discrimination either racially or sexually. Why can’t we leave this “training” to our parents?! If the answer is that the district doesn’t trust the parents, then the district has gone rogue and that needs to be changed beginning with the current administrators.

I feel the buildings are safe from an entry standpoint. I would be interested to know if there is 3M film on glass windows and doors to make it extremely difficult for an active shooter to gain entry into a building by shooting out the glass. Other than that I believe our buildings are safe. I believe a bigger safety threat is some of the students. My wife works as a lunch aid in one of the elementary buildings and was assaulted by an EI Student. The student received very little discipline because of their special ed label and there was no remorse from the student or apology by the parent. I know this is not the fault of the district, but is more of a public education issue.

I feel the district does a good job making most students feel comfortable, however I am concerned about instances of bullying that are focused on race and gender identity that I have been hearing about anecdotally from other parents, and hope that can be stopped.

I feel the drop off line at the [REDACTED] should be more supervised. There’s usually only one adult there watching and parents in the line do not move swiftly through the line. It was more well organized when [REDACTED]

I feel the ruler program is not proper for our schools and does not take into account the maturity of individual students and makes parents have to explain stuff they may not be ready too. Bad program for schools. We are so behind on phonics and reading, time needs to be spent on that.

I feel the school and staff do an excellent job caring for my kids - they are all WONDERFUL. I cannot speak more highly of teacher and staff, from paraprofessionals to the superintendent. I do have some concerns about what this looks like in the coming years with what I’m seeing happen on our school board, and other area school boards. Directionally we seem to be moving towards less tolerance and less care for those who may not look like, or have similar beliefs (this coming from a Christian white male). If this persists we will likely be choosing to remove our children in favor of a neighboring district.

I feel there are parents who are too involved, bending the ear of school board and certain administrators, trying to get them to cater to their narrow-minded views.

I feel these surveys are a little difficult to fill out when there are multiple buildings and kids involved. Question 19 for example for my elementary student I think they do a fantastic job with communications in all of the areas asked within the question. I would say the same is true for my middle school student too. However, for my High school students I do not share the same view. Same would go for question 22. & 23. The environments between the 3 buildings my kids attend very greatly. So to generalize those two questions and have the answer be grouped altogether would not be an accurate representation. In filling out this survey I feel somewhat as though the questions are asked in a way that the data will come back slanted in favor of a particular outcome.

I have appreciated the attention given to entrances and ensuring the buildings are secure while classes are in session.

I have barely heard from any teachers. My son complains about his math teacher not instructing them at all and just expecting them to figure it out on their own.

I have few concerns about the HPS faculty and staff providing a welcoming and supportive environment for students. I worry about the things related to inclusiveness that my children may hear from other students.

I have had discussions with my daughter's teachers in the past because there is a major disconnect with the teachers and parents.

I have heard concerning bullying behavior to a teacher at a different elementary school. She is concerned to go in to work each day

I live near the ECC and the parking on the street is so unsafe! Very difficult to see young children getting in and out of cars parked on Van Buren Street. Cars go WAY faster than posted speed limit and I can see so many near misses from my home. Also parents sometimes leave other children unattended in cars as they go to pick up siblings at ECC and I am always nervous one will escape and get hurt. I once stood next to a car until mother returned because a child combed out of car seat and was climbing in driver seat. I wish all pick up and drop off was required to occur from parking lot not the street. Maybe expand the parking lot to accommodate more cars

I love the RULER curriculum and what my kids are learning about it. I hope the Board of Education feels the same way!

I marked the items about students feeling safe and included as probably no because I cannot imagine that students of color and students with disabilities feel included. And certainly students of color likely do not, especially after all of those parents came forward and shared their opposition to teaching critical race theory in school.

I see your reference to "ALL." Please use your influence to broaden this highly politicized talking point to include students who hold various religious and conservative values.

I think the teachers and staff do a good job of the above. It is the other families and students that I see and hear be unwelcoming, threatening and unkind. I'm very happy that we are putting in the 5/6 building because the 8th graders go at the sixth graders pretty hard during classes. I fully support parents rights but am very concerned about the efforts to censor books for other students, to harass and single out kids who are unique in any way and to bring religious views into the public schools.

I think the teachers need to be more trauma informed. My child and I have dealt with a lot these past two years and I've been working hard to support her mental health/emotional health processing. I've talked to my child's teachers over the past two years before hand about what that means at times and to take consideration to the situation. I'm educated in the social work field and was disappointed with the lack of knowledge about things that happened in the classroom. I understand if a child responds in the wrong way to a situation, there are consequences. That's fine. The teachers couldn't explain how the situation escalated, what may have caused the child to react in that way, and I received a behavior slip and the child punished. Shaming a child because of lack of knowledge and assuming isn't okay. My suggestion, trauma informed approach training for the teachers, communication with the parents asking about strategies to reduce if a behavior continues, a plan to move forward, or maybe the child meets with the school counselor and just offers an opportunity to talk it out or vent.

I think there are quite a few ways at [REDACTED] where a random person could walk in the building, not going through the front office. I have personally done it.

I want to make sure we keep the standards we have. There is a lot of push to change things because of "political reasons" and I think we stay the course. I trust the teachers, principles and administration. Any answer I have that is not the most agreeable is more that I don't know as I am not as involved in the school as some are. I answered honestly about how I see things.

I wish Hudsonville had a gifted program. After homeschooling a year my children were both over a grade ahead and returned to Hudsonville school and were left behind to be bored and not challenged. Now after 2 years back in Hudsonville they have dropped back to "on track" and still bored and unchallenged

I wish we had metal detectors at the middle and high school. I also wish we would invest in ways to keep out active shooters by getting special locks for the doors to classrooms to lock people in the classroom.

I wish we had received more communication about kindergarten registration for our preschooler. As a non-HPS preschooler I received nothing about information night or brigance testing. I only knew enrollment was open from the digital sign at the middle school, 3 months after info night. Aside from that I am happy with the communication we receive from the school. Much better than our previous school district.

I would like more information on how bullying is addressed at our schools. Proactively & when it happens to a student. I have concern with the lack of diversity in our schools and community.

I would like to see additional security around the building entrances to insure only people that are allowed to be in the building are granted permission to enter.

I would like to see more safety measures for [REDACTED] school- for example bullet proof glass on all entrances, closed gates during school hours, a school resource officer posted at the front door. I want to feel my daughter is safe and I like the locked doors but I feel there needs to be a few more safety measures.

I would like to see more secure entrances to the building. It is easily gotten into in an age where any mentally ill person could enter without permission. I often pull up and see a door cracked open, which is exactly how the shooter got into the school in Texas. This is not acceptable and should be an absolute no.

I would like to see more to help diverse students.

I would like to see our school's security increased. Safety film/bulletproof glass on windows and ideally at least one armed resource police officer on each campus at all times.

I would love to see counselors for mental health in the elementary schools. Our kids have so much going on in their lives and are at school a huge portion of the day. They need to be able to talk to someone when they need it, or teachers who have any concerns with how a child is doing should be able to speak with a school counselor. It is incredibly important and would in my opinion be pro active to bullying and school crisis

I'd like to believe HPS is doing everything it can for my children. However, when your child is an average student we hear more about the problems other students have during the day and how adults are taking care of that student/s instead of my child. They get used to being ignored sometimes.

I'd like to see more people of color on staff who can be mentors and safe relationships for our student body that is growing in diversity. It has been my observation that students in special education, specifically EI, are being held to same standards for PBIS and associated discipline where there should likely be more accommodation for their emotional needs. This discipline is observed by peers and further disconnecting these students from their peers. Many students, including my own, begin to associate special education and in some cases, highly disciplined students as students of color and begin to build subconscious biases as these are some of the only people of color they interact with on a daily basis. State data illustrates that suspension, seclusion, and restraint is highly focused on EI and students of color.

I'd like to see the district phase out religious themes from artistic and cultural events and performances. Allusions to chosen, enlightened, saved, and blessed individuals and groups do not engender a sense of inclusion and intrinsic value in children who are not part of these mystical organizations. Even the subtle promotion of implicit beliefs in mysticism is counter productive to the goal of nourishing the critical thinking skills that will help our children achieve their most productive and fulfilled selves.

I'm afraid that our community isn't open and welcoming to everyone.

I'm concerned about entrance to the buildings. They are locked but virtually everyone is granted entrance.

I'm not sure how things have changed from the past. I had 2 daughters that transferred here from out of town approximately 7 years ago 10th and 11th grade and the time. and it was absolutely unbearable for them. They felt they were not welcome and never fit in. I currently have another Daughter who is a senior and I cannot speak highly enough of the services she receives and how far she has grown with her EIP and the resources she has been given. Thank you for the guidance, grace and support she has gotten from the current resource teachers. I just feel as though transfer students from other communities need more of a welcome committee. Someone to eat lunch with get to know talk to etc.

I'm worried about elementary school safety ([REDACTED]) when I go to the front office there is usually another parent opening the door for me or I am buzzed in very easy, I don't feel safety is being considered. It Should be much more secure. Pick up at [REDACTED] is a tad unorganized. Kids just run out with no process. I know [REDACTED] is much more strict. I would love to see everything more safe considering the scary times we live in.

I'm concerned that the social emotional curriculum is trumping some of the academic curriculum. Standards that I looked up online at the middle school and elementary level seem to be ,"dumbed down," and very little content taught to make room for social and emotional issues. I appreciate that our children are taught to be kind and own their behavior etc, but there is too great of an emphasis placed on ,"feelings,". And as a parent I don't want my children growing up basing decisions on their feelings. I want them basing decisions on absolute truth.

I'm not thrilled that my child came home from a book fair with a book about transgenderism hidden as a book about unicorns and a ,"unikitty,".

I've been disappointed with our willingness to embrace and accept students with different beliefs, especially if those beliefs don't fit neatly into the west Michigan bubble. I've been involved in the pta and found a lack of support by the principals and a huge backlash from two staff for wanting to provide inclusive family events. I find myself often questioning why we live here because the area is so politically conversation and the school district absolutely falls in line.

If you are not claiming to be something your not you seem to be ignored, as they are catered to and others are paying the price.

In a nutshell - I 100% support the efforts of HPS to provide a safe and welcome learning environment for ALL of our kids. This includes the RULER/SEL program, initiatives to provide staff training on DEIB, and efforts to keep most books in our libraries. I believe these are modern issues that should be addressed in a public school setting as it is the public community that the school supports. I have two fears: 1) the community members opposing these initiatives will eventually take over the board of education/school voice and change the environment of HPS to an extent that I can no longer support living in the community or sending my son to school here, and 2) the children of these community members, through hearing their parents speak and seeing their actions, will mirror that behavior in the school setting and ostracize my son for

In my 14 years as a HPS parent about 4 years ago I felt that things were changing for the worse. I began to feel unwelcome in the schools, communication was poor, and I felt very disconnected from the school. My child was attacked verbally by a teacher because of his conservative views. Discipline seems to be administered unevenly depending on if you are a member of a "marginalized " group.

In this day and age it is difficult to feel that my child is safe from violence in the school. Without the use of metal detectors or some means to verify that nothing illegal is being brought in to do harm, I don't know that I will ever be comfortable with the safety of all kids at the school. In addition, the community itself tends to lean very right in their beliefs, and this will always make it difficult for those that are looking for a more diverse environment to feel welcome. I am not sure that the district can solve this problem, and the election of the new board members has me fearing that it will not get any better if not worse.

If school continues to start earlier in the year, the district needs to look at providing air conditioning for the kids in ALL buildings.

It concerns me about fortifying school entrances.

It has been my experience over the past 8 years that parents have been increasingly pushed out of our schools. This is demonstrated by extremely limited volunteer opportunities at our kids' elementary school (██████████). This pre-dated covid, but certainly was exacerbated post-pandemic and has not returned to even the previous level of low parent involvement. Many grade levels are no longer holding classroom parties with opportunities for parents to be involved. ██████████ does not utilize parent volunteers to help with things like drop-off, recess, or pick-up. When volunteer opportunities do become available (book fair, holiday shop), the opportunities are excessively limited. I would love to see more opportunities for parents to come in to help during lunch, recess, pick/up drop-off, reading support, Watch DOGS, special events (both during day and evening), etc. I can understand that teachers may feel like they are under a microscope and that it perhaps feels safer to keep parents out of the classroom. However, this also serves to widen the gap between parents and educators, and withholds valuable opportunities for our children. Similarly, the ██████████ has almost no opportunities for parent and involvement and parents are often treated like an inconvenience. The communication from ██████████ has been too infrequent and unprofessional (multiple e-mails with incorrect information sent out).

It is difficult to answer some of these questions since I don't have students in all of the buildings, yet by just skipping them, it is hard to tell if I intentionally skipped the question or if it was overlooked. As far as emotional safety, I would hope that students feel safer at school than what they currently would in the community, but unfortunately, I don't think that happens. Our community is not very accepting of those who are different or those who may have a different perspective, and it worries me that no matter how hard I try as a parent, my kids may grow up with a similar mindset because of the influences around them.

It might be helpful if it was more clear and specific to students of ways they can be awarded SOAR tickets or those that give out SOAR tickets were looking for those quiet or out of the spotlight kids that are doing things but are overlooked. I've asked my child "how do you get SOAR tickets?" The reply "I don't know because I rarely get SOAR tickets even though I'm doing a lot of things that would normally get a SOAR ticket". I think it gets a little disappointing when there are really kind hearted kids that are constantly doing for others but no one notices.

It was hard for my girls to adjust to a new school this year. I have worked in two different elementary schools as a teacher and both schools had a welcoming committee of students and a group that met with the guidance counselor to check in and help them adjust. I had hoped my girls would have the same thing, but they did not.

It would be extremely helpful if teachers used the same method of communication. Some use Facebook, some use Class Dojo, and some use other means such as Instagram.

It's unclear who we should go to if we have concerns about extracurricular activities that are not sports when we feel the leadership is not treating students fairly or equally

It's hard to speak for ALL students in regards for being cared for. My children are cared for. I have concerns about RULER curriculum

It's interesting that almost every question is a feeling instead a thinking/thought.

It's not a schools place, unless it is with a professional to try and teach emotional practices. SEL and PBIS seems like a complete joke. "Let's try this and see if it works," by people without any social work or psychology degree is not helping. Behaviors seem to be worse when there is no consequences after repeated action. As a parent who works in 1 of the elem. schools here in the district, I see first hand how all the positive behavior practices are not helping and behaviors seem to be worse. And, by constantly drawing attention and making a big deal of students' differences seems to make them stand out more as being different. They get special treatment because they are different, doesn't seem right or fair. Students will connect with other students if they want to, should not have to force anyone to get along or do things with others that don't want that. Some people are not that social and don't want to connect. If we want students to succeed academically, then they need the opportunity to be able to get help and tested and placed in the right programs. Seems like little is done to test kids and acknowledge they need other help. Maybe if teachers could just teach the basics and not have teach SEL, kids would be doing better academically. Teachers are not social workers and if they think kids need help emotionally, then professionals should do it.

██████████ and the ██████████ need additional entrances/exits.

Kids are too new to the school to answer

Lots of bullying and behavior issues on the middle school buses, not sure if it's being addressed

LOVE Eagles Nest and staff member Jack Koetje. He is amazing with the kids and so very observant

Mackenzie Stefanich handles student to student conflict beautifully. I am very impressed with how she has handled situations with my children and other children. Bus conflict is very challenging partially because I don't feel the bus system is up to date. I would like to see Hudsonville bussing adapt a system similar to Zeeland schools where badging when the student gets on the bus and off the bus and alerts the parents when they do so. I also feel the security cameras need to be on all of the buses if they aren't already. I had a situation with my son on the bus a few times and there wasn't video evidence of the situation.

Make sure the entrances are safer. I had a few parents let me in the building because they know me and also the administration personnel will let me in because she knows I have two kids in the building. I would still prefer that they check everyone over individually. I wouldn't even mind a metal detector. I know this would be an annoyance, but I would rather be safe.

Make sure we don't become to 'great' that we lose the identity of the community in which we were established-making people want to come to this community in the first place.

Middle school has a large range of maturity and knowledge. The school is too quick to suspend rather than rely on teaching interpersonal communication. Lack of understanding or misunderstandings are the root cause of actions that are being evaluated for discipline. Seemingly automatic suspension does not teach kids about their actions. It causes confusion when more egregious acts are not disciplined (mainly because they offenders were not caught). This age deserves more personal behavior intervention working on life skills rather than punishment. Extreme Punishment causes a fracture in trust and damages relationships between students and staff.

Middle school is tough. My son says there is not much adult supervision at lunchtime, and he dealt with an ongoing issue from a fellow student repeatedly taking his food away for a "laugh" or reaction. My son feels the teachers "won't" or "can't" deal with such discipline issues so he would not report it, and he feels there is a lot of disrespect from students towards school staff in general.

More needs to be done to create a safe space for LGBTQ students. Also, my kids are still bullied because they did not vote for Trump in the last mock election at their school. Athiests are also bullied. Religion is openly promoted by teachers and staff. This is NOT okay.

Mrs. Jodi Meyer has been exceptional about connecting with students and recognizing students when something is different or troubling them.

Multiple teens have made mention of many fights at the high school, they feel unsafe and feel they are not allowed to defend themselves without also have repercussions

My biggest worry is for minority groups and children who are struggling with sexual orientation being accepted and embraced by the community

My child gets straight A's and has never been in trouble at school, yet he has never received any type of positive recognition and I find that disappointing. Good kids should be recognized too.

My children have been bullied repeatedly. Many of the students at all levels are not welcoming to differences. Expectations are set to fit in, wear expensive clothes, be popular and go to church. This is not an open-mindset student population. And it scares me.

My children have had positive experiences for the most part. However, I still have concerns about how the district would handle things if my child was bullied or struggling.

My children have not experienced any bullying at school or on the bus. I like the SOAR teaching and I hope that it has been effective in helping prevent bullying, but I don't know for sure.

My elementary aged child was bullied on the bus (physically assaulting her by pushing her against the window and not letting her out of her seat). I called and reported it. I heard nothing back from the bussing garage. I assume things were handled, since "assigned" seats were handed out after that incident. However, those assigned seats did not let more than a couple of school days. My daughter had issues with the same bullies again after that with verbal assaults. I feel like much more needs to be done to combat bullying on the bus. And, a phone call back acknowledging my initial report would have been nice.

My ex keeps me out of my child's life including her education. I have absolutely no idea what is going on or even her teacher's name.

My family has had positive experiences related to staff/student and staff/parent relations. I feel like my children are safe and listened to.

My kids have told me plenty of stories about things that happen on the bus, from bullying to standing while the bus is moving, kids getting punched and hit in their privates while riding the bus. My son told me that another student hit my son in his privates on multiple occasions. I emailed my son's teacher, because we have not contact information for a bus related admin. No one from the school district reached out to me in regards to this situation. My son has not reported such instances since, but I expected at least an email from someone. I feel like another adult on the bus, at least for elementary aged students is a necessity. In terms of in school discipline, I think my child's elementary school can be more consistent. My child misbehaves and has gotten in trouble for his behavior, as he should. But when he tells me that other students who do or did the same thing as him are not getting in trouble or not having the same consequence as he has, I become frustrated. In terms of school environment, Hudsonville as a whole needs to become more accepting and welcoming to students of color and students who are within the LGBTQ community. Diversity equity and inclusion should be at the forefront of what HPS is doing.

My only and admittedly occasional odd experience is with the [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] office that would answer the phone a few times I had to call about my daughter....this woman seems so hyper and abrupt in her tone and speaking rate....leaves me with a bad feeling and one that would not be well received in the customer service world in business settings I am familiar with. She is probably great at what she does, but it is not a good reflection on the school when talking to her. just fyi and for feedback

My only negative is regarding community communication. I remember when my oldest was just starting in the school district and so we had no clue when sign ups for things were and what to expect. Missed out on some things. And I know I've heard from other parents the same thing. They wouldn't have known if they weren't told from other parents. I wish the Appleseed or school newsletters could include sport/community sign up information and timing for those new to it. Especially considering hudsonville is well known for many sports and we have a strong sporting community. And I should say extra curriculums not just sports.

My overall impression is that the district may be stunted by the demographic.

Not a fan of pbis. Seems to give awards to kids that attract negative behavior to try to encourage. The kids striving and improving get overlooked because the negative kids get the attention from staff.

Not enough support and communication for those students who need some help but don't fall within need for special ed or IEP. Excessive emphasis placed on fun themed days vs actual learning. Teachers sharing too much personal info with young children. My lower ele student does not need to know why the teacher has a dr appt but yet isn't told if she passed her reading level eval.

Not safe in terms of tracking students during fire drills and active shooter drills compared to previous district.

Not welcoming to all students.

On question 24 I answered that the [REDACTED] is probably not a secure entrance. Even though we use keycards to bring children to classrooms, there are often people holding doors open for other adults to come through without them showing they also have a keycard and are authorized to enter. It always makes me nervous that anyone could appear as a parent picking up a kid and easily gain access to the entire [REDACTED]. Additionally, I know it is a hot topic, but I would still love to see the schools doing more for diversity and inclusion, especially in the middle and high school levels. [REDACTED] has been an amazing place and I feel like my kiddo is getting so much good learning and experience, but I worry about the middle and high school levels. I work with a lot of kids from these schools and hear about many experiences where they or others have not felt welcome or like they belong, with many saying they cannot wait to get out of Hudsonville and live in a more accepting community.

One student is leaving due to vulgarity in the culture, inability to connect with other students, rudeness of staff to students without cause.

Ottawa impact is a major problem and should not be influencing our teachers, school board, or superintendent.

Other than sports the environment at this size HS there is a non existent campus culture. There is no class spirit. Students who are not in sports, choir feel no loyalty to HS. I have had 3 children from kindergarten to currently an upper HS who graduate in top 10-20% of their class with many AP classes and all were invested heavily in sports. Not one felt, "part," of Hudsonville community. District is home grown and lacks out of the box insight, academics, and leadership. My youngest was bullied terribly because of a boy situation and an administrator's child, and faculty, and a faculty's child did the actual bullying. As well as teammates, and coach only figured it out 60% through season after informed by outside parent. Nothing was done to bullies. LINKS program is to be celebrated and acknowledged as top notch on many levels through district. Science classes are terrible, unless taught by [REDACTED] or is an AP. Teachers have no accountability as to how or what they teach both state curriculum and methods used. Parent input and involvement is highly discouraged. Counseling department is severely lacking education as to how to advise a future 4 year college student to progress and plan for future. No support other than data entry of schedule. No parent involvement encouraged or welcome in creating schedule, actually discourage by format of scheduling executed in school. Administration in curriculum lacks understanding in buildings on creating a cyclical occurrence of curriculum to prepare for college readiness. Admin lacks leadership and it trickles down from there. School board lacks true higher level educators, other than 1 newly elected. They have created curriculum requirements that deviate from state curriculum and don't recognize the audience of students than have in their district. They are very, "homegrown," instead of professionals who know more than what they lived growing up in West Michigan. So much potential at Hudsonville Public School if only new outside blood was given a chance to be heard and seen. Christian values are modeled by living the walk not mandated by school administration.

Our experience at Park and the ECC has been very positive in our first couple of years in Hudsonville. We really like what we know of the superintendent as well and how he handled covid overall. We are super disappointed by the district handling of quickly fighting and ending efforts for DEI work for teachers and we were not happy with many parents' response to covid protections put in place for our children. (Kids learn from their parents and it was truly an awful response by many). However, we appreciated our specific teachers and leadership in those times. We appreciate the specific teachers we had and the building staff at both of the buildings our kids have attended. We love Park. We hope for more for our district in terms of making it a caring place where people are not ostracized (or worse) for being different.

Our freshman tells us there are fights between students fairly regularly. We have not noticed this so much with older siblings' classes. Several of these fights (per student interpretation) appear to stem from racism/classism. The general feeling is that of extremism--either you're a "racist" or "woke." There's not much middle ground. It's unclear if this is something the district can change. Many students carry over their household values into the public forum with entitlement and disregard for those of different backgrounds. (We hope that's not the case with teachers and staff.) Fortunately, our children have not been involved in any fights/disciplinary actions, so do not have much knowledge of strategies, actions and consistency of enforcement.

Our students feel that our school caters to the liberal ideologies and is not respectful to those that are more conservative morally and following their faith beliefs.

Overall I am happy with the safety at the elementary schools and middle schools. In regards to recent events, I am wondering if the front doors are bullet proof?

Overall the school is extremely large which presents challenges. I feel my students moral being has been created at home and through church therefore my students does okay in the large learning environment. Considering the school is so large if it was not for good communication from my student and ourselves as active parents I feel our student may be a bit lost. I know the administrators at Hudsonville try really hard and overall we are very grateful to all of you but honestly for our family it starts at home... We are proud to be Eagles!

PBIS and SOAR are 2 of the absolute WORST ideas the district EVER implemented. Kids are NOT held accountable for ANYTHING and there are NO consequences to bad behavior.

PBIS and SOAR needs to go!!! Why are the bad kids rewarded all the time and the good ones get nothing!!! It's so frustrating to explain to my kids why the naughty kids get all the rewards. Plus our PBIS specialist is awful!

PBIS is a wonderful way to express expectations. However, elementary and secondary students quickly figured out that "only the bad kids get SOAR awards", and the students that are already consistently well-behaved and high-achieving students academically get left-out and under-recognized.

PBIS programming should be removed from the school and allow parents to be teaching this material at home. The funding used for PBIS and RULER could be better utilized to address supports for students either struggling or excelling academically.

PBIS tries to incentive problem kids but with no real improvements while ignoring kids that can already function in a school environment. The consequences for very poor student behavior are incredibly light or non-existent. The political agenda of our administrators permeates every effort they put forth and is clearly contrary to the majority of the staff and community and works to push family and staff out of the district.

People at school board meetings discussing what should or should not be done when they have no children at the school. Parents, teachers and staff should determine academics and social emotional learning.

Phones are a HUGE issue with inclusion and students feeling left out of peer groups. It is a huge distraction and prevents learning to be the main focus at school. It segregates instead of allowing students to all be on equal learning ground. Chromebooks have also become a toy instead of a tool at times. There also seems to be a disconnect in including others during lunch time at the middle school. Teams are formed and others are not allowed to play.

Please continue the diversity work so HPS can be a great place for all kids!! I do not believe the small group of extremist views are what most in the community values.

Please understand, the teachers and faculty are wonderful. The board and the old school residents are the ones that make this an unsafe environment.

Quieter students with anxiety who are afraid to talk to teachers about their concerns get left behind from the social/emotional perspective

Regarding safety at front doors- Do secretaries let everyone in office? I notice they usually open door for everyone and this makes me nervous. Let us know ways you are implementing our children's safety please. Thank you!

██████████ dress code should be enforced more for young ladies

Running a district in the age we are in, with social media and political opinions about schools running high, I think HPS is doing a great job. My hope is that the school board trusts and allows teachers and principals to do what's best for all their students, which absolutely includes SEL.

Safety of students should be of utmost importance, both physically and mentally.

School environments need to be made safer for kids when others are having big emotions. Parents should be called and made responsible for their child's behavior.

School is not supporting diversity and diverse lives - not fully safe and supportive for lgbtq, trans, minorities

Schools safety is a huge concern

Secure Entrances - I would say we'd want to be more secure. The green light goes off to go in the office and I am not sure I am always recognized. Also, is the glass bulletproof? We have seen school shootings where they just shoot out the glass while walking in. Seems like we need to do more to get schools safer. I feel like we do deal with some racism at Hudsonville public schools. A first grader told my son he will never succeed in life because he has brown skin. The first grader also wrote a note saying he said this out of anger and sadness. This is not an administration fault, but a parent teaching issue. During covid, my kids were told to stay away from all Asians because Asian people were spreading covid. Overall, I am seeing the community/Ottawa Impact drive too much in our schools and it is a district that we often consider moving away from. I am not sure what the school administration can necessarily do to solve this, though. Seems like this is just a community issue.

Several teachers at the middle school level very inattentive and let kids success and socially fall through the cracks

Significant concerns with regard to incidents my children report to me that happen on the bus. I feel that a 2nd adult should be present on the bus to monitor safety of the kids. The driver cannot watch the kids and safely drive but I fear we will be the next school district in the news for child injured by peers on bus.

Sports teams - specifically [REDACTED] was quite problematic last year (Spring 2022) when it came to discipline of a participant on the [REDACTED] who acted outside of the school bullying policy, and likely the law, and was suspended for only a few games. This year I kept waiting to see the [REDACTED] come up on the board agenda and never saw it added...this is disappointing as I feel the staff are ill-equipped to continue running this [REDACTED] in the fashion they have been allowed to and it is likely a matter of time before another incident will happen.

Stop using soar. The kids who are struggling are not getting any better. It is burning the teachers out and creating chaos in the schools. Go back to teaching academics (like spelling words which my child has had for ONE YEAR and is now in the fifth grade and cannot spell). Let building principals handle discipline instead of a one size fits all program that hands out gold coins for doing the bare minimum that is to be expected!

Strongly feel cultural bias training is needed for all staff in the district. Focusing on unconscious bias.

Students who do not fit into the "typical family" box do not have the district's support like they should. Behavior is also a problem. There have been multiple instances of physical aggression and verbal threats from students that continue to remain in the classroom. Least restrictive environment should not only apply to that one child. What about the 20 something other kids in the class? Their safety and access to a safe education should matter too.

Suggest that [REDACTED] communicate daily announcements on the website like the [REDACTED] does. -Suggest trimesters in middle school rather than semesters. -Have seen at [REDACTED] where students that are being bullied are disciplined for inappropriate responsive reactions, but no the bullies who instigate.

The biggest thing for us in overall environment is that is needs to be accessible. Playground equipment and wood chips are not welcoming for wheelchairs or inclusive. Leaves kids out and singles them out from participating with their friends. Also when equipment that they can use is put in they cannot get to it without significant help because of location

The biggest weakness in this whole process is the extreme viewpoints put forward by a minority of community members to shape the future for all, specifically with respect to the school board.

The building doors are not checked at [REDACTED] by admin or custodian. They can often be open from gravel or woodchips or ice/snow and left ajar. The staff at [REDACTED] are welcoming and [REDACTED] is present in the building.

The cell phone policies at the high school are beyond ludicrous. Also banning Apple Watches is counter productive and in no way prepares kids for the next step in their life. I know it is much harder to teach kids about appropriate technology uses versus just banning them. But the cell phone ,”jails,” are a lawsuit waiting to happen.

The district administration team (superintendents and assistant superintendents) have not taken the time to build relationships with the various stakeholders. When [REDACTED] left, there was massive administration change. The new regime has not taken the time to build relationships..

The district website is awfully hard to navigate or find any needed information. This is coming from a person in the IT field.

The emphasis about supporting "ALL" students seems good on paper, but in reality our children are looked down on for having traditional values & morals. It's hard to focus on learning the basics, when all the extra stuff gets so much attention.

The high school has become so big that students are getting lost in the shuffle. Students aren't being looked at as individuals or treated fairly.

The high school is just too big. We need to split. Students aren't able to get the emotional care they need when teachers and counselors are spread so thin.

The high school parking lot is chaos. Something needs to be done with all entrances.

The only way I get any info of what is going on in the high school is to download twitter to see the announcements. I am not on twitter for anything else.

The parents and older students have opportunity to be more inclusive with diverse populations.

The PBIS positions are crucial to the current climate of education for both teachers and students. I believe that marginalized students need even more support than PBIS Specialists can provide.

The PBIS program is only as good as the parents parenting at home. Teachers are having to teach with a different set of expectations than kids receive at home (as related to SOAR). This makes the environment in a school VERY challenging for teachers and students who want everyone to succeed.

The safety surrounding the schools in light of the most recent Nashville event need to be brought to the forefront. Every person does not want this unthinkable even to happen in Hudsonville. There are many safety measures that need to be put in place NOW and not put off any longer.

The school district is way too big, has grown way too fast, and the district has not done a good job keeping up. Teachers are not connected to our kids as our kids have gone from elementary up through high school. They feel like just a number. Covid probably didn't help.

The schools and district do a great job. The current school board is the only issue. The new members of the board (along with [REDACTED]) need to remove themselves NOW. They are horrible!

The schools are getting too big. We should build a second high school. The high school parking is chaotic. I'm surprised there are not more accidents. Consider better policing of the parking lot after school.

The SOAR store has students really trying to do the right things for tickets, but it's also becoming second nature for these kids to just do the right things. So good to see!

The staff at HPS is amazing. When we walked through Forest Grove on fun night I was able to witness the relationships that have formed with my kindergartener and I can see that the teachers and staff care about her as a person. We feel blessed to have a team of dedicated, caring people working with our pre-k daughter as well.

The way some parents have behaved over recent years have made teachers feel unsafe to speak up and do their jobs. We now have a worthless school board with an agenda to make it worse. If my kids weren't almost done with HPS I'd pull them out and move them elsewhere. I also think HPS can and will be a target for violence there's too much ridiculous nonsense among the parents and I foresee the next election year causing way more bullying and stupidity!

There are undertones of intolerance in the community, which may spread into the schools as well.

There is a serious lack at the high school level for ownership of behavior and staff pick n chooses who actually gets punished based on personal opinions vs the issue at hand. I have had 2 issues when the things in the 3 years I've had a high schooler both were handled extremely poorly with very little communication to parents when one involved a threat. I am honestly disgusted at the way things are handled at high school level and part of why I pulled my younger 3 from the district.

There is a small but loud group of community members that are forcing their small-minded agenda onto the greater community. This is causing instability in the community and school. A respected teacher at the high school has shared it is not if but when an incident will happen to our schools. This is not ok and should not be accepted. Diversity and inclusion needs to be recognized, valued, and prioritized. Let the teachers teach and the parents work with their children on such important topics as free-reading selections. The school boards priority needs to be the mental health of all students and staff and to protect the safety of our community.

There is still a lack of support staff to aide in students with emotional/behavioral stress.

There is still work to be done in the PBIS realm. I know some staff feel like the trends and themes at the board meetings over the last two years or so leave the staff feeling scared/apprehensive to fully embracing the PBIS work.

There should be more accountability for teacher behaviors towards students, and use of classroom time. We chose Hudsonville Public Schools because of the high quality education. There are definitely some teachers that do not meet that standard. We use this as a teaching moment for our children, to learn how to deal with people in the 'work place' that do barely the minimum required.

These are wonderful questions and I'm thankful to be a part of a community that cares and asks and loves our children!

This district needs to enforce their bullying policy. They currently do not do this. It is brushed under the rug and usually the bully is the one being defended by the district. Happened on several occasions to our family and the bullying has been going on for three consecutive years to then point the student now has to seek counseling. Apparently this district doesn't follow their own rules when it comes to no tolerance for bullying.

This is a wonderful community and school district to be apart of.

Too big for current infrastructure and student population.

Too many people bring too much politics into the school and it interferes with kids learning, there is bullying, there is potential for danger in our schools

Too much bullying not enough action

Varies greatly between buildings

Very disappointed that Ottawa Impact has taken over our county and is trying to push their beliefs into the public schools now

Very disappointed with the high school teachers and their administrators! Very glad we are done them!

Very political

We are adoptive parents to an African-American student. As our student transitioned from middle school to high school, there was a definite difference in how our child was treated by others (both students and faculty). As parents, we believe the board's focus on minimizing resources for diversity and inclusion are having a negative impact on minority students at Hudsonville, ours included. There is a lot of work that could be done to support the kids that don't look like or have the same backgrounds as the 90% majority of the students at HPS. We find it discouraging that the board would rather use their power to make political statements instead of really understanding the issues faced by the minority students they serve.

We don't always get communication on everything. Sometimes we hear of stuff and girls say something to us and we have no idea nor have heard of anything. If it happened a couple of times then maybe we could have missed it but happens so often that I think it doesn't get communicated.

We have had 2 incidents with our daughter receiving racially insensitive/racist comments from the same student. One incident occurred on the bus and another in school. Disappointed that both incidents cannot be included in the student's personal file given one occurred on the bus (in my opinion, the bus is an extension of school and should be treated the same) Also extremely disappointed that the PBIS intervention did not include an apology to my daughter from the student nor did we get a follow up from anyone in the school on how the meeting went between our daughter and the student who made the comments.

We live in a good district that is being made worse by all the right wing wack-a-dos who are making it less inclusive and accepting of anyone who doesn't fit into a mold. Seems like our district has gotten more bad press lately than good press. People know of Hudsonville not because of the great things happening like amazing water polo teams we have had but because of people storming the high school and trying to force their way into a school board meeting.

We lack diversity in this community. I marked some questions lower due to protests in the past regarding removing Black Lives Matter art from the school. I also recognize there's a committee around diversity, equity and inclusion which I greatly appreciate. I don't want PARENTS conservatism to limit my child from having diverse, enriching experiences while having thriving relationships with others who are different than them. HPS will have failed students if they aren't able to function in a society that values different opinions, views and individuals. I also rated buses disciplining consistently since buses drivers did not enforce masking requirements with no action taken by the school to reinforce these requirements when complaints were raised. I also don't appreciate armed civilians outside of Terry Hall during a skating party because the venue HPS has partnered with has a bias towards racially diverse schools and didn't invite them to the skating event for elementary kids - hence the feeling that armed civilians were needed in case anyone raised a complaint about Terry Hall's racially bias practices. I'm even more disappointed HPS continues to partner with this community venue. We can do better. My last opportunity to share is the lack of challenging courses for advanced elementary students. I offered switching to Jenison for my advanced student but didn't want to go because their friends weren't there. I'm hoping this improves with the new 5/6 grade building at Georgetown and into high school. Overall, very satisfied with HPS and the AMAZING teacher's at Georgetown.

We love Mr. Heagle. He is the reason we are still enrolled in the public school

We love our schools and are very involved, but the board is more concerning, looking to ban books, and are definitely not welcoming to people of minority or differences. We seem to be moving backwards when the majority of parents would oppose but are not informed. The ones driving their own agenda are just louder.

We need safer playgrounds and all other entrances to buildings other than the main entrance. This should include bullet proof windows and doors on all buildings.

We need to provide more protections and supports for LGBTQ students. There's way too much bullying happening on a regular basis. Also, political bullying is a pretty consistent problem in both middle school and high schools.

We've had a bullying issue with a child since my son started at Hudsonville, its on the bus and in school. I recently got a call from the middle school principal about an incident and I explained kind of the background on my sons relationship with him. I wish maybe there had been some communication from elementary to middle school to avoid conflict between these two.

When asked about how welcoming we are and how we foster a sense of belonging for ALL students, I need to draw attention to the students who are underrepresented (LGBTQ, those with unique families, students of color, etc). I believe at times they may feel under attack by community members addressing the school board.

When there has been a bus issue, we aren't sure who to contact.

While I cannot speak to all schools, there are inconsistencies in punishments at [REDACTED].

With the continuing issue of gun violence in schools and knowing from personal experience that a LOT of students carry weapons on daily basis, it is extremely concerning that our district does not seem to take security seriously. My children do not feel safe at school and that is a problem - it's difficult to learn if you don't feel physically safe.

Would love to see the return of the "Be Nice" campaign

You need a new survey writer, most of these questions are garbage questions. they are leading and written in some ways so they are vague and can't disagree.

Your questions regarding inclusivity, belonging, etc are too broad. This residents of this district have already informed you of our opinion on DEI, which seems to be where these questions are leading. We want ALL students to feel welcome, safe and cared for. We DO NOT believe that DEI programs are the way to accomplish this. Regarding building safety, there are concerns at the middle school level (possibly high school as well, I do not have a student in those buildings yet) regarding lack of a way to check backpacks as students enter the building. Please address this. Our children no longer ride district buses. The drivers were not being safe and too many students were viewing inappropriate material on their electronic devices. I understand we have a driver shortage, but somehow this has to be addressed.

Other residents (n = 7)

Don't ban books. Don't allow one parent to decide for all parents.

Lack of Leadership, discernment and integrity within the upper leadership and administration. Examples then and now show ineptness in capabilities and Talent and the lack of caliber that is needed to fulfill parent and resident requests and overall direction.

Most of our information regarding HPS comes from parents of children who are friends. Due to the lack of communication because there is no longer a local newspaper there is little communication about HPS to residents who do not have children in the school. We are deeply disturbed by the censorship of libraries and the lack of empathy and inclusion for students who are struggling with gender issues. These things have been on reliable news sources. We do not follow any social media or have accounts on social media.

Our grandchildren now attend Christian school because of the push to promote transgenderism and homosexuality as normal and acceptable behavior. We are very disappointed that our schools have lowered the integrity that once was the pride of our community. Please get back to teaching our kids.

Our school building need more security at the entrances, within the building, and during outside transitions/recess times.

Teachers should not express their personal political or ideological views in the public schools...they should only teach the material.

There should be a distinct policy about discipline regarding discrimination in-building, online, and while representing the school.

Additional comments on Curriculum, Instruction, Learning and Achievement

Q. Do you have any questions or comments Curriculum, Instruction, Learning and Achievement?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ More attention, resources or support for individual students, both those who are struggling academically or not being sufficiently challenged academically.
- ❖ Confusion and sometimes dissatisfaction with how reading and math are taught.
- ❖ Some parents feel that HPS should only teach “academics” or “the basics,” while other parents feel that social emotional learning is essential to their children’s education and experiences.
- ❖ More support for children with extreme behavior issues so that their entire class is not distracted from learning.
- ❖ More life skills and career oriented instructional content.

Current parents (n = 214)

A few things to me stand out as concerning. First, a lot of importance is put on AP Classes/Tests, but students are not achieving the ideal results. Students take those classes hoping to get out of taking certain classes at college, but they are only receiving 3 or 4s on the tests which is not acceptable to colleges. Thus, it comes as wasted money spent that are not getting the results needed. Additionally, for those that are not cut out for high level continuing academics, it would be nice to see plans/structure for those kids to follow to get a career path. Career Tech has some of that available, but not necessarily the right career options for all. In addition, it would be ideal if kids could take more electives than allowed because there are a lot of classes that could be used for their ideal career choice that they can never get to.

A lengthy New York Times study came out several months ago. It showed how teenage girls are struggling so deeply with everyday life issues, more than at any other time in recent decades. The research was staggering. We need to continue to help our students with emotional learning, with accepting others, and give them the life skills to do this well.

Advanced instruction in the elementary setting is lacking compared to other districts.

Again PBIS and SOAR need to go!

Again, I can only speak to South Elementary and they are doing a wonderful job with my 1st grader.

Again, there needs to be more to challenge our gifted learners. Presently, there are not ANY gifted opportunities at the elementary and middle school levels, and no honors classes at the high school level (only AP). This is doing a disservice to students that could benefit from additional challenge.

All comments are from an early elementary standpoint... * Thus far in my son's education at GES (he's in first grade), I believe the curriculum has been very appropriate, and his teachers, tutors, PBIS specialists and principal have been fantastic to work with. They genuinely care for the children as if they were their own, which provides much comfort when sending my son off to school each morning. * As mentioned in item 36 above, we wish there were more resources provided to parents to better understand how our son is learning not just math, but other things such as reading and the technology apps the kids use. I understand that parents are getting younger, but there are still a few of us out there who didn't grow up with tablets and computers, or learning common core principles :). Our son struggles a bit with learning these concepts, and we have a hard time helping him because we only have a rough idea of the methods he's being taught. We've already run into issues with him being confused between something we showed him not following what he's learned in school. I'd love to see some in-person sessions that focus on teaching the parents about the methods used to teach their children. * I love the RULER program and feel that it teaches extremely important, age-appropriate content that is critical for every child's development. You have my full support to keep this going! * It would be great if the school could make sure to inform the parents each time their child achieves a SOAR award. My son, who just turned 7, rarely gives us any detail about what's going on at school, despite asking him every night at dinner. I'd LOVE to hear about what he does to earn the SOAR awards so that we can also praise him at home for his great work!

All through elementary and middle school, my child excelled at math but was never offered advance placement. In fact I was told to just give them extra homework by every teacher. I asked if he could test into the next grade and was told he couldn't do that until high school. There is always help for low performing students but I've seen no help for gifted kids.

Although I gave my thoughts on what should be included in curriculum, such as keeping SEL and ensuring students have life skills classes upon graduation, I will defer to those with the proper education and training to make informed decisions regarding our students, curriculum, instruction, and learning.

As a parent I should be COMPLETELY informed with the topics and curriculum that is being taught to my children. This school COMPLETELY leaves parents out all together and has even advised parents NOT to be involved with assignments. I agree that children should learn responsibility BUT parents should be used as a resource NOT a hinderance.

As kids grow they learn who they are. School should help them grow as responsible people along with the parents. They need to know there's more options than just having to go to college.

As the parent of someone who was in the EI categorical program for 4 years, he was never met where he was. He was the one who was always wrong or weird. No one ever had to learn about him, what might help him feel comfortable and accepted. I think he should have been met in the middle at least... Help him understand others, while also helping peers understand him and his unique needs. The EI program also moved around a ton when he was in it, so he kept dealing with transitions, on top of covid... it was a lot. He started to ask what was the point of making friends, because he'd probably get moved again... Then the schools would evaluate him as having no friends! lol Right! Because you keep moving him! It's hard enough for neurotypical kiddos. How do you expect a kid with special needs to make and keep friendships when you move them from Alward, then Jamestown Lower, to Jamestown Upper, and then Riley Middle School, far away from everyone they know

Before school care at [REDACTED] is a great option and I am so thankful for it. However, it is extremely unstructured and appears a little chaotic during drop off for the 1 minute I'm in the gym. Staff seem to just be watching and not interacting or engaging with the students. High school students need more everyday life classes to be prepared for life not just college and academics. The Tech Center needs to be able to expand their programming or local schools need to offer similar programs. The Tech Center has wait lists and these kids who need to go there cannot get in. Then they have to stay at their home school taking classes that do not help them reach their future goals.

Children in the elementary school spaces are having too much instruction and not enough time for lunch and recess. Children are only able to dial in and focus on learning in increments. Forcing them to continually focus will not aid in education. Focus seems to be on making the school look good with test scores but not necessarily supporting the child where they are developmentally. I don't want my 6 year old, 8 year old, 10 year old, any child learning to eat a lunch in 15 minutes.

Curriculum is too easy. Would prefer to see more strict due dates and less re-takes of tests to prepare them for college and the real world.

Despite the totally incomprehensible claims that RULER is a Marxist front, it is a wonderful program for teaching students empathy and for assisting all students in feeling safe and welcome. So long as teachers are not compromising time for other subjects, I support this program. Regarding trimester vs semesters and advanced programs, I would need to better understand the pros and cons of each.

Discipline will be a difficult in the country we are currently living in.

Education includes learning about yourself and how you relate to the world around you. Excluding that sort of personal development will put our students at a disadvantage.

Elementary reading curriculum definitely needs to be improved. Teachers shouldn't have to adapt tier 1 in order to meet the class as a whole. Intervention shouldn't be needed because of lack instruction due to the curriculum. Teachers are amazing and going above and beyond what they are paid from the district. SEL has positively impacted my child's reaction to emotions and has built herself up as well as learned to accept others who are different. As far as PBIS, I love positively reinforcing our children, but there are no consequences being implemented so we are conditioning negative behavior especially at the elementary school level.

Empathy toward special needs has LINKs program that accomplishes it, model and teach, the other questions above is exactly what I was talking about in above comments . Higher of an admin does not achieve campus culture. Campus culture is achieved through teacher student interaction and admin interaction, programs, conversations, interactions that support culture desired. For example the idea of the students who are the "spirit," cheerleaders was good idea but not executed at all. R some show up For football and basketball other wise they are non existent. The way they are picked is a complete joke, most the ones picked the last 2 years have been "popular" kids who lack any spirit or leadership and fall as duds. I know them all, Best class I remember is 2019. Learning in the classroom, Trimesters are great for gpa elevation and exposure to variety of electives. But eliminated important curriculum and total hands on learning because there is ,"no time," to allow it. Math and science needs to be year long classes, AP need to be all year long, my children never had any biology labs in both semesters and missed a huge amount of curriculum that other top districts in Michigan on other side of state teach. If you can memorize you can breeze through Hudsonville. If problem solving and individual thinking is desired, then only Ap classes offer that and mr Bolhuis and Beemer, very few teachers are doing that at HS.

Everything at the high school is very punitive in nature, there does not seem to be any restorative service. I also do not think that students that traditional school does work have any options. No online or alternative programs.

Feel like emotional/ behavioral teaching programs are the same throughout all grades, but needs to be adjusted for each level of education/ age group.

For [REDACTED] we are in first and second grade has too many dress up days that cause families to be forced into potentially sending child to school to not participating OR dress up items have to purchased. These dress up days offer nothing towards learning. Too much focus on prizes and rewards in the first and second grade rooms. Reading support is scattered and wasn't communicated to us with the plan. Testing for reading levels is subjective and frequency of testing for students behind is at the same cadence as the rest of the class, this must change.

For questions #51 & #52: I don't know if these courses should be required to graduate, but certainly offered to all students as I feel these are important

For the question regarding should students be taught to know who they are as a person. I need clarification. Is it to help them realize if they like certain subjects more- to help guide them in their interests and ultimately which direction a career path might take- then yes it would be helpful for HPS to help them understand who they are as a person. However, if it is to point out differences in the students and how they feel about all those differences, then no HPS should not be helping students to learn who they are as a person.

Going back to questions 57 and 58, I'm hoping the question is not prompting my children to know themselves better through gender identity and only through that of "do I have a good heart? I am a nice friend. I am good at math. I am not good at art and that's ok."

Have not heard of extra help for ADHD students who need to learn to organize and prioritize.

HHS should not be involved in shaping students through agenda driven programs. Students will be shaped through parenting and everyday experiences. That doesn't mean staff can't support students but it shouldn't be a program from the education system.

How can you teach them values and who they are as a person when you can't mention God? Focus on academics and hold a firm standard for orderliness in the classroom. We know that entering into our kids squabbles at home is not productive. Squabbling over race, religion, & lifestyles at school is also pointless. Build academic focus & mutual respect!

HPS seems to focus on the average learner. The students who are struggling or excelling academically do NOT receive the necessary support needed to move forward successfully. We should NOT be investing time or money into teaching empathy, feelings, etc. until more time is invested into reading, writing, math, science, and social studies specifically for those who are struggling or excelling. Parents are responsible for growing their child emotionally, not the school district. Please stop trying to be the parent and start LISTENING to the parents instead.

Hudsonville offers a good curriculum and many opportunities, but we need much better teaching and instruction at the secondary level. Right now we require students to sit in a class with an impressive name. Now we need to require the teachers to TEACH those classes and make sure students have the opportunity to LEARN. It is not the schools responsibility to teach students who they are or who others are, but they can support the basic moral truths that all people are valuable and need to be treated with kindness and respect. Students don't need the school to instruct them to explore their gender or sexuality. They just need support to be a decent person, and know they are valued as a person and can value others simply as people. You do not need to think the same to show kindness and respect.

I agree that the school can reinforce students to be responsible for their own actions and have empathy. However, social and emotional learning is something that I am teaching them at home. It is my job as a parent to make sure that my children are good citizens and contributing members to society. It is my responsibility to mold them into the people that they should become. I need the District to stick to its academic responsibilities and leave the moral and social responsibilities to me.

I agree that the school along with the home are amazing places to learn about social and emotional skills. I think people think school is just for reading, writing and arithmetic. They fail to realize that most of a child's interactions with peers is at school and that is the best time to teach good behavior, in a semi controlled setting with teachers and staff who have (most likely) way more training on best practices than us parents. Regarding technology, I do not like Google as a company. They are a company whose product is data about people. Their real customers are advertisers. And the users are the product. I know the difficulty of finding reasonably priced, quality software, but any lower cost from Google is because it is subsidized by data collection. I know this is an issue about privacy and the local public school survey is not the place to really dig in, but I felt it necessary to bring up. Regarding the Social and emotional learning questions in this section: I believe the school is a branch of our society, our community and it must work to help better those. School is not an extension of any one or subset of parents. We have great public institution in our school and we should not wreck it by the politics of a fringe group. Especially if that group refuses to listen to the sound reasons of the Super Intendant. I know the BOE is talking about getting rid of RULER. The EXPERTS have done the hard work, they reviewed the options, they have begun using it and adapting it to meet the needs of those it is meant for, the students. This is not about what any one parent feels, some of whom RULER would help. I am humble enough to recognize my personal beliefs are less true than those of the experts. In our public schools the experts are the teachers, the staff, the administrators, and NOT elected officials whose profession or training are in another field.

I am a bit biased as a mental health professional and proponent of more of a delayed academically focused approach, especially in preschool and kindergarten. I absolutely love the ECC and my kids have had great experiences there, but I do wish that there were more options that focused less on academic skills and "kindergarten readiness." Research from other countries shows that our early focus on learning letters and the pressure we put on reading early really does not have a lot of long term advantages, but does come at the cost of other skills such as independent play, creative problem solving, and social skills. In both preschool and kindergarten, I would only really receive feedback on where my kids are at in terms of academic skills and I would have to ask how they are doing in social relationships, growth mindset, frustration tolerance, etc (all skills that I think are incredibly vital to further growth and learning.) I would love a shift in being able to focus more on some of these areas in early childhood! Additionally, I would love more information to be given to parents on the choice between Pre-K and Kinder and some of the long term benefits of delaying Kinder, even if a kid is technically ready academically. On another note, I support the mental health needs of high schoolers and have been alarmed by the growth of stress being put on them by AP classes and the constant availability of being able to check and monitor grades. I don't know the solution, but I have seen the harm it has been causing on mental health and would love for the school to take a closer look at this culture and the impact it is having on high achieving students.

I am frustrated by the lack of rigor at our middle school and elementary schools. We need to do more to help our advanced students.

I am incredibly impressed with the focus on academic achievement and proven outcomes of our students. The results speak for themselves. Please continue to support the emotional learning of students as well as these are incredibly important life and career skills too.

I am not satisfied with the pilot program RULER. "To know who they are as a person" could mean quite a few things, and so this was a hard question to answer.

I am not seeing the value in the Steam class. My children are enjoying and growing with music, art and gym but when it comes to Steam, they do not see the value in it (they call it a waste of time) and actually dislike going to this class. I would like to see more emphasis placed on spelling. My children are strong readers (and teachers keep telling me if they just keep reading, their spelling will improve) however my children spell the words as they sound and they still end up being spelled incorrectly. More time needs to be spent on spelling fundamentals.

I am thankful for SOAR included in curriculum and believe emotional intelligence should be learned in school too, not just home. SEL is good for schools, especially for understanding and working with kids who have been through trauma. But also because kids aren't always learning these things at home. I also feel our district can do more to be trauma-informed I'd also LOVE to see HPS take much more of a nature based approach to learning. More outside time for all grade levels. More emphasis on play and outdoor activity rather than the tech focus. There are some super cool nature based things going on in other areas of our county that I wish we'd take notice of and work towards in philosophy. That would have been especially great during covid times too! Finally, we don't have kids with phones and such yet but I think schools have a big responsibility in this area (and I imagine it is incredibly difficult too) to be creative in trying to lessen the focus on phones and the tech so that kids can be kids, less social media, less bullying in that way, etc. There was a cool pilot done with a small school (so yes very different) and "Light Phones" and significant benefits were seen in these areas, learning and very importantly mental health of students.

I am unable to answer the teach the student to learn who they are as a person - because it depends on what they is meant by that question. I believe HPS should be teaching values such as integrity, honesty, kindness, respect, responsibility, self-control, and justice. I do NOT believe they should be teaching students to express extreme views on either of the political or social spectrums/agendas.

I appreciate so many of the great teachers our kids have had who have modeled owning behavior and empathy, but not pushing them to accept things that they don't believe in. Empathy and kindness are important, accepting things that are sinful, though the culture says otherwise is not acceptable for a teacher to push. Teaching kids to be loving to everyone is important, but teaching them to be tolerant of everything is not.

I believe in most cases it is the parent's job to guide their children in knowing who they are and instilling values. I don't believe that is the schools responsibility. I do understand that not all children have supportive parents. So that becomes tricky on whose role it is. I do agree with a certain amount of empathy and diversity teaching.

I believe teaching these things in 57-62 is the responsibility of the parents, not the school

I believe that self awareness, the choices we make as well as the ownership of those choices are crucial in education. Empathy is a skill that is lacking throughout the K-12 system and it is a skill that is necessary for success.

I believe that yes, children should learn who they are and to have empathy for others, but I understand that the unspoken part of this question has to do with gender identity. Schools are no place for advancing gender identity programs. You take your direction from the family and you NEVER hide what you know about a student from his/her family. If HPS encourages a student to confide in faculty/staff rather than his/her family, HPS has just started down the path of grooming. While faculty/staff do get to know children very well, they still do not know a child the way his/her parents know him/her.

I believe the district needs to do a better job of digging into reading research and should start questioning if the current curricular resource is in alignment. Could we potentially be missing an opportunity to educate ALL students as stated in our mission statement? I would like to see teachers informed in science based practices. Some information that I've read in communications as a parent have been around random lists of spelling words, minimal phonics instruction, and practices that do not align with proficient reading (sight word memorization, using pictures as a support for figuring out words, etc). As a family that has a history of dyslexia and reading difficulties, we respectfully ask that the district be open minded toward change.

I believe the tech center needs to have more opportunities including different programs and more slots for the students. Too many kids are denied and are placed on waiting lists

I believe things like teaching "who you are" should not be taught in schools I hate not getting report cards on elementary students more than twice a year, it should be 3 or 4 times

I disagree with some of the mainstreaming of students with emotional/social/behavioral issues. One of my children were choked in elementary school by a child and there was no punishment for that student - they were allowed to attend the class party the next day. I also feel that some of the outbursts from students disrupt the school day for other students. One child's education should not come at the expense of all other students.

I do not currently have high schoolers, but I do remember experiencing both semesters and trimesters in HS (Allendale HS). I did not like trimesters because it meant that you had much less time to learn the material (for a class) than in a semester. There are other reasons as well but this is a strong one.

I do not feel that schools should get involved in the controversy stuff happening. They should remain strictly as a teaching for academics

I do not have any confidence in the Board of Ed or Hudsonville community to give support to any programs that would "teach its students to learn to know who they are as a person" without religious, white, heteronormative biases. If the Hudsonville community can let go of their self-righteous religious worldview and encourage/support children and families of all backgrounds without trying to indoctrinate anyone, then sure Kids absolutely need more support in learning who they are. But until such time as Ottawa County voters and the Hudsonville Board of Ed stop denying science and the human rights of all people, I'd prefer the district leaves "who you are as a person" up to parents so some of these kids have a chance of making it out with dignity, self-love, empathy and respect for all people.

I don't appreciate when there are teachers who have an agenda to inappropriately push their agenda on our kids. Let's let we as parents be the parents of our kids and teach them important values and beliefs in our own homes.

I don't agree with teaching kids of any age about learning who they are with regards to sexual orientation

I don't think kids need to be taught about gender or related things. That is not for school to teach or preach about

I don't think the empathy and learning who you are should be embedded in the curriculum, but when opportunity arises, those are teachable moments. Who would that even be taught? In the personal living class? Maybe teachers could be trained on how to handle those teachable moments. Like when a student should show empathy. I think the Leadership class would be great for this

I don't like the ruler curriculum that incorporates CRT ideas. It takes away personal responsibility and is dangerous for how we perceive relationships.

I don't like these questions as I believe they are asking about specific curriculum and I am against that. 1. These are extracurricular skills that need to be taught individually and throughout the course of daily interactions. 2. Older children tend to make fun and reject these lessons OR the lessons to not transfer into everyday life when needed! 3. Because of these "lessons," the teaching day has squeezed out the curriculum like science and social studies as the hours in a day are extremely limited and a huge chunk of that time goes to reading and math leaving the teachers no option but to cut the lessons or worse, the subject!

I feel like these are trick questions. I believe the focus needs to be on academics. A lot of the emotional learning is unnecessary- that learning should happen organically as situations in classrooms present themselves and as part of natural consequences. Decisions made by our district leaders seem to place greater value on athletics and political correctness than on actual academics.

I feel more control and discipline needs to be present. Over the past years (had students there 7 years ago) it seems that things have gotten more lax.

I feel strongly that social and emotional support and learning, along with an emphasis in DEIB education will better prepare our HPS students for a world beyond the small city we live in.

I feel the school should stick to teaching school and let parents be the ones to help their children discover who they are and how they should act. All three of my kids have been in tutoring at some point throughout their years at hudsonville. All three have tested low to average on standardized tests. I do feel since Covid the opportunities for tutoring have greatly improved. My son is very interested in tech center since he is not planning on going to college. My biggest concern is that there will not be enough room in the program he is interested in at tech or that he won't get into any program at all. I hope that our school will look into more opportunities for kids besides tech. I know there is new school in GR that jenison partners with that is a construction school. I really hope to see hudsonville expand its opportunities for kids that are not college bound.

I felt better about the board of education before ottawa impact and [REDACTED] took over.

I find it difficult to access accurate information about assignments for my ADHD high schooler in order to help him with time management when we inquired about support available from the school for this there was nothing available and we were disappointed that study hall is not an option during heavy class load trimesters. We felt that we as parents did all the heavy lifting in digging him out of his missing assignments and poor grades. We got very little communication from his teachers even when he is failing classes and eventually resorted to hiring an outside math tutor because the after school tutoring advertised did not have teachers who could help with his particular class. There are widely differing expectations from class to class with some allowing him to makeup late assignments until the very end of the trimester and others not accepting them at all for even partial credit. It's often hard to navigate and very few teachers ensure that parents understand their expectations. More consistent policies School wide and better teacher communication even if it was just one informational letter at the start of each class would be immensely helpful and also consistent policies about when assignments are entered into PowerSchool as some teachers enter them ahead so I can see due dates ahead and others don't enter them until after they are graded.

I have a 1st grader who is extremely advanced in math, but little is being done to help him work at his level. He was finally given some take home work, which has helped, but it was a struggle to even arrive at that solution. It does not seem like there are any systems/programs in place for students who are advanced in a particular subject.

I have a child in [REDACTED] grade at [REDACTED] and it feels their math teacher isn't as confident with math and I often don't feel my child is prepared for tests. We've asked for ideas of how to help our child improve their struggle with math and answers at conferences are usually, "they're doing great, no concerns," and test scores don't reflect this statement

I have a child that has high anxiety. I always make teachers aware at the beginning of the year of the steps we take to help her. I have never had a teacher offer additional solutions for classroom situations, often bypassing this element of her entirely.

I have a student being assessed for special ed right now. That assessment was scheduled at my request. While I appreciate the after school tutoring option (this

I have absolutely no idea what is going on, what all is offered, what is proposed to be offered, or anything. Only knowledge I have is from when I graduated almost a decade ago.

I have all good things to say regarding the Tech Center. I was a student there and am still to this day grateful for the skills I learned there and applicable to this day.

I have attended many board meetings in the last couple years. It is always mentioned that the school is preparing the student for the real world. I highly disagree that the school is doing a sufficient job of it. School is in session from Mid August to mid June. There are 28 days off and 13 half days! That is not including weekends on top of that! In what world can you go to a job and take that much time off? It is getting ridiculous with time off. As a business owner I can attest to the lazy work force and I believe that school is preparing them to be lazy.

I have been disappointed that students in the elementary school level are not reading directly to a teacher, in small homogenous groups, many days a week. This is an essential model that should be adopted in order to best meet the needs of all learners. While I feel that the teachers do an effective job with whole group instruction, this is simply not the most effective way to teach comprehension skills and strategies. Daily reading centers would allow students to be grouped with other learners at their similar level, which in turn gives teachers the opportunity to accommodate reading material and instruction to best meet the needs of advanced, on level and below level learners within their classroom. Currently, my child has only read to her kindergarten and first grade teacher once a month for a Fountas and Pinnell level check. While this is a great way to keep track of a students progress, the most important piece is still missing. As a teacher with 15 years of experience, I recognize that one classroom can have a span of abilities of four or more grade levels. Again, the most effective way to reach the needs of all the wide range of abilities is to adopt a small group reading model.

I have been told that [REDACTED] is cutting a majority of their PE department. We are the largest district in Ottawa county and we are cutting programs? We are building a 5 million dollar athletics/physical education building, yet cutting PE at [REDACTED] for more than half the students. What a shame for our kids. For some kids, 1 hr of PE a day. Is the most movement they get in a day. And we are taking that away from them. So disappointed in HPS' decision making when it comes to our PE program at [REDACTED]

I have no problem with teaching about character traits such as compassion and empathy, but I do not want my child learning about alternative lifestyles. It is not appropriate for schools to discuss controversial issues such as abortion, homosexuality, or the LGBTQ issues.

I have mixed feelings with the allowance of test and quiz retakes. I do like second chances, but not sure if it sends the right messages for those going on to college. I feel that the trimester is too fast-paced. I'm glad my youngest (current high schooler) has the option of year-long math. I appreciated her ability to take extra math as an elective, but she wasn't always assigned that even when requested. My older two (2021 grads), quickly ran out of electives to take. I understand the desire to cram classes in with trimesters to allow an abundance of room for AP courses or for tech center but, for those not going those routes, result is running out of electives which interest them. And the pace for other classes is too fast to allow a deep understanding and knowledge base. I'm thankful my youngest is interested in the tech center classes, which she is enrolled in for next year, so she shouldn't run into this problem. All of my kids looked for additional computer classes during middle school, but found too many which were coding focused and not what they wanted.

I have NOOOOOO idea what your curriculum vision is for HPS. I could make a very strong argument that you are underachieving as a district in regards to your state test scores. 70% of these students wake up and return to a household median income of \$75,000. Their basic needs are being met so that is not a barrier. So while your state test scores look good, they should be better when compared to other socio-economic backgrounds.

I have not been impressed with the technology classes at the middle school. My son loved STEAM and now has really disliked his two technology classes in 6th grade. In one class, they just watched tutorials constantly to help them create assignments - very little teacher instruction and an overwhelming amount of assignments. Another has more teacher instruction, but it's not hands-on like STEAM in the elementary schools was. I also don't like how my child got at least 45 mins of both reading and writing in elementary school and now only gets a total of 45-50 mins of ELA. I think 6th graders should spend more time reading/discussing books at school and writing different genres. I think students at HPS lack spelling and grammar skills as well.

I have one child who has needed extra resources and help in reading. Unfortunately I don't think the extra group she was in was helpful for her. It may be her learning style, but it wasn't until I taught her at home that she finally caught up. I also have 1 advanced student (in all areas) who is very bored in school. Her teachers do try to give her extra activities and more advanced work but it does not seem to be enough. I do wish there was a more advanced class for her as I believe she would enjoy school more if she could perform at her level.

I have really liked the RULER curriculum and the SOAR approach in the elementary school. I think the academic expectations have been lower than I was expecting, and I think there is opportunity for growth in this area for HPS. Adding foreign language at the lowest age possible would be a huge benefit to the school in my opinion. Also, a gift and talented program and the ability to have accelerated learning starting in the middle of elementary school would also keep our brightest students engaged in school and foster a love of learning.

I moved my children to HPS solely because of the math curriculum is more in line with today's research than their previous school. I wonder, though, why (especially given the state superintendent's recent memo regarding reading curriculum) HPS continues to use Units of Study given the amount of red flags it receives in literacy research. My children, both advanced readers, suffer with this program and the lack of knowledge building. As a teacher myself, I also know it creates gaps for struggling readers. I hope that HPS begins to move more in line with reading research that is verified and works to build or adopt a curriculum that reflects research based practices around Scarborough's Rope.

I personally think that it's a big challenge for HPS to have to deal with a multitude of student behavior problems that parents should be dealing with. There needs to be clear line where the school shouldn't have to manage excess mental problems. This takes away from the learning of the other 97% of students.

I put that I am somewhat satisfied with the before/after care program at ECC. As far as the care goes, I'm very happy with the staff, facilities, and the care programs there. The cost of sending kids there is the only reason I put 'somewhat satisfied'. The cost of childcare around here definitely needs to be addressed.

I really love the idea of volunteering. Not sure how I feel about it being required for graduation, maybe highly recommended or incentivised.

I really think we should have a foreign language option at the elementary level. Also, some sort of life skills course for middle school (problem-solving, friendship, basic communication skills (eye contact, holding conversations), work ethic, etc. I would love to see more of a district emphasis on service learning.

I struggle as your questions can fall many different ways on how they are implemented. Should you show empathy and love to all students m, absolutely!!!! Do I want the teachers and the staff to try to push an agenda about how it's "ok" to change genders or think that they are a cat or so much more that could go on, absolutely not!

I think hps has a reputation of high expectations for learning and achievements. Their are kids that dont meet that standard and fall through the cracks. Our school has grown so fast its hard to accommodate everyone.

I think that having advanced math and English classes would be beneficial in the middle schools. Or a class for kids who score highly on the STAR tests should be taking advanced classes.

I think that it's hard for kids to do homework after school because it takes away from their home life and can be very stressful. School work should be taught or done during school hours. They are at school for approx 35 hrs a week. I don't see the need to stress them out more by giving them more to do at home and it's hard for them to do things that they like for example sports etc and it wears on them. That would be as if I went to work and was given more work to do on my own time and I don't think that's fair.

I think that much of what this section addresses is not under the purview of the public school system, but is exclusively the job of the parent.

I think the district should look into having a gift kids program for elementary again, and also what it would look like for having younger kids that are accelerated in math being able to take higher level math at the elementary and middle school level.

I think the emotional, social and behavioral education should be taught at home.

I trust the teachers. They are the experts. I'm tired of the lack of respect towards them. I'm tired of the extreme parents in the community allowing the Bible dictate how things are taught. I'm tired of a school board that clearly doesn't listen to anyone but their friends and fellow church goers. I am tired of the board giving no interest to the needs of marginalized students. They don't seem to care about world views and education. The teachers are doing their best. They are wonderful and I love and respect them, as well as the great administration. The board is the problem.

I understand the push of technology, but the games used for "homework" for middle schoolers aren't the best practice for students.

I want my children to learn who they are as a person, but I don't feel the need for SEL. Especially when so many children, mine included, missed out on so much of the core educational components (math, reading, history, science, etc) and are now behind in these subjects. I feel more time needs to be dedicated to getting these children back on track with these subjects (things they get tested on) than working on helping them learn "who they are". That should definitely be more of a focus of the parents and something talked about at home

I was very satisfied in the ECC and elementary levels, but as my students have grown into middle school and high school, I just see that there's a disconnect between discipline and expectations. Again, the bullying of students who are different than the majority is not acceptable to me and shouldn't be to others

I wish more information had been provided about looping opportunities so my son was able to take more of the AP courses he was interested in. It wasn't until he was a sophomore that a teacher recognized how gifted he was in math and that he really should be challenged with more difficult courses. Now it's too late to catch up.

I wish there was a not applicable on this because I only have experience with Elementary schools

I wish there was more of an emphasis on writing skills, which helps kids so much with college and career. I did not find that my older son, who graduated from Hudsonville Schools magna cum laude, was ready to write papers in college without tutoring help.

I would like religion and LGBTQ kept out of teaching at Hudsonville Public Schools

I would like the district to keep the focus on academics and athletics. I do not think social and emotional learning should be covered with all students like a core subject is. Certain students need that support, but not all.

I would like to see more learning around diversity and acceptance for all. in no way should religion ever enter the classrooms or decisions when it comes to curriculum.

I would like to see more learning in core subjects and less with SEL.

I would like to see more variety in my kids art class at [REDACTED]. I'm not satisfied with the quality and variety of work that they are coming home with and don't feel that the state benchmarks are being met.

I would like to see teachers teach more test taking strategies. I would also like to see a more student centered approach as all students learn at different paces. The high impact of the standardized test simply don't reflect how a student actually learns or reasons. I feel like there is way too much pressure put on the kids and teachers during these testing times.

I would love to see sign language offered as a language course

I would support a language immersion program for a commonly used language such as Spanish. Though Jenison has a program we preferred our kids in the Hudsonville school district.

I've asked multiple times about foreign languages for my kids; french, german, mandarin.. haven't been able to secure any lessons.

If teaching the kids to learn who they are should not be teaching Gender identity or anything that coincides with the topic.

If the schools can find ways to incorporate volunteerism/service throughout the year, this would boost college applications and provide staff opportunities to learn about students. Projects/Causes should be politically neutral to reflect altruism, collaboration and ownership. Activities that can be accomplished during school hours on an on-going basis with additional/optional after-school hours would allow all students to participate. This could include assisting lunchstaff, janitors, landscaper, tutor/mentorship,

In regards to questions 58. I put unsure because I would want to know more about how this is being taught. This subject could be taught in a variety of ways that may be pleasing to some and not others.

It is disappointing that there is no rela track for gifted learners. My child is only in 1st grade but is leaps and bounds above where she should be academically. Her teacher this year is amazing and is giving her many opportunities to try things above and beyond her grade level but that is all created by her teacher. There is nothing provided by the district to help grow gifted learners, especially at the elementary level.

It is a parents job to teach their child who they are as a person not a person(teacher, administrator, etc.) who may not share the same values as the family.

It is not the duty of a public school to teach children who they are, how they should feel or how they need to treat others. That is the duty of the parent. Of course if the child misbehaves at school or treats other children inappropriately on school grounds or at school sponsored activities, there needs to be consequences brought down by the school. Our children are missing out on so much education that has been replaced by RULER or whatever similar nonsense is being forced upon our kids throughout the day.

It often appears there is a gap for those students that get lost if they do not qualify for special resources. They still need support but do not get what they need.

It seems like a lot of the teaching is to support those who fall behind as opposed to those who need advanced teaching. So much is to bring the lower up and not try to push the higher to what they need to be successful. There is not enough opportunity for advanced classes in the k-8 level and really freshman level, unless the student accelerates to get to AP courses.

It should not be the responsibility of the school to assist in teaching children to know who they are as a person. There is too much room for grooming here, in ways that go against some parents beliefs. The school should stick with teaching academics only.

It's disappointing that you can no longer take high school math or English in middle school. This puts academically advanced kids behind in high school who want to take more AP classes and graduate with more credits to take into college. -Consider adding a 5 year program to graduate high school with an associates degree like other districts in West Michigan have implemented. -I saw on the high school website that free tutoring is available. This should be advertised at the middle school. Not just for students struggling, but for students that want to improve their grade/prevent struggles/prepare for tests. -We are not a fan of school laptops. Kids are just using them to watch YouTube or play games during and after school, even playing with them on the bus. While it's nice to have assignments listed out online, most of the work is still done and submitted on paper. A home computer can be used for this, and for those who don't have a home computer they could check out a chromebook from the school to keep at home. You could also have some in each classroom to use if it's necessary to look up resources. Possessing a portable laptop 24/7 causes further dependence on "screen" time. Kids need to have less time on screens and not more. I've seen it detract from social time because all of them have their heads in their screens instead of interacting with each other. For example, on the last early release day, I walked into Subway and there were 2 booths full of students staring at their chromebooks instead of socializing with each other. -The after school clubs at Baldwin this year have been really fun, thank you!

It's unfortunate that language classes don't focus much on actually speaking the language. They seem to focus more on grammar and teaching to the test. After 4 years of language they have very little speaking skills which feels like a waste of instruction. Immersion works look at the research and don't be scared to make kids uncomfortable in it. They will pick it up.

It's up to the child to figure out the type of person they want to be through life experiences without the school pushing certain agendas upon them. Teaching basics like reading and math should be prioritized. Give them the chance to make their own decisions without pushing beliefs of the teachers upon them. They are smart yet they are very susceptible to influence. Teachers are not the parents.

It's very concerning to me that lower elementary classrooms do not universally have daily small reading groups built into their schedule. Where every student is meeting with the teacher in a small reading or writing group at the very least once a week. It is also very concerning to me that there is a lack of the science of reading being implemented in all lower elementary classrooms. Hudsonville seems to be behind current research and data when it comes to this. There also seems to be a lack of differentiation and time spent on math instruction at the elementary level. Please encourage less time on computers and more time working in groups/partners/collaborative learning and working.

[REDACTED] needs safer office practices. Once somebody is buzzed in to talk to secretary the door to school is always open from there. Anyone could get into our schools with no problem. It's scary.

Keeping kids healthy and safe should be the focus. It is not the school boards responsibility to determine which books a child should or should not have access to.

Kids phonics are really behind and education should be the focus not social/emotional. That comes into day to day learning and parents teach their children the rest. That's our job

Learning to know who they are as a person as well as some of the other word usage in this survey is very vague. Understanding that you are a valuable person because God created you unique and yet in His image is very valuable, however I doubt that is what is meant. With things such as CRT and Gender Identity being taught in schools, I would never answer yes to a question that asks if you should teach my child who they are and give the impression that I am in support of the idea that these things should be taught in schools. If you would like a truly valuable survey, I would suggest touching on these topics and seeing exactly where the majority of your community stands as opposed to leaving it up to me and everyone else to decide exactly what you might mean with vague ideas such as who a person is. Unless vagueness is the point in which case I would be very disappointed.

Learning who they are, empathy and responsibility are parents responsibilities to teach their children. Schools need to stick to reading, writing, math, science and history.

Letting kids be furries in school is ridiculous and a distraction. Allowing kids to carry around pride flags is unacceptable because other kids aren't allowed to carry around flags with their beliefs... just the "pride" kids... not acceptable

LGBTQ and minority students MUST be able to see themselves in the curriculum.

Life skills that need to be taught by families, not agendas pushed on my students by well meaning teachers.

Many items are hard to answer because my student does not have additional needs.

More about global diversity in order to understand the uniqueness of our own community

More STEAM options

More STEAM! More SEL! More DEI!

Most of my frustration is NOT directed at the teachers, they are doing the best they can with what they have to work with

My daughter has had a very poor experience with her guidance counselor. She expressed a concern she was having in Math class. That he did not take the time to teach the lessons and would just give the class notes. That his teaching style did not fit with her learning style. She was failing every test/quiz and getting no help when asking. She asked to switch teachers and was told that they do not accept teacher request. She is also not going to a 4-year college and is choosing to go to a technical school. Her guidance counselor reacted very negatively towards this and told her she was taking classes for the wrong reasons and still made her fill out college goal planning sheets and miss classes she was already struggling in to complete this. She has said she has been very dismissive and rude in all her attempts to get help.

My kids are at school 7 hours a day, 5 days a week- I ABSOLUTELY support the school teaching them how to get along well with others! They need to learn how to appreciate differences, recognize feelings and show empathy, communicate effectively, work in groups, and resolve conflicts. The concept that these skills should only be taught in the microcosms of our families/homes is limiting and short sighted.

My main concerns are that there is nothing provided for students who excel in elementary or middle school. Maybe a math group or a couple electives but those are easy for kids who excel. I've felt lost trying to challenge my child. I had a math teacher tell me they are glad my kids bored. There also needs to be locked doors at the middle school. Only safe part of the entrance is the office but you can walk by it

My son struggles in math and had his first choice of electives was math support for middle school and didn't get it. He also didn't get any electives that were high on his list. Why make the students number them if they don't even get top 15?

Need more academic support for middle school students who are struggling without IEPs.

Need to have less time spent on learning who they are and more on reading, writing and arithmetic. As our kids have gone through the system there seems to be less time is spent on learning basic educational content and more on social, behavioral content. Social / behavioral is the domain of the family not the schools. Let's get back to basics. Where are the spelling tests for the elementary kids?

Not all teachers in middle school assist to work with kids with 504, don't take time to answer parent emails and kids emails asking for help with work

Not aware of after school tutoring.

Not enough advanced classes at the high school; lack of consistent grading on core subjects, especially middle school

On teaching them to be responsible for their own actions and to have empathy, it's important to explore how to identify what are truly their own actions and inactions, words spoken and silences kept, both individually and as part of society. Too often we limit the scope of what we call "our own actions" to take ownership of, and by doing that, destroy empathy, especially empathy for those subject to social injustice. An example is "I've never owned a slave."

Once again. The weakness lies in our school board being shaped by extreme views in the community and the unfortunate political Climate of half of Hudsonville that believes everyone should believe what they believe and do what they do.

Only concern in this area is to keep DEIB and Critical Race Theory out of the curriculum at Hudsonville.

Our son really struggled with freshman algebra this year and we found it frustrating. He gets pretty decent/ avg. grades overall, but almost failed algebra. We dropped him off early for tutoring a couple times a week, but I didn't seem to help. Once he got behind he couldn't catch back up. Some of that is on him/us, but it was still frustrating.

Parents should be responsible, we as parents teach out kids to be kin, responsible.

Parents should parent not schools. Example, my child is going into middle school where they will be expected to handle a chromebook. In our house we do not have tech time for children. They are not allowed to be on the internet but now schools have over stepped my rules in order for them to do homework.

Please allow for opportunities for elementary and middle school for accelerated learning.

Please continue social emotional learning!

Please keep RULER as part of the curriculum. I know it has been made out to be an internet boogeyman, but teaching children about how to manage their emotions is critical to their development as well-rounded people.

Please look into better literacy curriculum for our students! One that includes phonics and spelling instruction that is research based, especially for our early grades so that we can start them off with a solid foundation. I hope that the district will continue to hold students to high standards, both academically and behaviorally, in spite of the shift to permissive parenting that is happening. PLEASE support our teachers as they hold students accountable for respectful behavior, being responsible, and hard work.

Please stick with teaching reading, writing, math, science, etc required for college. Leave the personal aspects to be taught by parents, this is our role.

Reading specialists need to be brought back to the elementary schools. It's ridiculous that they have not been brought back but we have PBIS specialists. When classes are above 30 students in an elementary classroom, you can not expect a teacher to be the substitute for a reading specialist. In regards to support for math at the high school, do not put a para in the after school tutoring room that does not know math! The para in the TAAG room for a few months could not help the students.

Reconsider the retake policy for realistic purposes (not done in higher Ed) and academic purposes (is it being used for the right reasons or to inflate grades?). Consider more staffing in music programs, especially in middle and high school. There are opportunities, there could be more, we need more staffing to create bigger stronger programs. Especially for the size of our schools. Not enough emphasis for the arts. We need reading specialists at all levels. World language needs an overhaul. It should be proficiency based and doable for all students. Technology is used but not to the best means. Many kids watch YouTube and play games instead of being focused in the classroom. Teachers use google classroom but students are not utilizing it. Or teachers are not using it so students would but can't. There are a ton of opportunities for AP and advanced classes but not as many for those who don't like sports or music or art. Student apathy is a problem, not necessarily learning and curriculum.

Requiring PE in high school is honestly absurd. There are so many other valuable classes/skills that could be utilized instead. This requirement is outdated.

Schools need to teach learning... Emotional and behavioral concerns can be add but also needs a mental health professional

Seclusion rooms are archaic practices and should be removed. Expansion of tech center opportunities is necessary. It's imperative schools teach life skills, which includes empathy.

SEL should be focused on only those students that need it and not for those students who don't because it can contradict family values.

Sexuality conversations should not be a part of curriculum or education nor should it be stressed or emphasized. Overemphasized creates confusion in developing minds. These things should be taught and discussed at home.

Soar program and Link program are great! Ruler has caused so many issues with my 2 elementary kids- acting out. Fearful that bad things are going to happen to them or their loved ones. We don't want our kids participating with any of the Ruler teachings. The school is lacking programs for the academically gifted kids in Middle School. My son is bored and doesn't feel challenged. No advance classes anymore? No foreign language in Middle School? No spelling words in Elementary? Life skills? leadership classes? Personal finance? Offerings and curriculum are lacking in so many areas for such a large district. All 3 of my kids are terrible at spelling.

Social and emotional situations should be handled by parents and the way they want their kids act. Schools need to be focused more on academics - leave the social challenges of the day to parents. There is no one solution a school can use and should be handled by parents. Parents know their kids best.

Social emotional learning is not the responsibility of the school. Focus on the core classes along with personal finance and technology. Potentially, any extras could include career options. Including "feelings" in curriculum for all is unnecessary.

Standardized tests. We get the results however very unclear what comes of those results. Either individually or collectively.

STEAM: Arts should be dropped out of the STEAM curriculum and the focus should be on STEM. No employer ever said, "we need more arts majors." STEM is a focus because our world needs more people who are capable in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math!!!! 47.) There is more than enough focus on foreign languages. If possible HPS should reduce the graduation requirements for foreign language studies. HPS should focus on more avenues for high-achieving students. Other neighboring districts have dedicated programs for gifted/talented students, and we wish there was a better focus on helping gifted kids get the most out of their education. HPS needs to focus on teaching reading, writing, and math. Parents need to teach them how to have empathy and help them figure out who they are as a person. HPS needs to reinforce the concept that students are responsible for their own actions, by disciplining poor behavior in school. HPS needs to address kids with social, emotional, or behavioral issues at the individual level and not through a communal approach with SEL curriculum.

Students need to learn the core classes like math, English, science, reading, etc. and life skills as well to be ready for continuing education like college or a trade school or the working world. I have no problem making sure Hudsonville is welcoming to all families but school is for learning and not for pushing any kind of agenda or indoctrination onto the students.

Students who are accelerated should get more opportunities at both Jamestown Lower and Upper. Advanced students aren't pushed as much as they could be.

Taking time to talk about emotions and interactions with others is as important as teaching math. This kind of instruction helps to make whole people. The world needs people who understand their emotions and how to handle them.

Teachers do not have to time to teach other than the basics. Kids should be able to know what's right and wrong or to be responsible for themselves and their actions. Gentle corrections and peer observations should be all children need to see what's right and wrong. It should not have to be taught. They will learn by seeing and doing.

Teaching empathy shouldn't be a hot button issue, it's ridiculous that it's come to this.

Teaching kindness, empathy, personal responsibility, and self-discipline are essential. Some will say those things should be taught at home, and of course they should. Sadly, it isn't happening in an ever-increasing percentage of our homes. So schools and teachers have to pick up the slack, just as they have with buying school supplies, snacks and sometimes jackets and shoes for their students. Support the teachers and administrators and you will have supported students. Curriculums are all so similar for basics like reading, writing and math. The delivery is what's important. All schools PK-12 need to have programs in place to meet the academic needs of their students. Currently if an elementary student is struggling in math they get specific, targeted intervention. If a HS student fails Algebra I they take it over. That's a failure on the part of the school. Learners of all ages need access to intervention tailored to their needs. Intervention should be the next focus for HPS. We do Tier 1 and 3 very well, but Tier 2 often gets lost.

The board dropping RULER is the most uneducated thing an overreaching school board could do. Drop the school board members before you drop something that is so important for kids.

The bulk of our children's education should be math, science, and reading. Other countries children are surpassing ours.

The district does a very poor job of supporting advanced/gifted students, especially in middle school and high school. These students are often bored in the classroom. They are not prepared for college because they don't get challenged enough and don't know how to study and really apply themselves. It seems like the focus of the district is on not allowing students to fall behind by using repetitive lessons and slowing down the pace of learning. We have literally been told by a middle school counselor that they can't identify and give opportunities to advanced students because then it would make other students feel bad. That is ridiculous! The quality of the school guidance counselors seems to vary a GREAT degree. A poor counselor can really be detrimental to an advanced students academic success as has been witnessed repeatedly between my student's counselor and several of their friends counselors. We have been lucky with the 'counselor lottery' as I now call it, as we have a high school counselor that goes far above and beyond what the others will do to help my student really push to achieve the next level of academic success and to consider advanced opportunities to prep for college applications to high level universities. This is an area that I strongly feel needs to be addressed.

The district is overly focused on traditional academic routes to graduation. It would be great if technical, vocational, and hands on instruction pathways are developed starting in 6th grade. In doing so, it would better allow students who learn differently to feel value in their personhood and to learn who they are as a person rather than having to fit into the traditional district mold and feel like failures up until courses at Careerline are made available in late High School. The district's special services do not benefit students in need. Look at how many elementary special ed students and students who need academic help leave the district by middle school/high school. The district's academic performance appear to improve on standardized tests, but that's only because the low performers are leaving the district for other more empathetic and supportive districts and schools. Empathy needs to start with the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]

The district should get kids to understand their strengths and weaknesses as a type of person they are but not the type of person when it comes to sexual orientation.

The high school does not prepare students for the rigors of college studies at all. My 2 children who have/are attending rarely/if ever have homework. They know they will be given time to study before exams/tests so why bother at home? The extra time off of school to "help kids prepare" for the PSAT and SAT is ridiculous. Keep them in school and teach them. They have so much time off each month with all the early releases, etc. that you should know they are just going to hang with friends, go to work, etc. That doesn't help them be more successful on the tests. This has created a lack of discipline which is hard to enforce at home when there are no consequences at school anyways. They are able to play the system with how much the different work assignments (homework/tests/etc) are worth and still get good grades...which does not reinforce healthy and dedicated study habits for the future, where, in college, all work is highly valued towards the final grade and you can't play the system. My daughter never handed in a stitch of math homework and still passed with an A in the class...for 2 years! For the child I referred to not handing in any math homework, she had a 3.7 GPA when she graduated and failed out of her first year of college because she operated the same way she did in high school. This is setting kids up for failure in the future. My other child had to take a summer school class last summer and I watched from the outside of the room her teacher "helping" her through the exam. So I was not surprised to read how "successful" the summer school program was for kids...and how many kids did so great...yeah...I don't believe it. The teachers help the kids through to make the outcomes look better for the community, instead of letting the kids fail or succeed on their own merit and hard work.

The opportunities and formal programs for advanced learners - namely speaking about elementary/middle school - seem to be grossly lacking, particularly for a district such as HPS.

The opportunity for students who are struggling is exceptional, but at the elementary level at least there are not many opportunities for the students who are advanced learners.

The school is not the place to talk about gender issues with kids. That needs to be done at home.

The SOAR behaviors are things that should be taught at home and only reinforced at school. I do not believe it is the school's job to teach empathy and ownership. However, students and parents should be held accountable when children do not treat others kindly or do not take ownership of their actions.

The transition from elementary to middle needs to be better supported to assist kids with understanding calendaring, time management, deadlines and prioritization which are some of the most crucial skills kids can have in life. Some teachers load things in Google classroom and calendar and some don't. Some teachers put very disjointed materials on Google that make it challenging for kids to understand ultimate goals and for parents to help with homework. Please bring back journaling requirements for 5th/6th whether electronic or paper. Team teaching would be better in junior high to support students. The teachers and staff try to do a good job with teaching empathy and accountability in school but in recent years there is so much misinformation and unfounded distrust from some families and community members, it is making them unable to help our kids and teach holistically.

There are too many elective choices for middle school students. The elevated number of choices puts unneeded pressure on the scheduling of classes and forcing teachers to teach classes they aren't passionate about or actually qualified for. Although having choices seems good for students, it seems to be more of a waste. Get them in music, gym, art, the wood shop, and a handful of science, personal finance, and life skills classes. That's it.

There is a fine line between letting a student learn who they are as a person and pushing an agenda. IF they are able to explore on their OWN and come to their OWN conclusions in a neutral and safe environment, then it is a good idea - BUT young children are very dependant on approval from others and the only thing that adults should be pushing is manners - not any other agendas!!

There is almost no support for gifted and accelerated/advanced students. HPS needs to add more support for advanced students at the elementary level - whose gifts are not formally nurtured. Has the district fully considered implementing its own parallel to Jenison's ACT (accelerated learning) program? HPS should NOT be diverting time away from academic efforts to engaging in contemporary philosophical/political issues (e.g., self-discovery, intersecting identities, DEI).

There is too much reliance on technology--our students need to learn how to think critically without just googling answers.

This is a school the goal is to learn and be ready for life. Life skills such as personal finance, how to change a tire, working with your hands should be taught.

This is the longest survey EVER.. if you want more involvement, make it easier for people to get involved.

Throughout my child's high school education he has pushed for advanced learning and looked at how to better position himself for college. I don't feel the counselors have done the same. It may be they don't have the bandwidth to know each student. Another item to look at is the recognition of AP over dual enrollment in the GPA system.

Too much focus on continued education at a college level. Would like to see trades and work force presented as ACCEPTABLE AND PRAISED options as much as college/university routes are. Students should not feel like they are 'less than' because they don't want to go to a university. They should not feel pressured by their teachers or counselors to pursue. There are way too many staff, 'tests' and classes designed under the pretense that kids will be going to university/college.

Too much time is being spent on SEL while students are still struggling with getting behind during the lockdowns

Trimester/Semester should be course specific. Certain subjects warrant extended periods of study.

Unaware of any opportunities for additional learning support. Discussed achievement gaps during teacher conferences but no mention of after-school tutoring or additional steps/services we can use to help our child succeed.

Until we get public support for SEL, PBIS from the BOE, the community members will continue to have doubts about the district's intentions which is very unfortunate. It prevents the district from doing what it thinks is best based on its professional expertise and experience and data. Providing support for families and students in need (social, emotional, behavioral, physical) is an area to grow in simply because the needs have increased so much in the past few years. Some of the middle school electives are not very rich in content or seem a bit repetitive from grade level to grade level.

Very unhappy with the high school counselor who told my child that community college was a waste of time and stressed only university education. Is he going to pay for her education? Zero information on scholarships, and gap year programs that we had to search out for ourselves. Either be silent about post graduation activity or be an expert in it. I told my child to stop listening to her counselor who had a very narrow view point.

WAY too much focus is put on behavioral issues and how to make them fit in our district - they should be addressed at home. Meaning students who continue to go against the rules of the school and make school unsafe for kids who are following the rules benign respectful - should be suspended and eventually expelled from HPS.

We are not preparing our kids for responsibility and success in life skills. The core subjects are important but every single kid needs to learn life skills

We feel there is more importance placed around sports than academics. I do not think HPS should be teaching children about who they are, I feel that as my job as a parent. With that said, HPS should be giving children all the tools and resources to go out into the world to function as an adult.

We need more opportunities for middle school and elementary students who are academically advanced.

We recognize the importance of teaching social skills and emotional growth. We are supportive of these efforts.

What do questions 57 and 58 mean?

What exactly are you referencing with the question that asks if HPS should "teach children to learn who they are as a person,"? What exactly would that entail? I do not want the school introducing/teaching gender identity to my child.

When it comes to students being prepared for "life" after high school I feel that the district is not giving a true representation of what "life" looks like. With multiple half days along with the extended breaks throughout the year. Most if not all jobs in the world do not offer a half day on a monthly basis and PTO in most cases is not 15 plus days a year. I also feel that the size of our student body in the high school far out weighs the capacity of our guidance counselors. So to say ALL students at HPS are set up and supported while attending the high school I would say no. For all students to be prepared for furthering their education ALL students would have a relationship with their GC and the GC would have a vested interest in each one of their students. With the amount of students assigned to each counselor it's impossible for this to be achieved. As for SEL, I feel strongly that it is not the place of the district to teach my children in this area. I understand that no two families are alike and that there is a need for some kids who struggle in the area of their emotions however, it is not a need for all students. Hasn't the faculty within HPS always been aware of their students needs and able to recognize such needs without a program in place? I believe that our faculty went into the field of educating for their love of kids and are more than capable of recognizing and walking along side their student in need or getting them in touch with another professional if they are unable to remedy the situation. If the district feels that the faculty are in need of training to be able to accomplish this maybe the district should reevaluate their staff members who lack in this area. I also have reservations on any teacher who does not have a degree in psychiatry leading any type of instructional education on emotions. This may potentially place our students and staff in a uncomfortable situation. Do I think my kids should know empathy and how to be empathetic towards one another absolutely. Do I think that the PBIS are the answer to teaching them that, No. I have first hand experience with how the elementary has changed over the course of the last 2 years since implementing this position within. In my experience it has not been beneficial for staff members or students who struggle with SEL and those who do not. The rewards for expected behavior to SE students is not a true representation of life in general. Playing with putty, or being rewarded with a fun computer game, or any type of positive reward after disrupting, disobeying, or even harming another peer is not a consequence. I also see how it affects students without SE needs and it is not positive. Some begin to display manipulative behavior just to receive the attention that is being given to the peer with SE behavior problems. They(student's without SE problems) also question their correct behavior, for example why when I follow a direction that is expected there's zero acknowledgement but when my classmate is being disruptive clearly not follow said direction they are now given special time out of class. I just do not believe that the program they implement is having a positive affect. I do think it's helpful for the teacher or principal to have extra hands in the building to assist when situations arise because unfortunately they do all too often, but from what I have experienced this role and curriculum being implemented is not the best fit. Lastly, question 57. & 58. I do not believe it is the job of my school district to teach anything in this area.

Where is the question about how satisfied I am with supports for writing, for those who don't qualify for special education? My answer is- not very for elementary school

While I agree the school should help teach/encourage a student to learn who they are, the parents are ultimately responsible for this and the school should not teach or encourage things that are in conflict with the family. It is important to learn actions have consequences and when mistakes are made, how to appropriately handle them.

While I'm very happy with Bauer and Hudsonville in general, I am amazed that they don't teach spelling at all? Seems like a misstep to me.

Wish there was more accelerated options or discussions with advanced students on courses to take in high school and what is needed to get into certain universities. Felt completely lost in the process. Wish they had more accelerated classes in middle school.

Would highly suggest updating the math, ELA and phonics curriculum. As mentioned above, what curriculum resources do teachers have available to them to use when students are not succeeding in math or reading? I haven't heard anything about this. Do you have enough staff available to support students who are not meeting expectations?

Would like to see more life skills classes offered - I.e. personal finance, resume writing, career guidance, foreign language.

Would love more exposure to a foreign language in the elementary grades, and wish you would bring back the spelling bee!

Would really encourage the district to start taking a closer look at reading research and align the curriculum to better serve ALL students. As a parent, when I know more about the Science of Reading movement and the importance of it than our teachers, we have a problem. We used to be a very forward moving and progressive district, it feels like now we are falling behind and waiting for others to do things first. We know better, we need to do better.

You should offer your after-school tutoring program more than just a few weeks out of the year, even if it is at a cost to the parent. Having a program that focuses on the correct areas would be highly beneficial. Your before and after school care should take into consideration that some kids live in two households and for example a parent may only need every other Wednesday and forcing them to pay for every Wednesday is a huge unnecessary expense for a single parent. There should also be more focus on growth/achievements and not as much on telling students how behind they are all the time. It always seems to be the same kids recognized and the same kids chosen for activities. Try picking some of the other kids and watch how they will rise to the occasion..

Young children need social emotional regulation before they can truly learn. All students need to feel safe in their environment for learning to happen.

Other residents (n = 7)

HPS should not be responsible alone for the teaching and actions of students. These questions are leading. Although many teachers make a huge difference in these themes (q 33 thru 62) in no way should this be a peanut butter spread approach when parents over index the involvement of their kids developments.

I would be happy to know hps is focusing on academics as a priority. Extra programs related to behavior waste time. Behavior has always been addressed in daily life, school life, and through parents.

It is the parents' job to help a child understand "who they are as a person"...NOT the school's.

No CRT!

Please trust the teachers. You hired them for their training and expertise

SEL curriculum is critical for our students. A better reading curriculum (science of reading) instruction would have helped my children become better readers and writers and enjoy it more.

Students and staff are not the cause of many of the problems facing the district, it is parents

Additional comments on Special Education Services

Q. Do you have any questions or comments Special Education Services?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ Several parents take the time to praise the HPS special education services and specific staff members
- ❖ More communication needed between Special Ed staff and parents
- ❖ Delays in establishing an IEP
- ❖ Some parents feel that special education services are not as available in middle school as they were at the elementary school level.

Current parents (n = 80)

All staff needs to be better trained to work with students with Cognitive Impairments now that most of these students are spending a majority of their day in gen ed classrooms. Clear expectations should be set for all parties.

Alward has been great about supporting special needs and academic concerns... I have not heard the same about other HPS elementary

As a district we need to help kids by getting them into the right special ed services faster.

As a growing school district, it would helpful to have all special education programs available at all elementary buildings so that children with special needs can go to their home school.

██████ is in desperate need of help in this area. They are failing to help many students that need interventions. Lots of unhappy parents at ██████.

Counselors in hs have too many kids. Took over a year to create a 504 plan

Elementary was on top of all of it, wonderful. Middle school has been so hands off and horrible with communication and follow up

Forrest Grove has a fantastic team and we are so thankful for them!! I cannot say enough good things about the support my son has at that school! Just such a wonderful team!

Happy with the 504 process

High school needs more special ed staff to help support the students

I brag about Hudsonville's special education programs all the time. You are doing great work. More behavior coaches, BCBAs, and ASD specialists are needed.

I do hope that my child gets the chance to experience electives. I would hate for him to be pigeon-holed into Resource room just because that's where he started in grade 6. However, I really don't know how the school feels about that.

I do not have any students personally that have IEP's however, I do have family within the district that have struggled for years with one of their children academically. I think the district can and needs to do better in this area. Maybe a little less focusing on the SEL, RULER, SOAR programs and use the resources to better this area of our school system.

I do not think the points system is teaching good behavior over bad behavior. There doesn't seem to be a lot of improvement. More social work needed

I feel like our inter-disciplinary team is so oriented on setting my daughter up for success. I thank God we were able to move to a school district who pushes to help kids who need interventions.

I had to get my daughter evaluated outside of the school system as the evaluation was not offered in the child study meeting. After I got her evaluated and presented clinical evidence of learning difficulties she was not offered special accommodations through a 504 plan right away it took me 12 months in conversations with the teacher and principal and after her performance significantly declined for them to grant her a 504 Plan. She just got approved in March 2023. The whole process I started it in September 2022.

I have a student being assessed for services right now. Our building (Bauer) staff has been extremely helpful in following through in my request for this assessment. While the after school or before school tutoring option is appreciated, small group help from non-specialized/trained individuals isn't working. We ended up paying for professional tutoring. It would be extremely helpful for the district to consider an updated evaluation regarding the tutoring programs offered.

I have been very frustrated with the special-needs department since my son has been attending Hudsonville public schools. Which has been seven years. There has been turnover every year. I have had to monitor every teacher and make sure that IEP goals are being worked on or met. It's been a very frustrating seven years. I may be homeschooling in the future.

I have only observed the special education services at Bauer and am completely satisfied with how the teachers, staff, and administration work with students to ensure they are receiving the services they need.

I love the Unified sports program!

I thought it was handled better at [REDACTED] with a separate Resource Room. I haven't seen as much progress this year at [REDACTED].

I'm sure [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] But why is [REDACTED] leading district-wide initiatives around [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should focus solely on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and hire someone else to handle the rest. No district in this area of your size follows your model of ONE PERSON being a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] NO. ONE.

IEP and 504's are not followed the way they should be and it's ridiculous to say a child in Elementary school is at fault for not advocating for themselves

If kids seem to need to be tested or evaluated for special services, it should be done quickly so it helps them be put on the right track early to help them get the most help at being successful at school. Some students may need the extra resource room help in certain areas, so they should be able to qualify for the help they need and then "graduate," from that help when they are able to perform at correct levels.

In my neighborhood, 3 families have had to move their home because HPS is not able to support their child with [REDACTED]. This is embarrassing and needs to change. Someone is moving their home because the Public school can't service them. This program has changed ever [REDACTED]. Educators are quitting because they do not have enough support with behavioral students. In a time where being an educator is not highly desired, someone needs to prioritize staffing needs to support teachers with behaviors or students not succeeding.

It is great to see the school continue to offer services and experiences for our special ed kids.

It took until 7th grade for me to even suggest an IEP and I had to get a diagnosis for anyone to listen to me

It would be helpful if resources were more readily available to students needing additional support but not necessarily IEP or 504

Love our school and what we provide for our special needs students

Many families face resistance and the transition from elementary to junior is less than ideal. Teachers in middle should be more communicative with parents of kids with special needs.

More emotional support services is needed for middle school & high school students in special education.

[REDACTED] (sp: [REDACTED]) is amazing I love how she encourages my child and pushes her and how she supports my thoughts as well

Much of this depends on the individuals involved.

My child did receive speech services but was recently exited.

My child had an IEP for speech and they were all amazing to work with.

My child has received so much support from the special education team.

My child is Not receiving special Ed, but Was evaluated and I was very satisfied with the process

My child who has vision tracking issues (diagnosed by [REDACTED]) was underserved by the special ed diagnostic services. They did not find any strengths and weaknesses so he did not qualify for any extra help, even though he was clearly struggling. It's ok though, when we removed him from HPS the teachers at his new school pretty quickly pinpointed the problem and we were able to diagnose him and get him the help he needs. He is reading world's better now and continues to improve.

My daughter is in speech and I felt very pressured to discontinue her speech services the moment they evaluated her at 80% and said it was good enough for them, even though she is still struggling to say words. I was told those should develop and if they don't I can re-open the IEP. Meanwhile, I hear parents are fighting to get IEPs open at this particular elementary. My other kids went through Bauer and I never had this much pressure to stop services, nor heard about problems opening IEPs.

My daughter struggles with reading at the 2nd grade level. She is receiving additional support. Speaking with a friend that is a teacher and reading specialist (not with Hudsonville currently but has great ideas and wants to help Hudsonville improve their Reading scores- she used to teach out East before moving to w michigan and has fantastic ideas and proven techniques) I feel more can be done. So many kids are struggling since Covid and masks caused delays. Contact [REDACTED] to learn more about her ideas and what they did when she taught out East to have top reading scores in the state

My daughter will have a 504 Plan in place for next year.

My son receives resource support. It was amazing in elementary. In middle school, the actual resource teacher is helpful, but it is a mixed response from classroom teachers. My daughter should receive additional support, but the school has been resisting this possibility for a long time even though I have asked for help and testing, and she is always in the red on any standardized evaluations.

My son was evaluated for EI only. He also has autism, so the rigid EI program did not meet his needs. We had to withdraw him from HPS for his safety and to keep him out of the court system. He was not getting an education. he was just spending time in seclusion and in-house due to his disabilities.

My son was exited from speech when he entered Hudsonville. I didn't feel he was ready, and was told he would have monthly check ins, but he fell through the cracks. This was a big concern when I switched districts that this would happen, and unfortunately, it did.

My son was on the "bubble" all through elementary. Until he got to 5th grade and I demanded he get tested. He now is in resource at the middle school and reading isn't really worked on anymore. He is now so far behind in reading and his confidence is terrible when it comes to and reading. I believe the school needs to step up quicker in these situations.

Not impressed with the work of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They claim to adhere to best practices, but this clearly demonstrates they don't understand their students and current research.

Our child was recently diagnosed with learning disabilities through. Third party doctor. We then had to go through another evaluation process where our child did not qualify for special education services. We felt the amount of accommodations made during the evaluations swayed the results and did not give an adequate representation of our child's disability.

Our freshman participates in the "year long" math program. After struggling in Middle School with Cs and Ds, it was recommended our student take year long in 9th grade, and now earns As and Bs. Knowing there is before/after school tutoring available is a bonus for ALL students.

Parents should have access to the trays they give kids that determine the level of knowledge they have or don't have

Please call if you would like more specifics. Our experience has not been a positive one.

Special education does not only apply to academics. I am jumping through hoops to try to get help needed but because there grades are satisfactory I'm told they don't qualify for an iep. But yet the school calls, emails and texts me weekly to do early pick ups because of meltdowns. Despite numerous diagnosis, doctors and therapists recommendations school denies the help.

The ECC is amazing. Every person has been instrumental in my child's success. I can see that my child is truly cared for as a person, which is causing him to thrive.

The individualized education plan is not individualized. It is formulated to benefit the district over the student. Only with strong advocacy are individualized student needs partially met. It is as though the district is trying to make it difficult on families with special needs to get them to leave the district. If you look at the data, they are succesful. Which is sad for such a well funded district.

The principal did not sit in on the re-evaluation meeting a few years in a row. He is supposed to be present for said meeting.

The schools have been amazing for my daughter and she adores her SPED teacher at Jamestown Upper. We are now going through the same evaluation process with my son at the lower, and I'm glad I get to deal with the same people.

The speech teachers at the ECC and Jamestown Lower have been excellent!

The staff who work with my child at HPS are wonderful. Sometimes the process, collaboration, and teamwork on the IEP team seems to be harder than it ought to be.

There are many students who need special education support in order to be successful but do not receive it. Can we please stop seeing an IEP as a death sentence, but instead view it as a solution to a child's frustration and failure in a 25:1 student to teacher ratio classroom?!

There are too many students with emotional and behavioral issues that are taking too much of the teacher's attention and taking away learning opportunities from the general students in the regular ed. classrooms. While having an LD (ie. Down's Syndrome) student may add to the culture of the classroom, a student who is acting out in a tantrum may actually create more dissension between sped. and gen. ed. student. and take away the educational benefit for both parties.

There is a significant gap between elementary and middle school. I felt much more involved during elementary being able to respond close to real time and help challenges that arise and praise for successes. There is very little information in middle school unless a major meltdown occurs.

There needs to be a better balance between focusing on Special Education Services and focusing on the gen Ed students

They are doing an amazing job with my daughter.

This process seems to be a battle. If the school district really wants to help ALL learners, why do parents have to fight in order to get the necessary supports in place? Parents and HPS staff members are on the same team. Please make IEPs, 504s and other special need resources more apparent and more documentation on how to pursue them.

This support is limited to only certain needs that qualify, with a lot if students who struggle and can't receive support because they don't qualify for any thing.

Unless there are more questions on the next page that might pertain to Special Education Services, I'm kind of surprised that there is only three questions.

Unsafe environments are not being handled for staff and other student's.

Was in iep program but due to issues with the program left the iep program last trimester..did not help in any way

We are not a part of the Special Education program.

We did speech in early childhood. He improved to the point of no longer needing services

We don't have special ed but heard good things

We had a huge issue with our son when moving to the area. His IEP that was created and in place from [REDACTED] was thrown out and a re eval was done in 45 min with 5 adults and I was given the information that he didn't qualify. I was so upset. He struggled through his first year of Kindergarten without extra support until I had him diagnosed medically from the autism clinic at Helen Devos with autism, anxiety and ADHD. He ended up repeating kindergarten by my request and with the IEP that he should have had all along.

We have had amazing support by the teachers at both the ECC and our elementary school. They really care about our child and are receptive to our concerns. The goals that we can get into the IEP seem appropriate and challenging at the same time. However, I personally find [REDACTED] very difficult to work with. With [REDACTED] present in our meetings there is a tension and loss of collaboration. [REDACTED] lacks empathy and creates a defensive atmosphere where the decision-making seems to lie solely with [REDACTED] and not the full group of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] around the table.

We love the speech language pathologists and are so grateful for them! They are super heroes :)

We need better inclusion practices!

We should do whatever it takes to help those that need help

What a great team of special people that work hard to take care of the kids.

When I requested services in the past it was like pulling teeth to have someone evaluate my child even at the request and suggestion of a primary care doctor. Which encouraged us to find another district for that child that would meet his needs better.

Why is there not an option to have before/after school care? Why is there not an option to have free summer tutoring offered.

Other residents (n = 2)

Often, at elementary levels, children are lashing out at teachers with behavior issues. They are rewarded for doing so.

Replace son/daughter language with student or child

Additional comments on Performing and Fine Arts

Q. Do you have any questions or comments about Performing and Fine Arts?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ A number of parents take the time to applaud the Performing and Fine Arts programs and individual staff members.
- ❖ Some parents do not want 6th-graders to be required to take a music program.
- ❖ More art, music and theater choices and opportunities in their schools, especially at the elementary school level.
- ❖ More funding and support for the performing and visual arts.

Current parents (n = 89)

Are there opportunities for one-on-one music lessons/tutoring? Or, must that be found privately?

At [REDACTED] my daughter will not be continuing in choir because of the lack of emotional intelligence of her teacher. [REDACTED] has single-handedly ruined her love of music. So disappointing.

At this age level, performing and Fine arts should be a hobby NOT a priority. Although I agree that Performing arts can be beneficial to school age children, I do not think it should take president over academics.

Beautiful music programs

Craig VanderWall does a phenomenal job managing so many activities!!

Do not force fine arts on middle school children. It will ruin it for the children who actually do enjoy it

Fully believe kids should be involved in some way in fine arts

Great high school band program! Mr Vanderwall is great and has encouraged my son and pushed him to be better.

High School drama should consider competing at the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association's state championship.

High school play tickets should be cheaper. They need a booster program/sponsorship to make this more accessible which will help build the program. It's expensive to take my young kids to a musical. Jenison's are cheaper (and maybe better).

I absolutely love Orchestra and the Orchestra program. I am very happy that the middle school has the requirement now for Performing Arts. My children love music. My daughter feels like her Orchestra class is like an extended family.

I am disappointed that many of the holiday programs feature a significant amount of Christian-based music.

I am happy that the Arts are valued in Hudsonville! I would like to see more emphasis placed on the VISUAL arts, and not just the performing arts.

I am very upset about the change to required performing arts for 6th graders. I think it should be up to the family to decide if their child is going to participate with music programs not a forced decision

I do not feel that 6th graders should be forced to take a music but not a PE class

I do not think that all incoming 6th graders should be forced to take a music class. They have gone through all of elementary taking music that is plenty

I don't think band or choir should be required for incoming middle school students. I understand about expanding knowledge but it should be up to the student if they want to play an instrument or sing in a choir.

I don't think there should be requirements for performing arts or fine arts at middle school or high school levels. These should be elective only.

I feel like attention is only given to the students in Varsity Voices/Musical. My daughter is in choir and going to the concerts many times Varsity Voices is singing 2-4 songs while the other choir groups are only performing 1-2. My daughter has also stated the [REDACTED] has left the class unattended during "[REDACTED]" performance lead up and excused those students that are performing to practice during their choir hour. This is supposed to be an extracurricular activity that should be taking place outside of school hours. Not leaving those who are not participating sitting in a classroom with TA.

I haven't had experience with this yet

I wish choir started in upper elementary like it did when I went to school.

I would like to see more fine arts opportunities for elementary aged students. I would like to see an equal focus on fine arts as athletics.

I would like to see more opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in performing arts at the middle school level

I would like to see opportunities for elementary grades

I would love the Marching band to grow and do more serious shows. Better instruction to gain more talent and awards.

I'm thankful that HPS values performing and fine arts in a well rounded education.

I'm concerned about the cost of marching band in high school.

Is there a way that students could do both foreign language and choir and have some sort of option for an elective as well? Could we improve or add in some fun song choices at the middle school level choir to make it a little more relevant and appealing to keep kids wanting to stay in the choir?

It might be interesting to see a collaboration between performing and visual arts, much like how Opera GR will often work with Kendall College in creation of sets, costumes etc. If departments (Business Finance, Graphic design, arts, audio visual, choir, orchestra, band etc) pulled with school productions as a common goal, this could (potentially) increase student involvement.

It's a shame that our Winter Percussion is at a disadvantage because they have to cut willing, talented participants because we don't have enough instruments. For a district of our size and "reputation," that's shameful. We throw money at certain athletic programs; we like to say we're for ALL students, but the reality of how we allocate our resources would disagree.

It's a well known fact by the students that the only kids who get parts in the musical are on choir for 4 years and take voice lessons, regardless of the skill that a student trying out has. If you are Celine Dion but haven't been in the choir, forget about getting a part in any musical performance.

It's always the same kids in plays/musicals til they graduate would be nice to see new faces

Lacks staff and resources for this size of school

Lessening the time commitment for Marching Band would be helpful.

Let kids who play sports also play in marching band

Love Mr. B at Park!

Loved Joseph and Matilda Jr. Such talent!

Middle grader selected the option but not yet entitled to fine arts.. looking forward next year

Middle school band and orchestra teachers are amazing! High school orchestra is excellent, but a little intimidating to students who are not at the top level.

More focus needs to be placed on performing arts. The size of the high school band was sad this year. I know from middle school students a lot of the kids quit because the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are not well liked. I loved my choir teachers in Jenison when I grew up. It's sad to hear of mass quitting because of the teachers

More opportunities for elementary students to experience fine arts - acting, dancing, singing, instruments . . .

Mr. Jacobs, at Baldwin St. is EXCEPTIONAL!

Mr. VanderWal and the bands are OUTSTANDING! It has been a positive experience in every way!

Mr. VanderWall is a great example of a teacher who wants the best for kids of every background. Great article feature recently!

Mr. Vanderwall has welcomed my son into his program and has provided so many opportunities for him to grow in band which in turn has made him grow as a person the family that is created in band will definitely be something he takes with him.

Not happy that Baldwins concert on May 10 starts at 8 pm. My son is in 6th grade and normally goes to bed at 8:30, same as his 7 year old sister. Not looking forward to a later at night concert on a school night. Would rather them just change the date.

Our band program is amazing!!!! Loren Koella, Zack Jacobs, and Craig Vanderwall do a phenomenal job. I worry about what is going to happen as we add the 5/6 building and make music mandatory. They are already spread so thin and I heard a rumor that the district is not going to be hiring more band directors. I'm not really sure how Hudsonville district is supposed to grow a program when you are not adding more qualified instructors. There is realistically NO WAY one person can fit instruments, teach kids how to play an instrument correctly, and do all the other things band directors do. If you look at other competitive bands in the area, their band programs have directors and assistant directors in addition to more support. It would also be nice if marching band was made mandatory. With the size of our school, we just can't compete with the size of the other marching bands that are as big as our district.

Our child loved all things music until he was in with [REDACTED]. They got off on the wrong foot and he quit all music after freshman year. It might not hurt to diversify so that the music programs aren't entirely driven by one personality

Our daughter loved being part of the children's chorus for Joseph this spring. I think it's powerful to introduce elementary school students to theater.

Our marching band and its involvement in community events is embarrassing. We have a school of 2000 students and a band that has barely 100 members. This is a symptom of a bigger problem within the band program. Give our younger students in the district, and the community as a whole, something to look forward to and be proud of!

Our marching band seems to continually be a mid-to-bottom tier program, and that seems to be fine with [REDACTED]

Our son did 6th grade band for the first time this year. I've been very impressed with the program and how much the kids have learned. The performances have been so much fun to attend and I like that we get to see & utilize the high school theatre.

Over the past decade, HPS has made incredibly good strides in this area. There is always room for growth, but we need to recognize that we quite likely have the most talented teaching staff that HPS has ever had. We should be honored to have them in our district.

Performing Arts center was built too small for the growth being expected. For Marching Band, I feel like there needs to be a stronger desire to want to compete better. For as large as a school as we have and being a Flight One school, we compete like we are a Flight 3 school. Need to address how we get additional participation in the program. Option include requiring Freshmen to compete at no cost the first year, additional school funding to reduce family costs, or possibly combining programs (e.g. Allendale and Unity could join our marching band program).

Please don't forget about the importance of the arts! I love sports, but the arts are equally as important.

Please plan ahead for student count when making additions to the school

Please restrain from spending any more taxpayer dollars on auditoriums

Should not be required in middle or high school

Something needs to be done with marching band to increase numbers. For a district as big as we are, our numbers should be higher.

The auditorium needs investment in the purchase of more lights and a student staff. Other high schools have a lot more resources for this.

The band and orchestra programs teachers have different expectations. My child who struggled with school was accepted and encouraged by the high school band teacher. My child who excelled in school and athletics and received a D1 scholarship was told repeatedly by the orchestra teacher that she didn't try hard enough. When she would repeatedly ask what she could do to improve her score was informed grading was subjective and there wasn't anything she could do outside of what she was already doing. Orchestra ended up bringing down her entire high school GPA so she was forced to quit. I am a firm believer in arts education - kids minds need arts and music education. The experience with Mr. Vanderwall had an extremely positive impact on my children. My son to this day will mention how much Mr. Vanderwall meant to him.

The band program seems weak, but like my previous comments, band is not a critical academic content the schools should be focusing on.

The elementary holiday program was very nicely done.

The elementary program we attended at Christmas time seemed watered down

The equipment needs to be updated and the art department needs a full overhaul to their classrooms

The Middle School orchestra program has changed my daughter's life. It is amazing!

The one part I see missing here, and pardon if it is in a later part of the survey, is visual arts. That should have equal footing

The Orchestra Team is firing on all cylinders. Please keep supporting this program, the staff are so good for kids!

The performing and fine arts programs need more money for staffing. The band program is definitely lacking for the number of teachers/staff members to run a successful program.

The programs have grown substantially since my older kids were in school. It has been exciting to see more opportunities for kids. Thank you teachers for taking on these challenges!

The teachers and programs available in the fine arts are growing in numbers, talent, and excellence. The teaching staff is amazingly talented and should be fostered.

There are fantastic band and orchestra instructors at both the middle school and high school level! The district should be proud of how these instructors and the obvious energy and care that they put into their students.

There wasn't enough room for all children to participate in Jr high. As is usual, when this happens, the students who are quieter, more reserved, are overlooked and the usual kids get into the stage crew.

These teachers/instructors have a passion for teaching the students. Little is more important in shaping future leaders than the passion of their current teachers and the potential they see in their students.

They need musicals and such with many more parts, or more productions in which the same students are not regularly awarded the roles. Hudsonville is huge and many kids don't even audition because they know that the teacher has favorites.

Too much pressure it out on kids to participate in these.

Unfortunately at the high school level the band and choir teachers are not operating in emotionally healthy ways and I have had 2 children and several nieces drop out of participation because these teachers are not managing their own stress levels and modeling healthy relationship skills with the students.

Vanderwall is an amazing band director. Seeing how much work he puts in at night and on weekends is incredible. We should consider ourselves lucky to be blessed with such an exemplary instructor.

Very impressive

We have been highly disappointed with the performing arts program in Hudsonville. The educational focus and community support feels more like an "afterthought" when compared to the strong support for athletics, which all of our children participate in and why we have felt such a contrast. The quality of instruction at the high school level is poor when it comes to orchestra. There are no incentives to be challenged, no real motivation to play at a higher level.... students advise it is a casual program with a very subjective based placement to be a part of the "highest" orchestra which perhaps is based on social preference than talent/potential/performance. One only needs to look at the declining enrollment of students each year as students advance. Other parents have told our family we should have moved to Jenison if we wanted our children to be exposed to quality performing arts programs, which is unfortunate because performing arts is also essential to a student's education and development - especially in such a large school district like HPS, where the athletic opportunities may not be there for all students that desire it. A large marching band or LARGE advanced orchestra that competes in festivals or participates in the pit for school musicals offers additional students opportunities to grow and belong.

We need more options and more staff to provide those options! Like a full symphony class, not just an after school opportunity (teachers can't do it all after school). An assistant director of bands at high school. A band instructor at the 5/6 building and then one at each middle. Unless they are half time, there shouldn't be sharing between buildings if it means we can provide more opportunities. Theory classes separately offered instead of students dual enrolling. Our performing arts teachers are amazing!!! They are doing what they can to provide what they can but they use seminar and after school and it should be taught in the school day. More recognition for the arts that do perform after school and evenings. The musical gets a lot of recognition but frankly the community is straight up disrespectful during marching band performances. Students have just last year actually sat to watch but parents in the stands talk, shout and don't pay attention to our band. This does not happen in other districts. They probably need more funding too.

What about regular art courses? We need more visual art courses and larger facilities. You have invested lots of money into the performing arts, but none into the visual arts. The new fine arts center is for the performing arts, NOT the visual arts. When are they going to become a priority.

Why do we not allow students to pick an instrument of their choice? How do we make the decision so quickly that an instrument is not fit for a student? Don't we think they'd be more engaged to learn it if it was their choice?

Wish band students had to do marching band. The size of our marching band doesn't reflect the size of our high school

With a district Hudsonville's size would love to see more emphasis on improving the quality of marching band and performing arts. We seem to focus very heavily on athletics while our neighbor in Jenison has a way better balance and more successful program.

With a student population as large as we have, I feel our band and orchestra numbers are suffering.

Wonderful opportunities. It is difficult for students to participate in the performing and fine arts and sports.

Would love to see funding expanded for fine arts and theatre as all kids can participate and benefit. Feel it should be required at least one year participation. It also is shown to improve math and reading

Other residents (n = 2)

Very fine program. My family has enjoyed and benefitted from. Character building.

We appreciate all you do!

Additional comments on Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs

Q. Do you have any questions or comments about Extra-Curricular Activities and Clubs, excluding athletics and the arts?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ Parents want to receive more information about the extra-curricular activities and clubs available for their children.
- ❖ Elementary school parents seek more extra-curricular activities and clubs for their children.
- ❖ Special ed parents seek more extra-curricular activities and clubs for their children.

Current parents (n = 58)

Available times for extra-curricular activities should be more flexible for families with alternative daily schedules.

Better communication is needed

Chess, debate, robotics, ski, and many other clubs for kids to be involved with. Love it.

Consider posting daily announcements online for middle school, like the high school does, so that parents can have conversations with students to explore their interests.

Didn't find out until it was over

Do not have children at this age level yet to answer, but feel that intramural sports needs to be added to give more kids a chance to play given the school size

Extra-curricular activities are so important to a child's overall growth and college admission. It's also important socially, teaches many lessons that are useful in being an employee in the future, and gives students a positive way to use their time. There should be significantly more emphases at the middle school level on extra-curricular activities and clubs.

HHS has no presence in this area thus why soooo many kids do not apply for national honors society. If you do not achieve hours through CHURCH (I am a Christian fyi) then there is a non existence of clubs or extracurricular, thus the lack of campus culture and thus the lack of investment of student in their HS experience. Sports and choir, and the plays is All we have .

I am grateful to the teachers who have provided so many different club opportunities for students.

I am unaware of any lists or options for any given grade. I have a kids interesting in swimming but don't know what grade the "swim team" starts. is there a list of these and what grades they start

I don't feel there is much or are aware of

I know the high school the kids see the opportunities for other extra-curricular activities, but it really is hard to help encourage students if parents don't know what other things their kids can get involved in.

I learned during a parent-teacher conference that my daughter had directed a play and was in a writing club. Even though that method of becoming informed was awkward (my daughter won't speak to me), I am beyond grateful for parent-teacher conferences to help parents in my situation. It is the most crucial news source about my children in my kind of situation.

I never hear about any opportunities unless it is in the community ed brochure.

I think the community education webpage for swimming needs to be improved as it is difficult to find information about swimming lessons or other pool activities.

I wish there were intramural sports for 6-8th graders, especially for the students being cut from sports teams. We have students quitting sports in 7th grade when they are cut and thus not getting the opportunity to play again.

I wish there were more opportunities for 6th graders.

I would like to clubs made available for special education students

I would like to see more offerings for elementary aged students.

I'm not aware of many clubs at the middle school...athletics yes, musical yes, but not sure about other things.

I'm not aware of the extra curricular offerings for high school

Is there a way to have lacrosse be a middle school sport vs. league? Or art class outside of school for middle school?

It has been challenging for my children to find information and get involved with sports, clubs and other extra curriculars

It would be great to receive a list of clubs, etc. as parents so that we can encourage our kids. I'm aware that there are clubs, but I am not sure what they are.

It would be great to start a field hockey team

It would be nice if there were more clubs in middle school.

It's disappointing Hudsonville High School doesn't offer intramural sports considering it's size.

Love that there are clubs offered, just wish there was better communication about them.

Middle school is a joke. Don't hear anything.

Middle school sports overlap many other extracurricular activities. I wish the coaches and staff would be more understanding that students have to spread themselves thin. Winning is not number one at this age!

Middle schools need clubs for students to connect. The transition to 6th grade is challenging. minimal athletic options for 6th graders, even in terms of clubs offered

More money and instruction should be on band. Mr. vanderwall needs an assistant to grow the program. Please stop telling him he needs to grow the program without telling him how hit the bar is that is still unreachable. Year after year he has needs and or seemed help to be shut down by the board. He's been teaching for over 20 years and now the middle school teachers of band have to teach at the 5/6 building or have others who are not qualified to teach students. Thir band program is in need of help. Stop leaving these students in the dust when all sports etc come before music. Parents pay a hefty price for instruments and are in it for the long haul it's time to step up and assist mr vanderwall instead of him needing college students to donate time and help attempt to grow the program. It's a simple solution. Please take the time to understand how this works instead of just saying no. Our students need and deserve this. Mr vanderwall is amazing and it's time he had a little relief.

Need more life skills classes. Music is nice but I plung the toilet more and fix things around the house than play the an instrument. Cooking and home ech is needed badly!! Lean so sow, caulk, replace a faucet. I teach my kids life skills so they're not reliant on someone else.

Need more sports for those who aren't in the "top 10". Pretty sad with a district our size we can only have the "travel teams" make the varsity teams and those that don't travel but still want to play can't!

No middle school baseball team? Missing a big opportunity here.

Not all clubs are well run by the overseeing staff. I have seen staff with high expectations for their students but can't seem to hold themselves to the same standards. That is disappointing.

Not familiar with extra curricular or club opportunities for middle schoolers

Our family isnt really into extra curricular activities

Robotics is good. Our science Olympiad teams are outstanding and probably a lot of people have no idea about that. We hear very little about anything not athletic. I have already commented on performing arts. Basically we can do better here.

Robotics paired my impressionable middle school students with high school students who consistently use vulgarity in conversations. This turned them off completely to Robotics and they won't pursue it going forward. I think this is a huge loss.

Since HPS has decided to stay 1 large high school. In order to give students more opportunities, it would be good to add many more extra-curr. and club sports for those that would never make a cut sport.

The communication that comes from the Community Ed department is awesome. We have signed up our kids for numerous sports and activities and camps because of the communication and info that has come from Community ED newsletters. The Middle School info on the other hand has been terrible quite honestly. There should be info coming home to parents on when sports/tryouts are happening. I'd love to see extracurricular offerings being promoted to parents so we can help get our kids involved. Its been really suprising the drop off of after school activities from Elementary to the Middle School. Its not enough to put a sign up sheet out for Middle school kids to expect them to remember or care enough to sign up. parents can and should be pushing and promoting physical & social activities through these programs at school and we are not seeing ANY information it seems.

The Community Ed department does a great job with communication available opportunities. Perhaps a scholarship fund could become available for those who wish to participate but do not have the funds? Make it available to those students on a free or reduce lunch?

There are definitely some questionable "clubs" at the school that do not add to the high school experience as a whole. Save those groups for off campus/personal time, they don't belong at or supported by the school.

There are soooo many opportunities for kids to become involved and feel connected with the school.

There doesn't seem to be any clear authority over these other activities. We were very upset with how our son was treated this year in Robotics by the [REDACTED], the teams were not fair or balanced and he desperately wanted to continue after Christmas but wasn't allowed because the 3 freshmen on his team were told it was OK to quit and 1 man teams weren't allowed. He was on the State Championship team last year and not even being able to go compete at state was hard for him this year. The [REDACTED] appears to pick winners and losers and all the kids deserve the same opportunities to succeed and be competitive in scholarship opportunities. We have no idea where to even look to report what we believe is unacceptable behavior by the [REDACTED] of the program.

There is nothing for kids with emotional disabilities.

There should be middle school baseball. Also cooking classes for middle schoolers.

Throughout their high school years, my children (one of which was an athlete) voiced concerns of the priority of athletics in the high school over all other extra-curricular activities. Do administrators track which events they attend in each category. Do they understand that the same values they will preach are important lessons in sports are achieved in these other activities do as well? Do they also know these other activities may lead to scholarships and well paying careers.

We do love the opportunity for non-athletic kids to have clubs, especially in middle school!

We don't hear about opportunities.

We have a child who has participated in robotics for 9 years at HPS. While this program has certainly grown in this time, it is discouraging and disappointing to see the difference in how this program is valued at HPS compared with neighboring districts like Jenson and Grandville. This is an extracurricular activity that can directly translate into career opportunities, which is not true for the vast majority of athletic participants. We have athletes too but we'd like to see HPS show just a sliver of support to robotics that is shown to "major" sports like football.

We have a good community education program that is offered, but it is unaffordable due to our partnerships with local businesses rather than our own recreation programs.

With a school this big students need to find their groove.... No matter what it is they need somewhere to belong. There are not nearly enough activities for the amount of students in the district.

Would like to see intramural sports and activities in addition to the JV and Varsity sports. Kids need more positive outlets and sports can provide that. Positive role models through sport coaches who can teach life skills through sport is extremely valuable.

Would love more options for middle school kids to try things before having to choose a path in High school.

Would love to see more middle school clubs for golf

Other residents (n = 0)

Additional comments on Athletics

Q. Do you have any questions or comments about Athletics?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ Parents definitely would welcome intramural sports to enable more kids to be able to participate.
- ❖ Parents continue to write about how Hudsonville's size and no second high school limit athletic team opportunities to only a few kids and "many talented kids don't get a chance to play."
- ❖ Coaches rely too much on their players to inform their parents, and ask for more direct and more frequent communications.
- ❖ Of course, some parents do not like how certain coaches coach their sport and team, especially with respect to favoring certain players over others.
- ❖ Some parents feel boys sports and teams are still supported more than girls teams.

Current parents (n = 138)

All athletic programs we have been involved in through Hudsonville have been great. One thing Hudsonville definitely does well.

Are there thoughts on adding a gymnastics team?

As a community and school district, we put too much emphasis on sports. We need to focus more on education and let sports be a way to motivate and engage the students in their education.

As our classes are getting bigger, we need to adjust and offer more opportunities for all students to get involved in sports if they are interested. Cuts on teams at the high school that never used to happen, now are common. Those kids don't have any alternatives currently and many are interested in still playing the sport. Intramural sports would give all kids an opportunity to play. Of all of the sports that we have participated in, boys soccer (freshmen, JV and varsity) needs to be reevaluated. The coaches don't get along, our program is unsuccessful (excluding JV this season), and the communication to parents is poor. In comparison to Rockford and Caledonia, our soccer program is not competitive. It doesn't help that the [REDACTED] is not a Hudsonville Public Schools Employee, so he doesn't have the vested interest in the program like a teacher would. There is NO evaluation system for coaches. Parents complain, but coaches stay in their spot until they quit. Teachers have evaluations. Why don't coaches? Parents have complained for years, but nothing has changed in regards to bad coaches staying.

As our district grows, only 12 - 14 students can participate on many varsity athletic teams. Get an intramural program going (or actually let staff who want to start it, do it). Our kids will FLOURISH in these environments.

Athletes are given a pass during season. They're not disciplined for athletic code violations. Rather Teachers, administrators and coaches look the other way. Students know this and laugh about it.

Athletic booster program needs to be updated.

Athletics are good, but the current culture has not supported well the opportunity for your average student to participate. Requiring kids to be on travel teams/ or just having that as a huge advantage is unfair. Let's be competitive, but let's temper that with emphasis on playing and behaving your best and letting more kids have a chance to participate.

Baseball opportunities in Middle School.

Because our district is so big it's very competitive for students to get on a team. Some talented kids don't get a chance to play

Because we are such a large district, team sports are not an option for many kids. I would love to see intramural sports options at all levels.

Consider adding a Rowing team. GVSU has one and perhaps shared facilities/coaching could be used to quickly establish an additional option for students who haven't been playing baseball/football/soccer/etc 50 weeks a year since they were 8.

Elementary recess should be for play, not teacher organized intramurals requiring a sign up commitment.

Elementary school sports are impossible to navigate. I spend so much time trying to track down information. It's inconsistent, difficult to find and lacks enough information.

Especially at the high school level, coaches are more likely to have more of an influence over student-athletes than teachers, which is why communication, maturity, and objectivity is crucial at this level. I have been on the receiving end of this comment from both longtime HPS parents/residents and non-residents... "it is who you know." At first, this sounded RIDICULOUS - but unfortunately we have had experiences personally and with other families where this seems to ring true, which is also RIDICULOUS. In regard to intramurals, it would be a GREAT for students have the opportunity to participate in school-sponsored intramural programs. It is a shame that many students who want to continue to receive the positive mental and physical aspects of sports programs are not able due to the large enrollment at HPS. If structured in the right way, which could be funded by low registration fees, this could be a really positive program!

Get rid of the politics for tryouts

Girls sports needs more support. The soccer field is a joke. They should be playing on the turf field for all games... HPS has gotten to big, students are getting cut from teams or not trying out at all be it's so limited...example: 90 girls tried out for 3 soccer teams... we easily could have 2 varsity teams... this goes for many other sports

Girls sports times for weight room got bumped for boys times even though girls had that time slot for two and a half months previously. Girls got bumped from open gym practice for boys to use

High school athletics are very competitive causing anxiety for parents and students if they will make a team even with a lot of experience. Also I believe it's causing parents to consider other schools so their kid can make the team. There has to be better options that hudsonville can offer.

██████████ coach is awful. Punished my son by not playing him all season when he was out for part of the summer recovering from a concussion. My son has played ██████████ since 3rd grade! Dropping out of ██████████ his senior year this year because he never got playing time. Many parents complained that the coach just played the same kids over and over. The players were tired telling their parents they wanted time out and couldn't get it. We lost numerous games when we were up many points because of fatigue. My son was a ██████████ and I'm not taking a bias position. MANY parents noticed but can't complain because our kids will ride the bench even more. AWFUL coach. Our other kids are in Grandville and now I understand why their team is so much better.

Home grown and special treatment for those coaches and their children. Boys sports get ALL the hype, girls soccer is starting to get respect because finally a quality coach was hired and is respected.

HPS is growing and I think it's really important for ALL students to be able to participate in athletics if they want. The more opportunity the better. if this means more intramural sports opportunities so that all students can participate.

Hudsonville has grown into a huge district from when my husband went to school here (graduated in 1998). We moved from a much smaller district (Wayland) and have been overwhelmed by the turnout for sports. Our son tried out for middle school basketball and unfortunately didn't make a team as over 40 boys tried out and even with 2 middle schools-only 2 teams were created and a little over 20 kids were picked. I wish Hudsonville either offered more team options or allowed the Hudsonville rec dept to offer basketball options past 6th grade to account for those boys that don't make the middle school teams. It's sad we have to travel outside of our community to give our son basketball experiences to help his skill in hopes of making the team the next season.

Hudsonville is so big it is very hard to make a team. We should have more than one team for certain sports to give kids a better opportunity to play. There are just too many kids that attend this school but amount of space on teams.

I am not a sports type person so I don't follow this well enough

I am not happy that the "B" teams for athletics cost an additional fee to play. It should be the same cost as the other players and they should provide a bus to get the kids to games so that parents don't have to leave work early to get them to games or practice.

I find it interesting how when there were snow days this past season, the basketball games were still on, but on a different occasion when there was a snow day, the band event that was scheduled was cancelled. Seems a bit off balance with how much emphasis is placed on sports (and the school dance which also was not cancelled) versus other opportunities for kids.

I think a B team for both Riley and Baldwin Middle schools is essential to keep the most possible kids engaged for as long as possible.

I think a lot of kids would play for fun and helps them to continue to be active and relieve some stress anxiety. Not all kids are competitive. It's one of the biggest highlights in college so not sure why we don't do in high schools.

I think it's very unfair that girls have no basketball teams or leagues or more sports they can do for graded kindergarten to 2nd grade. My daughter loved doing basketball but they no longer have girls leagues. It's very sexist since boys can play basketball football baseball all at young ages. Very disappointed in the athletic offerings for younger girls

I think that our middle school doesn't offer as many opportunities as some other districts like baseball.....and for 6th graders. I'd love to see intramurals at the upper elementary because it seems like it would help reduce issues on the playground...some of these kids (mine included) are trying to run their own pick up games and it doesn't always go well...they just don't have the maturity to navigate conflict, fair play, good sportsmanship, etc. I know that the high school could use intramurals so that more students can participate in sports that cut for example basketball.

I think that the larger the HS gets, the less students are able to get involved. I've long been a supporter of splitting the district. We have two middle schools, why not two high schools?

I would like to see character development on teams held to as high of standards as academic performance. I don't see this as true in all programs.

I would like to see more organized groups or sports for grades 2

I'd like to see a middle school baseball team. I think with how big our district is we should have intramural teams so more kids can still participate in athletics.

If the middle school has sports available outside of hudsonville community ed, we have not had any notification about it.

If you don't know someone, or have the last name, you won't be given an opportunity in boys sports. You will either not make it or will sit the bench. They don't even know their names.

In my opinion, participation in athletics at HPS is limited to the upper middle class who can afford it. I am unaware of any community based resources to help lower income families get their children involved in community rec sports and support them through middle and high school athletics. As a member of [REDACTED] Parent club, we had a parent reach out to us, at the direction of HPS community rec program director, looking for support to send her sons to a youth [REDACTED] camp held at the high school. We reached out to community rec and were told that there is nothing in place to support families experiencing hardship! HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?!! The amount of fundraising the individual teams conduct is mind blowing. In addition to pay to play, some athletes are being asked to raise upwards of \$1,000 for a single SEASON?!! As a family who will have 3 high school students at one time, this seems like an impossible feat. There are also severe inequities between athletic programs offered. ZERO transportation for golf team members to their practices and matches?? No uniforms provided for the golf team? Once again, limiting this sport to families with money and stay at home parents who can drive their kids to and fro whenever needed. But, let's support a bond to fund a new multi million dollar field house for the good old boys of Hudsonville. Where are our priorities? So disappointing and embarrassing.

Intramural programs allow students to stay involved in an activity they enjoy they.

Intramural sports is a great idea. As we grow as a district there will be fewer and fewer opportunities for "regular" kids to participate in sports. Sometimes kids want to play a sport just because they love to play, not because they are the best and IMs could offer that. Being part of a team and having a sense of belonging is something we want for all of our students and IMs is a way to foster that.

Intramural sports is an excellent idea!

Intramural would be great for the kids that get cut. I see kids shooting hoops in the Aux gym before school and I think these students would love it if it was organized and competitive.

Intramurals are a great idea in a district this size where it's so tough to make a team.

It is amazing what Hudsonville is willing to allow their coaches to get away with as long as the team is winning enough. Bullying athletes, swearing at athletes during practice and half time. If a teacher behaved that way they would be fired immediately. Hudsonville sports is not known in the broader community for being good sports.

It is sad that middle school students are cut.

It would be great to have club teams not through community ed, but through the school to help with the level of play. For example, if someone enjoys volleyball, but wants to play more for the enjoyment/social piece, it would be better to have a club team than to try to make a highly competitive team.

It seems (perception) that unless you are able to provide your kids with the best money can buy when it comes to training and travel teams (off season) your child doesn't have an opportunity all. And nowadays kids have to start at too young an age and if you can't provide the best and the costs your kid isn't doing those things. Intramural opportunities may alleviate some of that. I think most of our coaches have good attitudes and intentions with our athletes and their citizenship but when the athlete doesn't meet the expectations, it seems in some cases that parents oppositions take precedence over holding kid to expectations. There are disturbing and disgusting stories that have gone around about some behaviors with baseball players and football players. And unless the stories are untrue the players always seem to make it to the field. If they are true, what does that say about the value of character of the coaches, athletes and district? Yikes!!!

It would be nice to have a boys middle school baseball program. It's also very hard with our school sizes for try outs to be fair. When you have 60 kids trying out how are you accurately judging talent in 3 short try out days. As large as Hudsonville School district has become you would think we would have branched into two HS.

It's frustrating to me that 'splitting' HHS is off the table in the community because of athletics. Having two schools that each compete at Division 3/4 levels gives many more opportunities than one school competing at Div 1

It's helpful to learn teamwork and dedication. Athletics is one pathway to that. Why are tax dollars and resources going towards professional life size posters of football players and cheerleaders for football games? Isn't there a club that could have used those several hundred dollars. I don't mean to take accolades away from student athletes but the community and the schools place an excessive amount of emphasis on athletics. Things would be more equitable for students with a variety of interests if we were more mindful and appropriate with our resources.

It's tough because kids in Hudsonville don't get a chance to play unless they are really good for some sports. This makes it tough for kids wanting to learn a sport late. Intramural may help with this - give the opportunity to play a sport.

It's sad that many kids don't get a chance to be a part of a sport due to the large size of the school. Limited opportunity for student athletes because the school is soooooo big!

Love the idea of intramural sports for HS to allow more to participate.

Many players have been playing/practicing since young childhood, making high school team selection tough. An intramural program would allow less experienced players a chance to play or discover new sports. This would also provide team athletes opportunity to pursue off-season recreation and mentorship. Community Education offers summer programs for elementary/middle school students, as do many colleges/universities. The value of low-pressure "fun" and exercise that's not "graded" like gym class might a welcome high school experience.

Middle school football needs an overhaul. In attending parent meetings, the coaches claim that playing time is earned, academics matter, attitude matters. The [REDACTED] stated that parents don't know who is and isn't putting in effort at practices, only coaches do. As a parent who watched the practices, I think this was an inappropriate statement to make. It does not foster an environment of open dialog between parents, coaches, and other athletic staff. This is a dangerous situation. Additionally, only the starters got reps at practice. The others were to stand on the sidelines and watch the starters. This does not develop the other athletes, and is short-sighted if the district is looking to build it's football program and also instill the values of hard work in the athletes. The coaches claimed in the parent meeting that they don't "play daddy ball," that is, only play their kids and their friends. This is inaccurate. Perhaps they do not intend to do this, but they do. They need to develop the whole team. The need to not assume that those without the football experience will not catch up to those who have it. My son was very interested in [REDACTED]. Now, because of those coaches, he does not intend to play in high school. We are very pleased with the cross-country program in middle school. We were sad that Mr. Henderson was not allowed to coach due to poorly rolled-out legislation. This is not the fault of HPS, and we know that. We love the middle school tennis program as well. Coaches Schuur and Schuur were excellent and facilitated a love of tennis in my daughter, who had previously never played tennis.

Middle school students should all be able to make a team. We need to expand the athletics at the high school level so more students have opportunity. Maybe if we have an intramural sports program in elementary school, it would give students who don't have the financial resources to be involved with club sports an opportunity to learn/practice competitive sports.

Moat concern revolves around sportsmanship of parents/players and also the inbred nature of parents as coaches.

More programs for elementary would be great. Running clubs, tennis, etc

My boys play travel baseball. The baseball program at Hudsonville is unnecessarily difficult to become part of, and has evolved into being way more politically driven than it should be. Any sport should be focusing on pure talent of the players, not who the parents know, where the money is coming from or where the athletes work out or who they play travel sports for. I know for a fact that baseball is one of the most politically driven sports in our district, and it's just sad. One way that I feel this could be remedied is to have a middle school team. This could "weed out" the players who aren't ready to play for the high school teams and give these players an entire year of competition under their belts. I played multiple sports in middle school and it was a huge growth and learning tool. I'm amazed that a school system as large as ours isn't offering this in middle school. It needs to be considered.

My children are not sports buffs but I think if they were to play in more of a for fun environment vs competitive they would enjoy it.

My worry is there being a lack of opportunity for an average athlete to be a part of a sports team due to the size of the district and talent pool.

Need more encouragement for students to attend girls middle school sports.

Need more volleyball teams per grade

Not enough opportunities for kids...being cut in middle school and high school

Not familiar with athletics or clubs for my middle schooler

Not the school's fault. But our community has gone crazy over travel sports. This leaves little opportunity for kid's to just enjoy/try out a sport without feeling less than their teammates who have been playing most of the year together. It has created a culture of the haves/have nots and it's all about the performance on the field/court.

Our district is too big and not many athletes get to play middle and high school sports - they also seem to favor athletes who play travel teams.

Our experience with sports seems to have the overwhelming majority of communication going through the students. while I think there is a lot of value in including a student in this process and them learning how to be responsible, it should not replace communication with parents. Too often, we find ourselves not knowing about important dates, events or meetings.

Our high school is much too large and sport opportunities to play on a team are limited to the very elite athletes. My children are above average athletes who spend a lot of time working on their craft and probably will be cut from most high school teams. This is so frustrating and disappointing. We should have 2 high schools (one for the Jamestown area and one for the Hudsonville/Georgetown area). We have already sent our older child to a local private school and we will most-likely send our other children there or to Zeeland where they have two high schools and far more opportunities for good athletes to participate.

Our son loves basketball. Made the "A" team in 7th grade and the "B" team in 8th grade. He decided not try out in 9th grade - and probably wouldn't have made it. My only complaint would be that there was no transportation to games for the players on the "B" team. Seems like a school as large as Hudsonville should be able to provide transportation. We ran into this issue with my daughter who made 7th grade "B" basketball as well. Luckily we have flexible jobs so we could make it work. Son now runs cross and plays golf. Our daughter runs cross and track and loves it. Yes, basketball, baseball, softball etc are very competitive due to the amount of kids, but there are other sports options for kids.

Parade through school and day off for basketball. Aquatics programs win multiple state championships and have to plan their own walk-out parade. Inclusivity and fairness is what the school board needs to hold the athletic administration accountable for.

Pay to play should cover sports fees and transportation, many sports have extra fees beyond the district payment

Please protect girls' sports programs by keeping biological males out of girls' sports!

Please, please, please add an intramural sports program! I believe it would be extremely beneficial to the students, especially that Hudsonville is such a large district that you have to be an exceptional athlete to play especially the bigger sports at Hudsonville. Athletics teach so much, keep kids active, and give them positive uses of their time. I also think it would take away some of the pressure for kids to make a team if there was a way to still play with their friends. Socially, making a team is huge - even in middle school. Giving kids an opportunity to still play sports like basketball, baseball, volleyball, etc. and adding sports like ultimate frisbee and golf would draw in so many more students to being together in a positive way.

Rather than town programs (ie. AYSO, etc.), it would be great to start school sports in the 3rd and 4th grades - for consistency (ie. Fall sports, spring sports and to practice after school - getting into that rhythm).

School is too big and can only offer so many spots on teams therefore intramural can still allow participation within school.

Since we are so big it's unfortunate so few get to make varsity teams. In addition, kids who want to play multiple sports typically don't have time to get the specialized training required outside the season to be good enough to make in season teams and get playing time. Hudsonville should have two high schools and teams like Zeeland West.

6th grade students should be eligible for athletics through their school. More intramural opportunities and better communication about tryouts, clubs etc...How about a Middle School Athletics social media or Facebook page?

So political

Some coaches have been good. [REDACTED] coaching for [REDACTED] is horrible. No team comrade, no positive energy, poor communication with parents. Very unlike what we see in other sports where they have more of a "family" feel. No wonder that program is horrible

Some of the coaches are INCREDIBLE- varsity girls soccer has an unbelievable program. The same CANNOT be said for [REDACTED] The coaching is well below average and the activities that the coach requires [REDACTED] to participate in is inappropriate and the team is full of cliques and favorites. We have had [REDACTED] VERY different experiences between these [REDACTED] teams.

Some sports at the high school level are varsity only. Will there be a JV opportunity for these sports in the future for those that want to compete but are not quite as competitive?

Some sports seem to be a club of if you are known or grew up here situation.. should not have to hear that before try outs the team is already doing training ... and it was not open to everyone unless you asked.. kids should not already feel like they are not wanted before they even try out and have to ask if they can participate with training also..

Support all sports equally, not just the popular ones like football. So much seems to be put into popular sports yet others have mandatory fundraising to get their gear. Pay attention to JV teams as well and treat them with as much respect as you do varsity.

The coaches I have had contact with have been great!

The decision to use money to add a giant athletic area to the HS was a bad decision considering there aren't enough classrooms, lockers or even physical space for the current number of students, let alone the large influx expected in coming years

The district is getting too big for many kids to participate in high school sports. I'd like to see two high schools like Zeeland for many reasons, including more opportunities for district kids to participate in sports.

The high school varsity [REDACTED] should not be in that position. They emotionally mess with students, stack their teams and should be looked at closer by the state of michigan.

The kids feel like athletes get special treatment at school.

The large student body makes it very difficult makes it very difficult for students to play sports at school, especially in high school. There are a number of athletes and kids who enjoy sports and would like to play, but can't due to the number of kids and the difference in skill levels between those who play club /travel sports and those you don't or cannot

The more opportunities, the better!

The school is just so big that students do not have the opportunity to play on certain teams that have a specific roster number. I find it sad that students with real talent are not given the opportunity to represent their school.

The teams are already chosen before the kids even try. If you know the coaches, you get on the team in middle school. So, kids can't get better. Not every family can afford private lessons, travel teams, etc. But, no B teams for kids to just enjoy learning a new sport. It's disappointing.

There are not enough opportunities for children with special needs to participate in sports in the Hudsonville community

There are too many kids in the district to have an appropriate team. Many kids turn away from sports at an early age because they are told they are not good enough or athletic enough.

There aren't many opportunities for middle school kids to play sports, would like to see more

There is a strong sports culture at HPS. Which is wonderful, but I worry that there are students who slip through the cracks because they are not connected to athletics.

There needs to be more opportunities for all the kids to play sports especially middle school. The football program needs more teams to accommodate all of the players. Having 50 or 60 kids on one team doesn't allow for everyone to get playing time. Only the best players get to see the field and it no longer is fun for those that aren't star athlete's. I understand players and coaches want to win but it's also important to have fun and for everyone to participate.

This district has gotten so large that it limits the opportunities for more students to participate in school sports due to team size limits and only one high school team.

This school districts puts a lot of pressure on student athletes.

Throughout the years my kids have been involved in sports at Hudsonville. Notably the no cut sports, because sports like baseball have 90 kids trying out for the freshman team. They need more teams for each sport because in a school the size of Hudsonville there will inevitably be more interest than availability. The middle school is a little better than the high school in that respect, but my child was not able to run track because there was seven pages of sign ups already when he was in 7th grade. I do want to say that both the football program and the water polo program are amazing. The coaches are great, everyone gets an opportunity, and if you work hard you get play time.

Title IX is an important milestone for girls sports, please do not undue what other women have fought for.

To wean the number of athletes down to the only the teams available at one high school, in a town the size of Hudsonville is a disservice to the students. We need to sacrifice our desire to field top teams, in lieu of providing more opportunities for more students to participate. Hudsonville has excellent feeder programs, and too many students are forced to end their playing careers in 9th grade due to limited spots

Too much emphasis on athletics!! Seems like it is always about the sports.....

Very political.

Way too many students and not enough sports opportunities. There is little to no opportunity to play in high school sports, especially baseball, unless you're a college prospect. We need more teams. It's school! Let the kids play and have fun.

Way too much time and money is being spent on athletics. Can't understand why millions are being spent on a gym when the High School already has several very nice gym facilities. What a waste of a communities resources. Need to turn time and money towards basic and rigorous educational content.

We are grateful for the athletic opportunities and trials that are offered to the grade school kids.

We are too afraid to celebrate our athletics at Hudsonville. We seem to be the last district to take steps forward in athletic realms. Examples include but aren't limited to: not having an indoor turf field, being one of the last schools in the Red to hire a strength teacher, refusing to hire teachers or other school personnel to get them in for coaching, not having football, basketball or other sports classes, not allowing high school students to take lifting classes for 3 trimesters.

We are very much in support of an intramural sports program at HPS at both the high school and middle school levels. We are simply too large of a district to have so few kids selected for cut sports. Additionally, intramurals allows kids to learn new sports and participate with less involvement/demands.

We feel the school does not do a good job supporting and celebrating the teams that win State championships. Very disappointing.

We have had a wonderful experience with the girls highschool cross country team! Incredible coaches!

We have had excellent experiences with athletic teams and coaches. Our one critique would be that some of the programs could use much better training and game facilities, soccer and cross country being two of them. (The new pool certainly upped the standard for our swimmers, divers, and water polo teams.)

We have not been impressed with the Coach communications in regards to middle school and high school sports.

We have some FANTASTIC coaches who have created an amazing culture of citizenship-- Coach Glass, for example. At the same time, some of the stories we've heard about student behavior and representation from some of our other, particularly male, sports [REDACTED], among others), is completely humiliating.

We left a district that had a wonderful competitive sports program for elementary kids - soccer teams, track, basketball, etc. I'm not seeing that here. Most are outside of the schools - though churches or for profit organizations.

We love the middle school water polo program. I do think football players still receive special treatment and are not held to the same standards as other kids. They seem to get away with terrible bullying without consequence.

We need more through the school for younger kids! The little camps are awesome but it's 3 days of fun and I wish it could be a real little team.

We should consider adding a second High School. Because of the number of students in school making the varsity teams ever for good players is becoming more challenging. High school sports should be about students having the opportunity to play the sport not just about winning.

When a school district gets to the size of Hudsonville there only the top 1-5% make a sports team in most cases. If you want to promote full wellness you need to find avenues for them to participate in healthy activities that promote physical and mental health to build life long habits. Not saying this has to be intramural sports but could be a component of working on overall wellness behaviors.

When the district is so big, the opportunities for kids to play lessen. And sometimes coaches put too much emphasis on the sport and winning instead of the true qualities of a team.

Why does ,”boys volleyball,” continue to get left off of listings for info and/or sign-ups?

With a school our size it is so challenging. I have an middle schooler thinking about how she doesn't want to do lacrosse now because she "has no chance" of making high school team....

With all the great fields Hud. had in the district, intramurals would be a great addition. So many students, so few spots on teams, that would be a great way for those who want to play, but may not be quite as good to make a team would help kids still do the thing they love if they don't make a team.

With as big as HPS is and only a few kids making tryout teams having multiple options for kids who don't make the cut but are still very talented and have a love for the sport is a big deal. It is about experiences, building friendships, teamwork, fun, and great memories. Most HS memories are from the sports, extra curricular activities we participated in outside the classroom.

With as large as a school as Hudsonville is becoming, having the opportunity to have intramural sports available makes sense in some sports.

With one large high school, it's sad that so many kids don't get to participate in what they love simply due to the sheer number of kids trying out for the same sport.

With our district becoming so large a concern is that students won't have the same opportunity to be on a sports team or build that sense of community. Intramurals would give students who wouldn't usually have the opportunity to have these experiences.

Would also love to see equalized use of fields for ALL athletics. Football seems to have a stronghold on many facilities, which creates a problem when other sports would like to use fields. The less popular sports need an opportunity to grow, this can only happen when everyone is given a chance to use fields. I would also say that our fields (at the HS, MS and at our elementary schools) are in terrible condition. The ruts and uneven ground has caused numerous injuries and makes Hudsonville look bad. We need to take more pride in their condition, especially as we host local schools who have fields that far exceed ours.

Would be great to offer intramural opportunities for kids. So many want to participate, it seems, just for the camaraderie.

Would be nice to see the district add an indoor facility for Athletics. One large enough for sports like baseball/softball to use for practices and/or training

Would like to see intramural sports and activities in addition to the JV and Varsity sports. Kids need more positive outlets and sports can provide that. Positive role models through sport coaches who can teach life skills through sport is extremely valuable.

would love more opportunities for middle and high school students to participate in sports in a more casual way as just a part of their lives. Sports have become such a big thing and require complete, year round dedication. The benefits of being a part of a team are so great, but not something that every kid has the ability to do or the time to commit to. This would make it much more accessible.

Would love to see more intramural opportunities for the kids who wish to explore sports without having dedicated their lives to them for many years.

Yes! Intramural sports would be wonderful for middle school and high school if we could set it up! Even like a 6-8 week season! Doesn't have to be a long season! Just something for the kids to experience!

You're too big of a HS. When [REDACTED] first got hired you sent out a bogus survey about the communities feedback on splitting the high school into two high schools. Think Zeeland. This was a facade. [REDACTED] had no interest in our opinion. So now you have too large of a HS and too many students will not have an athletic engagement come 9th grade.

Your athletic department is very unfair in how they handle discipline.

Other residents (n = 3)

There should be co-Ed intermural sports available to promote inclusion as well as opposite-sex respect building and collaboration skills

Too much emphasis on Athletics

We should have had two high schools. That way more students could participate in sports. Wouldn't it be a great idea to allow large schools to have two teams!

Additional comments on Community Education

Q. Do you have any questions or comments about Community Education?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ Demand for a greater variety of Community Ed classes for all ages, with some comparing Hudsonville unfavorably to Zeeland 's selections.
- ❖ More and earlier distributed information about Community Ed programs available for both youths and adults.

Current parents (n = 74)

Are local community organizations able to send extra-curricular ads to HPS? AYSO is a long-standing soccer organization (aimed at supporting ALL interested children regardless of talent) that seemed to have difficulty advertising to HPS. I understand not allowing widespread marketing by for-profits, but it seems like local chapters for a limited set of soccer, baseball, etc. groups would be beneficial.

Be more like Zeeland! Also offer more swim classes and open swim to the community.

Because of the cost, many families still won't participate. I had a student that had the same opportunity but their community Ed was free and she never picked up a basketball before her experience. She ended up being the star player and this also opened the door to her family feeling comfortable walking into the school outside of a conference or IEP where they felt intimidated, but this time they came to watch their daughter succeed.

Community Ed needs to get their summer information out a lot sooner. Sport camps in the summer should be 4 days long, not 3.

Due to local partnerships with area businesses, I do feel that most of these programs are not affordable for community families.

Good communication and lots of offerings!

Great offering of community education.

Have a class that includes kids with disabilities

However I just saw the summer signups and it looks like girls basketball and softball are on the same dates and times. I feel like there are probably a lot of girls that would like to do both and now cannot

Hudsonville schools should NOT partner with [REDACTED] They are dangerous and not safe for kids.

I am pleased to see more and more community education opportunities available but the quality of the programs could improve.

I feel that Zeeland offers more options...would love to see HPS line up closer to something like what they offer the community

I have often brought our kids to Zeeland Rec. instead of Hudsonville. They have way more offerings, and they have a community center with a pool, gym, etc.

I love the variety of options available and the prices are very fair.

I really hope the Baldwin Street MS courts get resurfaced and fixed this summer. As a college tennis player and former BMS middle school coach, the courts were embarrassing. I love HPS with all my heart and soul but it's time to get this done 😊

I started signing my children up for Zeeland's community (summer) opportunities because they published them much sooner than Hudsonville and had several more choices.

I think that there's great untapped potential with Community Ed that would be great to see. The more our community can engage with each other and those around us to learn, serve and grow the better.

I wish more was offered in basketball before 3rd grade for boys.

I wish there were more programs available for younger kids and adults

I wish there were more programs for preschool and kinder girls for soccer and dance

I wish there were more/any opportunities for kids with emotional needs.

I've already mentioned it before. Only downfall I have is communication with parents on when things are beginning and sign ups for certain things that are months in advance. Parents/kids new to it would not know!

It has been tricky to find offerings for those in preK. I'd love for roller skating to be held at a less controversial roller rink.

It is hard to navigate the community Ed/hps website. We would like to see more non athletic offerings.

It would be amazing if you offered sports camps that work with families that have both parents working outside of the home.... not all families have parents that don't work. Afternoon camps are impossible to attend for families that have both parents working outside of the home. It's not 1957.

It would be great to have more options for swimming

It would be nice to have more options for year-round swim lessons

Just the same as before. I wish that they would be longer and real teams even if it's just for a small tournament or a couple games. Something beyond just a couple days of "camp"

Love to see some adult classes being offered keep those coming & would like to see some arts/crafts classes for elementary. Maybe some more outdoor based classes, hiking fishing etc.

Love to see these options continuing to grow and add new opportunities for kids.

More adult offerings!

More days and hours for open lap swim would be great

More swim lessons! We have two big pools and it's like the Hunger Games trying to sign up for swim lessons when they actually become available.

More/longer basketball and volleyball programs for elementary and middle school age girls would be appreciated.

My daughter would appreciate more advanced coding classes.

Need A fishing, hunting elective class!

Need a lot more programs. Should look at how Zeeland does there's.

Need more adult offerings and more awareness about what is available for adults. The youth programs for STEM related opportunities are not very affordable for many families.

Nice list of programs and offerings, thanks.

Offerings are wonderful and wide ranging.

Rebecca does a fabulous job helping out Alward events! :)

Rebecca is GREAT!

Scheduling swim lessons is a nightmare. The community has provided the money to build two pools and scheduling lessons is basically the luck of the draw if you check the website on the random day they are posted.

██████████ was a big waste of money for us.

Some age groups are not included in the choices, 3rd party classes, there are more clinic type sports vs teams.

Some sports are for short periods of time and once a week - it would be great as a after school, every day or every other day activity. And would appreciate coaches rather than students to lead practices (some students are focused on the practice and others are some-what focused - impacts the younger athletes willingness to put forth strong effort.

Sometimes when the communication comes home there are deadlines that are past and unable to participate in an event

Summer camps add very little instruction or value

The offerings continue to expand. Rebecca is doing a great job.

The prices have gone up so much we go to Zeeland for community classes now. They have a better variety for adults and students.

The same business partners seem to be featured repeatedly. Would love to see more art and tech options.

The website is great making it cumbersome to register

They do a great job with a variety of youth offerings and an awesome job at communication via email and with their seasonal newsletters. Nothing but positives on the Community Ed front :)

They don't provide great info at time of event. For example, when my child attended a summer camp at the HS no info was given for those of us that aren't familiar with the building

Used their services more when my kids were younger

Very good job! Well informed and easy to register

Very good selection and content.

We did the Ninja classes through the CE program and loved it! Lots of great programs are offered and we love that!

We don't usually find much. We usually find Zeeland to have a larger and better selection and more organized website.

We love the community education programs!

We really liked that community events (concerts, farmer's market, parade, etc.) were listed in the summer brochure. -Consider collaborating with the community libraries to promote their events. -Is there a free food program for students this summer? If so, advertise in the summer brochure. -Consider offering drawing/cartooning classes with Wade Gugino. -Consider offering teen mindfulness classes, self defense, and safety awareness.

We use community programs from other near by cities because there isn't enough variety

We use the community ed program every year and our kids enjoy the camps or classes. It would be nice if an art class was offered.

We would prefer more options that are not just outside businesses, like gymnastics.

What about special needs kids?

Wish more soccer opportunities would come besides AYSO. It's very competitive to get your kids signed up

Wish there was a home economics or cooking class for younger kids

Wish there were more after-school sports opportunities/camps in the elementary grades.

Would like to see evening options during summer. As a working parent, day options are impossible.

Would like to see expanded options

Would love for opportunities for older age groups of kids. Those who can't play on their school team, but would still like to play

Would love to see more short sport leagues for children ages 5-12 to sample sports, build social skills through interacting with different classmates and coaches. It would be a great opportunity for high school athletes to coach and practice leadership skills. The 5-12 age period is a key sport sampling period for youth and will impact a child's interest and engagement in sport and exercise into adolescence and beyond.

Zeeland outshines in this area - learn from them.

Other residents (n = 2)

I am so thankful for the opportunities available through community Ed!

No knowledge of it. When there was an Advance Newspaper this info was readily available.

Additional comments on Finances and Management

Q. Do you have any questions or comments about Finances and Management?

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ Some parents oppose a later start/end time for middle and high school students because work and athletic team practices after school would be pushed too late in the day.
- ❖ Other parents agree with the science behind a later start/end time for teen-agers but prefer that every school level starts and ends at the same time.
- ❖ As expected, some parents applaud the district for being financially responsible, while other parents point to what they perceive as misguided spending priorities and waste.
- ❖ Some parents prefer money to be spent on hiring more teachers and social workers rather than on buildings, not understanding how Michigan schools are financed.
- ❖ Some parents feel that the district is wasting money spent on social emotional learning and DEIB programs.

Current parents (n = 104)

A late start/end time for HS students may be challenging for student athletic competitions and student's who need after school jobs or who may need to supervise younger siblings after school.

Although some of the new construction is really cool, I do believe there needs to be a better balance between "cool" and "necessary and functional." The additional dollars to make things "cool" could be better directed to other construction efforts in the district so other schools do not have to wait so long for improvements in turn benefiting more student and teacher experiences.

Be nice to have same start time.

Bring back DEI training for teachers

Can we pay teachers more (these are the professionals who are doing the hard work in the trenches day in and day out) and keep class sizes smaller rather than adding new and extra positions that do not have clear job descriptions or do not affect student growth directly? Less adults in offices and more adults in classrooms with students the majority of the day!

Changing high school start time would impact after school jobs and activities

Changing the school calendar would be a huge positive for students. I have also heard that we should be flipping the start times for elementary and middle/high school students and the scientific principals behind it. Also, from a childcare perspective, it would help parents in the morning to have their elementary kids start earlier. With elementary kids you already have to have childcare after school, now many families could eliminate the morning childcare needs.

Comment on Question 84 - Definitely NO! Teenagers WORK - Help out Driving for their family! How would that effect TECH center if other schools do not follow, and sports events!! Younger kids would have to be getting up that much earlier for buses - NO RESPONSIBILITIES after school - So what would they just take a NAP since they got up to early. Thank you!

Current elementary start time is sufficient, would be difficult to have children that age start earlier. Would be more preferable to allow MS and HS students to start even later than ES students.

Definitely cannot start elementary 60min earlier and end 60min earlier. 20-30min at most. An hour earlier would have young kids standing in the dark to get on the bus. Absolutely not.

Definitely no to starting later for older children. The late time start for secondary education would push sports and work too late for these students.

Documentation on these items would be helpful versus just a blind question without documentation on these funds were utilized.

Due to work my older children have to help with younger

Elementary is good and should stay the same. Middle school is too early.

Elementary students do not have as many after school activities available as Middle & High school. Making Middle & High school days later only promotes them to stay up later with a later start to their day. "teenager's body clocks" are TEMPORARY and is not a realistic schedule when entering the work force. It only promotes laziness and entitlement.

Feels like we need 2 high schools. Year round school would be great!

Firing bus drivers for not wearing masks during COVID was irresponsible and discriminatory.

Focus on better supports and interventions for IEP students, mental health and diverse staffing. Less focus on athletic score boards and fancy signs.

For those of us new to the district I don't know that there's much of a way to know some of this, besides deep diving into it. I would say it has been hard to hear as the last schools being renovated that the money is dwindling and/or may be worth less to the later school due to economy and such.

For the last question, have to think about those kids that hold jobs after school and how that would impact their time at the job and allowing for study time.

Given that there is funding provided for each student, teachers request a lot of school supplies for the start of each school year. It would be nice if more of this was provided.

Having later ending times for secondary students would cause students in sports to miss class time if their opposing school ends at an earlier time. It also limits the number of hours a student has available to work part time jobs.

How about if all schools just start later? Please don't make elementary schools start earlier.

How is modifying the start time a representation of life after high school? In the beginning of the survey it was asked how ready for life are graduates of HPS....

How much money do you get for each child in your special education program

HPS does a great job managing their finances. As a parent of teenagers I would support a later start and end time for them, but I know so often sports practices and games get in the way.

Hudsonville has been incredible stewards of the resources they are entrusted with. I'm proud of how the district has prioritized expenditures on classroom instruction relative to other districts.

Hudsonville needed a full size indoor turf and track facility before giving basketball another gymnasium. That was truly a waste; yes, all because of a coach and his position. Kids stay up later because parents are softer on their kids and due to personal technology device usage.

I cannot believe how much us taxpayers paid for Julian Newman to come in and tell us we are privileged, live in a bubble, and are "sheltered". Cannot believe how much is taxpayers paid for the Ruler Program that HPS is now modifying to fit our community. Terrible use of taxpayer money. How about a security guard/ officer at every building? How about advanced classes and more funding for students that are struggling. How about a field house like what Jenison built so sports teams have a place to practice in the winter months?

I agree with the science but also realize, as a parent, that teens will meet this change with even later bedtimes, which may not be conducive to some families.

I am unaware of how to see how the money is spent, so I assume it is being spent well, because the school district is going well

I believe it is and has been for a while, to begin the process of splitting the high school into two smaller serve our community. Hudsonville, with growing areas north and south of town, should create a new school. As students move into the district, they are living farther and farther away from the central campus. Adding an additional high school makes sense to support the continuously growing community.

I believe we pay our teachers competitively, but I am not sure if we pay them equitably based on education and experience. I have a friend who teaches at HPS and when they started they were paid at year one rather than paid based off of their experience of five or more years working at another school district.

I did not agree with finding a huge sports complex at the high school when the buildings don't have air conditioning. It is miserable to sit in the hot classrooms on those days that it is hot and humid (granted that is not year round). There is not enough emphasis put on the emotional well being of the students because the school has gotten way too big.

I do wish less money was spent towards sports updates and more was dedicated to arts opportunities

I don't know much about Hudsonville school finances- how are these communicated to the public?

I don't know where to find this information quickly

I don't recall if the school district shares the results of surveys to know for sure how it was used for strategic planning. If it is shared, how is it shared? Are the cumulative results for each question visible? I would be interested to see these results.

I don't think moving the times for middle/high school would work because you would have to move sports too and then also the homework they get they would have zero time for personal life and family life.

I fully support soar! I think it's great! It seems the last 3 years has been focused on RULER, and that is something I do not think is a good fit for our children. I do not like the Mood Meter, and the "emotional intelligence" words are too heavy for our students. Anxious, frustrated, furious, pessimistic, all words that parents can identify and teach to their children. It's not appropriate for teachers too as a curriculum.

I had to withdraw my [REDACTED] student from [REDACTED] this year because his needs were not being met. I'm not sure what mental health supports are in place...

I have a hard time waking my teens. A later start time would help them and their brains!

I have attended many board meetings where finances were discussed. I am appalled that while we are spending an obscene amount on a jumbotron for the new gym, mechanical systems on the older buildings that do or will shortly need repair are not being addressed. Park Elementary in particular has been overlooked. The fact that the gym also has to double as the lunch room, among other issues, seems like enough to make my point.

I have no idea if Hudsonville has managed these financial aspects responsibly without being able to see a budget balance sheet to see how funds have been used. Is this available somewhere for the public to view?

I know it's not the norm to have a job as a teenager anymore. As a family that DOES work at a young age I think it is a terrible idea to start the older kids later. It does not give them a chance to work as long after school. Again if the school is trying to prepare them for the real world starting late in the day is NOT ideal.

I like the idea of switching school times bc that info is true BUT I'd worry about after school programs and sports conflicting with pick up times for elementary. I'd have to think about it some more. With the way the school schedule came out this year I'd REALLY like to see Hudsonville think about implementing a "year round" school schedule. We are getting close and closer to it each year with all the half days, shorter summer breaks etc. plus it would make the breaks for vacations easier on parents/staff AND there wouldn't be a big school falling with kids when taking a longer summer break. We would ultimately get more longer breaks throughout the year but still stay in school.

I think we need a family liaison for HPS and also counselors or more social work at the elementary level for early intervention.

I very much feel elementary needs to start earlier. For working families, having the bus pick the kids up at 8 or 8:20 creates a huge burden. Most of us are then required to take our kids to ECC for the before care program just so we can get to work on time. We pay a ton of money for our kids to spend a half hour at ECC every morning. Bumping up the start time would allow us to get our kids on the bus and still get to work on time. I've talked to a lot of parents in other districts, counties, or even states, and many (in fact, nearly all) of them have start times right around 8am for elementary school.

I will have all four of my children at different buildings next year and to have a time change for their schedules would not be helpful for anyone at this point.

I will keep my mouth shut on this one.

I would need more information on the changing start times. Seems to make sense, but need to understand the pros and cons better. District does a great job at managing finances.

I would prefer elementary, middle and high school students all to start at a similar time with maybe a 15-20 min difference instead of an hour. For families with kids in multiple schools especially for school of choice this is always a challenge.

I'd like to see more \$\$ spent on mental health. Sometimes I think HPS is a bit too conservative with their money.....compensate support staff more so they stick around and/or want to come in the first place. Paras, admin assistants (especially) are not compensated for their work. Compensation is going to be key to filling positions in a time when educators are undervalued.

I'm not totally sure what to say about the time for school because my older son is going into the 5/6th building at Georgetown in the fall and I have heard that it will be on the middle school schedule. He's not a teenager; he's 10 1/2 right now.

I'll be voting no on the next milage proposal and will keep voting no until Hudsonville Public Schools become more fiscally responsible and starts listening to their parents.

I'm not sure DEIB was what was the most pressing concern on the SOAR survey 3 years ago, as the community backlash evidenced. I'd be more careful to listen to the community rather than just do wjat you want and hop there's community buy-in.

I'm so glad to hear you are looking at sleep science and looking into altering starting times. This would be a fantastic change and improve education for our children. I have to believe this is the single easiest, yet most effective thing that could be done to enhance learning.

If elementary students ended earlier, that will most likely cause many more to need daycare after school.

If the school days were switched there would be SO many elementary kids home alone for a longer time in the afternoons and no middle/high schoolers to help watch them. Also, high school after school events- sports especially would get later and how could high schoolers work after school jobs, what about those employers who need high schoolers to work

Is there transparency on finances and management outside of school meetings (especially for working parents who can't attend).

It seems as though the money used to renovate buildings will be leaving little to revamp Park, our oldest building and most successful academic building. It is in need of the most repair within individual rooms- not just additions- and needs storage and space for teachers. There is no equity amongst our elementary buildings and Park is looking to get shafted as the end of the millage funds are looking to not give that building the true facelift it deserves.

Just make sure teachers are well compensated and feel respected and heard. We have very good ones here at HPS and it is not a profession that's very desirable right now so let's make sure we keep them!

Keep rocking it. Love what you are doing and have done. Please pay all of the teachers all of their years and make sure we keep the best on our staff, no matter the cost.

Keep the school schedule the same!

Lots of money on infrastructure but not staffing

Love the idea of changing the start times. Anyone with teenagers knows it's not productive to drag them from bed at 6 a.m. and try to teach them anything.

Many new positions have been created in central office, which is a great amount of funds. Aside from grant funded positions (PBIS and MTSS), how are we doing with providing more supports in the buildings where the kids are?

Many of the building have multiple roof leaks. I was in one building that had several trashcans catching dripping water. That is not a very good look to be proud of.

Many teenagers need jobs and if they start later and are released later, it leaves less time for work. Even less so if they are also involved in sports/extracurriculars.

Middle and HS starts too early. Especially if kids are in extra curricular activities and get home late...

Most districts do not have the courage to switch the start times for our students (see Q 85), but it would be a fantastic conversation for our community, administration, teachers, staff, and students.

My daughter already gets up at 7am to get to school on time (get ready, dressed, all the morning routine and breakfast). Waking her up earlier at that age is not a good idea.

New larger, visual art rooms in the high school are desperately NEEDED!!!

Not happy about all of the funding being poured into fancy athletic buildings. It's fine and important to have nice facilities, but we hear about classroom space being a struggle so millions of dollars are spent on a new fancy athletic building. Really poor decision.

Not sure where to look at how this is being handled today

Our teachers don't get paid nearly enough to stay competitive. We are going to lose teachers to other districts paying more money. We need to do things to keep our staff the best in the county.

Paying teachers what they are worth should be a concern with the teacher shortage. Not honoring years for teachers who move into the district isn't helping. Inflation is challenging yet we aren't reflecting that with teacher pay. If Hudsonville continues to have school starting earlier and earlier each year, air conditioning should be top priority at every building... Investing in our educators and comfort of our staff and students should be a priority that shouldn't be pushed off any longer.

Please invest in a better playground for Park Elementary. If you compared what the kids have vs Georgetown Elementary, it is abysmal.

Seems like a lot of money is being wasted on SEL and PBIS and not seeing too many positive results or not a majority who seem to be in favor of it. Drop it, save the money for more of the behavior issues and hire more social workers and psychologists who are actually trained to deal with it.

Some of the older buildings need repairs, improvements, leaky roofs etc...

Sports wouldn't be able to work out with 4pm start times if the school day ended at 3pm

Still curious as to why our Superintendent and his administrative staff secretly spent money on the DEIB program for teachers and students behind the community's back a few years ago and if he was ever held accountable for his actions.

Still disappointed that HPS opted to expand the existing high school rather than focusing on building a second high school.

Stop financing RULER. It has been sucking up too much valuable academic time, when our students deserve more in math and reading.

Swapping start times will impact a teen student's sports schedule and available work hours after school. Also, if elementary students get home sooner, working parents would have to get more daycare.

Take the money out of SEL teaching and put it towards tutoring. This would be a more responsible way of managing the funds you have to work with

Teachers need to be paid more. Support staff need to be paid more. Hudsonville is constantly hiring but why would staff stay if the pay isn't comparable to being a manager at KFC? These teachers put their lives out for our families. And with the risks today they should be compensated. Different times calls for better wages. Adapting to new technology, navigating political arguments, keeping our children safe. They deserve better.

The agenda of the new school board members will end up costing this district which will impact the teachers and students.

The district is fortunate to have a lot of funds available. Too often I've heard the lack of resources as an excuse for necessary and broadly applicable safety improvements (ie. sidewalks to connect our two campuses along 36th street) only to be followed by conversations regarding overly expensive basketball scoreboards and cross country courses.

The issue of swapping elementary and older students start times is a bad idea. This does not take into consideration the time-intensive burden on working parents to get young children (whom are not yet self-sufficient) ready for school. This question is conflating circadian rhythms with contemporary sleep deprivation in teenagers (largely reported as being due to elective choices in regards to tech, social activities, and homework scheduling). This swap would disadvantage parents of young families and working parents to pacify poor life choices and decision-making by teenagers. I encourage anyone considering this swap to read current (non-settled) articles on the topic as well as the current publicly available recommendations by the CDC. It is a: Bad idea.

The lack of consideration for working parents is baffling. I am not aware of any other district in our state with such blatant disregard for families where both parents work. Example my freshman had a delayed start until 11:30 today. My wife and I both work. He does not usually ride the bus. How is he supposed to get to school on days like this? Also the half days on Friday are ridiculous. How are working families supposed to make sure their kids are cared for on the afternoons of this half days. To me that is both irresponsible leadership to allow that and a misuse of state funds, since I know schools play games with start and stop times so some of those days can be counted as whole days.

The staff that works within Hudsonville should be compensated with a livable wage. Many of them are working multiple jobs or even donating plasma to make ends meet. This shouldn't be the case for those that are educating our children.

There seem to be a lot of new employees and a lot of new building projects. Our taxes keep going up.

There seems to be a lack of equity in the buildings across the district. The high school now has 8 flat screen tvs and a cafe coming; however, one of the elementary buildings has a leaky roof. Some of the buildings, including the ECC and other elementary buildings do not have clean or functional restrooms. So much money is being spent on the high school, and it seems that SOME of the elementary buildings are neglected.

This district seemed to throw away a bunch of money on a DEIB consultant that no one asked for. The district also seems to have no trouble spending money on certain types of staff but is cheap in other areas that have a larger impact on students. 83.) The previously mentioned focus on DEIB was not contained SOAR input yet became a large and conflict-ridden effort by the current administration.

Was shocked that the district did not hold the contractors/builders responsible for the construction error while building the new gym. (ceiling too low) Simply because HPS had "contingency funds" we forgave the error and paid for the majority of their mistake. Also shocked that approx \$500,000 was spent on a scoreboard alone. Were we going for "the biggest and best for prestige? We understand budgets come from different funds but this district takes in a ton of money yet parents continue to have to pay to play for sports, pay for most sports equipment and uniforms, pay for driver's training (which was once a school funded class years ago) get solicited for countless fundraisers year round including classroom needs for classes like newspaper/yearbook, etc. Teachers are required to pay for books, supplies, etc. Small children do all not need iPads, laptops, etc. Teachers need to be more active and hands on, not just put technology in use. While I'm sure the district can afford it, the money may be better spent funding the above stated things parents are required to pay for, in addition to rising taxes.

We are too conservative when it comes to our finances. We have money and need to spend it to attract the best teachers and give our students the best experience possible

We need to do a better job honoring steps to get more experienced teachers. In addition, do a better job creating a pipeline for principals.

We need to do what's proven best for students growth and development and align their schedules with circadian rhythms to set them up for success!

We'd love to see two high schools. A later start time isn't possible without the entire ISD/local schools changing as well.

What funds can be used to hire more experienced teachers? Why doesn't our district use funds to attract and pay for teachers who aren't right out of college?

While there are a lot of construction updates to ensure we have enough building space for our students, the inequity in the condition of current buildings is insane. At what point will we stop building beautiful new buildings with expensive, state of the art materials and start taking care of the older buildings that haven't been updated in decades. (A new roof or new gym is NOT an update, that's an addition) If we want to talk about equity, we also need to be aware that building conditions DO make a difference for students. Take care of your older buildings too.

Why is the district spending money on these elaborate facilities? They look amazing - but who cares? If the kids going to these fancy facilities can barely compete academically what is the purpose and value the community is receiving for the money being spent?

Yes, yes, yes, change the schedule so it better fits students needs!

Other residents (n = 1)

It is concerning that most of my property tax dollars goes to school. We can't afford anymore. As a taxpayer and school supporter I'm very concerned.

Reasons why not “completely or very satisfied” with Hudsonville Public Schools

Q. If you did not reply “completely or very satisfied” to the previous question, why not?

More frequently mentioned reasons include:

- ❖ Concerns about enrollment growth, especially at the high school, with too many kids at each grade level and in each classroom.
- ❖ Some parents feel not enough attention or resources are given to their children who are academically advanced and not challenged enough in school.
- ❖ Other parents feel not enough attention or resources are given to their children who are struggling in school academically or behaviorally.
- ❖ Misbehaving students are not held accountable.
- ❖ As expected, some parents feel HPS and public schools have a too progressive political agenda, while other parents feel that the district is increasingly following an agenda that is exclusionary and discriminatory.

Current parents (n = 192)

A few years ago I would have. The recent trends toward the ideals held by the more conservative groups is disturbing. It seems more about control rather than preparing our students to be good adults. Telling them what to think, rather than teaching them how to think will not prepare them for the future.

A lack of focus on diversity, inclusion and belonging. I don't feel like the district prepares kids well for the real world outside of rural West Michigan. Most of the kids experience culture shock when they head to college or to work in a more metropolitan area. I realize the district has limited diversity in its student population which in itself makes it challenging to prepare kids. However the lack of focus on this issue (or worse yet the sticking heads in the sand and pretending it doesn't exist by shutting down discussion of DEI) only makes the situation worse.

Again, I believe they can do more research based practiced in reading instruction with a focus on building background knowledge in students. Also, I would love to see advanced children challenged more. I don't buy the whole reading workshop "allows you to differentiate" just because it gives them a higher leveled text to read. It doesn't drive critical thinking or creativity when my daughter comes home and literally read an entire Land of Stories book in one day!

Again, there is not enough support for the higher academically achieving students. There is way too much emphasis on helping the lower learners who often times don't even want to participate in the classes they are in. Some students may want to choose a vocational direction and yet, so many resources are being used to help them get to the level they need as students as opposed to teaching these students more life skills. The students that excel in school are left to self teach or support other students in the classroom who may not understand or want to learn the curriculum in the first place.

Again... Too much catering to government and union agendas

All 3 of my children had difficulty feeling like they fit in during HS. This could be us/them or simply the fact that it is high school. But it still makes me sad. They feel/felt like there are so many wealthy, closed-minded people that have little empathy for blue-collar/lower income families. They have mentioned this about teachers as well...bragging about a spring break trip or things they have without considering that many students do not have those opportunities. Even the Appleseed beating called a "beach read" is not valid, because many families cannot afford to go to the beach for spring break.

Although I selected "Very Satisfied," myself, like many other parents, are close to pulling our children from your schools. The main reason for this is the SEL, RULER, SOAR or any other name you want to call it. This has never had a place in our public schools and still doesn't.

As a community, we hold employees to standards that are checked resulting in rewards and consequences. I do not believe in micro-managing at certain levels of employment, but I do not feel teachers are "checked" efficiently to ensure classroom time is fully used. Behavior of teachers is just as important as the behavior of the students. The majority of Hudsonville teachers I have seen be great models. Others are not, yet they continue to run their classroom the same way.

As a former HHS Student - It is hard for me to wrap around what has become of "Hudsonville" - Very Satisfied with South Elem - Riley MS -- Then you go to High School - That is a whole story in itself that needs a lot of work in progress - to many kids - not knowing even who is in your own class is a problem, when we knew most everyone from freshman to senior year. Two High schools should be in the works

As mentioned before the lack of parent voices for decisions about half days and breaks. There are some phenomenal educators in our district. The fear or refusal to embrace technology is confusing. The cell phone jails are so ludicrous if I were a millionaire I would sue the school district to prevent them. Since I paid for those phones Hudsonville schools is essentially holding my property hostage. My kids complain about unfair punishments for students who were standing up for another student who was being bullied. They also tell me some of the racist comments they hear and see and that is baffling. I honestly thought this generation would make more progress on racial issues.

As stated earlier in the surveys I would like to see Hudsonville come out with concrete positions on what will be taught as far as CRT and Gender Identity. I understand these are sensitive topics. I was very pleased with how Hudsonville handled COVID regulations. I felt like there was adequate communication even if I didn't agree 100% with how everything was done. I would love to see communication on some of these other topics.

██████ has really failed my daughter in every way. I feel like I have a target on my back every time I walk in that building because I refuse to give up on my child. I have been met with nonstop resistance. I have never felt like anyone actually cares about helping my daughter. I have 2 other children that don't need extra help and they are fine. But if you have a child that needs extra help ██████ is not where you want to be.

Because I am extremely unhappy with our superintendent and believe that he needs to be fired because he does not listen to the parents and looks out only for himself and the teachers union. I have strongly considered homeschooling my child or putting them in private school.

Because I have encountered difficulties from the school to provide the assistance that my daughter needed. If I wasn't advocating for her rights and needs she would not get the services she has a right to. Also it seems that there is a lack of awareness or implicit bias when providing services to children that are from diverse groups or minorities populations. That has been our experience since we have been here the last two years. This survey lacks questions regarding diversity and inclusion which is also concerning.

Because my child is falling through the cracks and I feel like they do t know how to help and they refuse to hold a child back if needed

Because the climate is bad. Bullying is out of control. All kids are not accepted and administrators kowtow to the elite conservatives. Hudsonville has amazing teachers. But the parents are ruining chances for the kids. And the lack of consequences for students who bully is so frustrating and unfair. There is also gender discrimination and lack of any diversity. My homosexual child cannot go to HPS because she will not be accepted.

Behavior has become more of an issue in all the school levels since SEL has been launched. The kids are being told how to feel and almost as if they are all victims. It isn't helping the children but wasting their time and HPS funding that could be used for their education.

Being new to the area there is so much that I have to dig to find out about. Activity info is not easy to find. Because of pick up and drop off being how it is there is little parent interaction. I do volunteer but that's not frequent enough for parents to meet each other either

Both my girls are very advanced academically and I feel like there's nowhere for them to go. AP classes or foreign language into middle school would be great.

Bullying is an issue, class size, emphasis not only in sports but the arts needs to be done and scholastic.

Concerned about the direction of the new board, safety of our schools, and support for teachers.

Could work on the gifted program in elementaries. Need to work on better electives and not repeating art projects every year at [REDACTED]. A student shouldn't repeat the course with the same projects year after year. Other teachers rotate projects. Music shouldn't be required. What about art? Physical activity? The rising obesity rates in children are alarming. 40% are obese and will have health struggles like type 2 diabetes.

CRT, gender neutrality/persuasion, etc should NOT be include in our children's public education. Stick to academics and basic life skills. The schools are a temporary custodians of our children. We the parents are responsible for teaching values. The educational system should simply reinforce fundamental behaviors and teach academics.

Culturally biased

Decisions related to the operating budget are not transparent and do not appear coordinated or strategic. Hudsonville has been lapped by other area schools related to academic support and achievement. Activity does not equal results. We need better strategy and resource allocation.

District is too big and kids get lost in classes of 600

District is too big, not enough opportunity for athletics, no opportunity for gifted

Don't like where your school board is headed.

Don't allow Furies

Due to ongoing behavioral problems, and physical/verbal outbursts allowed in classrooms (throwing chairs, flipping desks, swearings, screaming, hitting/kicking staff) my students do not feel safe at school. It has caused them trauma, and led to the need for outside counseling services for school anxiety. Students deserve a quality education, and do not need to be exposed to ongoing physical aggression towards peers and staff. Continuing to allow this behavior is leading to trauma for all students.

Everyone is a number at the high school With little knowledge of the child. There are not enough counselors to meet with kids so career and color planning can occur. There needs to be more classes that invoke career exploration, resume building, mock interviews etc.

Feel that school board has been out of touch with community in the past. Irritated that school starts during fair week as this is important to our community. Agriculture is very important and feel that school beginning this week undermines its importance. Also, would rather see less "vacation days" during school year (hard to find child care as working parent for these one-off days like 2 day winter breaks, 1.5 week spring breaks) and instead have a shortened school year calendar. Teach basic computer skills (hello typing and finger placement) versus requiring band. Kids that want to play an instrument can sign up, don't force my kid to have, make me find money to rent equipment and it's something they have no interest in. If you want to require band then please provide covered instrument rental for all families!

For the reasons stated prior. Concerned about efforts to resist inclusion, book censorship and false information disrupting focus for teachers and administrators. Teaching, learning, social stressors, more diverse community makeup and family dynamics are different than they were in the good old days and we need to prepare our kids to live and thrive in the real world, not the world we wish it was based on our individual beliefs.

first and second grade teachers - too many dress up days, reward days, game days.... these are all a distraction from task of learning.

Has gone downhill the past few years and definitely has room for improvement. There's a reason why we have lost a lot of great teachers recently!

HHS should not implement social programs with "political" agendas from any side.

HPS could use an improved reading program as well as better supports when students are falling behind.

HPS did not meet the needs of my 11yo . It was not a safe environment for him to learn. All he learned is that if he wanted to avoid work, he could go to in-house or seclusion. He was constantly punished due to manifestations of his disabilities. My middle schooler is fairly happy, but since HPS failed my special-needs child, I cannot say I'm satisfied. My would love to return to in-person school, but I don't want him criminalized due to his disabilities.

HPS has always been known as a great school system. Don't get sucked in to all of the crazy stuff thats happening around the country.

HPS is lacking in many areas. Academically gifted students have limited options and NO options in middle school. Foreign language needs to be added to middle school, personal finance, real life leadership skills, focus on how to manage emotions instead of Ruler teaching, "be more emotional,". Spelling words in elementary. More reading help k-3

HPS is not focused where they need to be... the students are getting lost in the size of the school, needs are not being met and opportunities are being missed bec the school is just getting to big. Money and time is spent arguing over a bask score board when the soccer field has huge holes.

Hudsonville does not stand behind their policies. The district does not allow parents to parent the child and insists on teaching them how not to be racist when it is not the schools business. The district needs to learn to teach the basics and let the parents parent. The district does not own these kids. The district needs to enforce the NO bullying policy. The district needs to not tell students to not stick up for themselves if they are being bullied. The district needs to not ask the child being bullied if they are making this happen by poking at the bully. The district needs to protect ALL students from bullying not just the ones who they are afraid of offending

Hudsonville is very closed minded and isn't welcoming if you don't think like them.

Hudsonville needs to hold on to its Christian faith culture that our founding fathers believed in also. Stop taking out more and more.... We have a morality problem as a society.

Hudsonville Public Schools seems to be behind in a lot of ways in comparison to districts that are of similar size around the state. This could be because of rapid growth and not being able to keep up with that growth. Students in our schools, especially the middle schools, have very few consequences for poor behavior and lack of work ethic besides a lunch detention or a suspension. This is not ok. Also, from recent decisions being made by the [REDACTED] WE ARE LOSING GOOD STAFF! There is VERY LITTLE trust from HPS employees and the community when it comes to hiring quality staff and keeping them around. Furthermore, the Board of Education needs to review its policies about hiring in teachers that have experience at Step 1. Hudsonville is no longer becoming a destination for teachers. We are being overlooked because we refuse to honor years of service from other districts. In what other profession does this happen? It's time our district starts taking care of the very people they should care about most: students and staff.

Hudsonville students need to be welcoming of differences. Our town is very politically motivated. You could see that in the board election. Money buys power. The students are being led by adults who are not caring about anti-bullying. The adults are bullies. Our children need to feel safe and not sent home because their shorts are too short. Education is number one, but the students are consistently caring about popularity, sports achievements and being better than someone else. The bullying hasn't stopped.

I addressed a lot of it in previous comments. I feel teacher to parent communication is lacking, there aren't consistent standards, and support for non special education is lacking

I am absolutely satisfied with our building staff. I am not satisfied with district leadership.

I am concerned about the credence given to parents who are pushing to exclude important education (social and emotional learning), bullying the school district in to removing books/reducing book choices and fighting against educating our children about racial disparity. Particularly as a privileged district it's deeply important that we help our students to become empathetic as well as educated members of society

I am discouraged by the vocal minority of parents who are railroading their conservative agenda through the schools. I am disappointed in the lack of logical staffing in the arts and the shifting of administrators from building to building. Both of these issues lead to inconsistency and lesser effectiveness. Also, Hudsonville has gotten so large that I feel like the things that are important to my family have gotten lost. We are not into athletics. I think if we were we would be happier with the district. My oldest child is graduating this year. A lot of his schooling was difficult due to his "differences". Luckily there were a couple of places in high school that helped him find a niche. In the long run Hudsonville was probably right for him. My daughters, however will go to Jenison. The school system is smaller. The arts are valued and well staffed. Athletics isn't inflated. It's a better fit for them.

I am very concerned with the direction the current superintendent is taking the district. We live in a very conservative district with conservative values. With him secretly trying to implement the DEIB program, I have very little faith or trust in him leading our district.

I am very happy with the two schools we have been involved with so far. I'm leery of the high school and have been disappointed with the PBIS/ruler/DEIB direction of late.

I am worried about HPS moving away from diversity, equity and inclusion, because that is what the county office has done. In my opinion DEI is vital and some parents do not like it because being inclusive of all students makes those parents uncomfortable. As a school district, stand your ground on DEI, fight to include all students regardless of race, gender and orientation. HPS needs to be a place where all students are welcome and can succeed.

I believe kids need to be held accountable for racism. Sexual offenses need to be taken more seriously as in completely remove the adult from the building.

I believe the district is growing at a much faster pace than what the school system is ready for. Many children do not get the opportunities they could have if the district had 2 high schools. I believe the school district just adding a middle school or square footage to the high school will not fix the problem that our children do not have the opportunities to try new extra-circular activities or hobby's as they are already at maximum capacity. For example, there are over 100 children that try out for baseball. Think of all the boys that have been playing since they were 8 and now have no activity to participate in because there simply are not enough spots - meaning only 20% of the kids that tryout get a spot. We are turning kids away that have dedication, hard work ethic, drive, and academically sound all because there are too many kids in the district.

I believe the school system should be more focus on the academic of each kid. And not applying ruler and a focus. Also it's a big talk about inclusion, but many forget the "normal well behaving kid" making them exclude.

I believe the trend of hiring more progressive teachers in the district is hurting the district.

I did, but I want to add that it is very important to get rid of SEL in schools. Please let schools be a place where academics are taught, not SEL.

I do feel that teachers are not always communicating well with parents. I feel me as a parent has to initiate conversation especially when failed attempts from my student have already taken place. I also do not feel like our guidance counselors do a great job at providing the attention that is need to each student individually. There is not enough help for tutoring and I also feel that the squeaky wheels are the ones who get the most attention. Imagine if your parent is not able to devote attention to their kids education??

I do not agree with the new ruler programming or the SEL learning that is being forced on our children.

I do not think the school should be focusing on social and emotional learning (SEL) for all students. As stated previously, some students do require that support, but not every student should have time taken away from core subjects to focus on SEL.

I don't feel the buildings are as secure as they should/could be. -Was not impressed with recent kindergarten informational meeting at [REDACTED] in which current K teachers described expectations, flow of typical day. Felt very condescending and frankly, left us looking for private school alternatives. We have neighbors with wonderful experiences there that speak highly of [REDACTED], which gives us relief; without that, we surely would have gone elsewhere.

I don't think the district challenges their students enough academically, and I don't think it's the best environment for students who are not religious or who are part of the LGBTQ community.

I don't feel the district supports students who are just a little behind. Also changing curriculum to account for deficits from Covid.

I don't feel welcome in my child's school. I don't feel like parents are welcome to be a part of their child's education except to hold them responsible for way too much homework. These kids work hard all day long and shouldn't be bringing home hours more work. Family time is important. The family unit is important. And HPS doesn't value that at all.

I don't like the RULER and SOAR program. I don't believe schools should put so much emphasis on the kids emotions and gender issues. Just teach them the basics of math, science, social studies, English, etc. let counselors and parents do the rest

I don't trust that the school is transparent in its goals and feel they are hiding a political agenda into education

I feel our district has grown far too big and can no longer maintain a higher level of excellence. The district has lost the closeness it once had.

I feel that we can always improve. I definitely feel like kids need career development here. One of my children have no idea what they want to do after HS and the other has some sort of clue. More needs to be done here. Job shadows etc... I also feel afraid for my life when I go into the HS parking lot after school. The flow is not good getting out of there and the kids are so wild leaving. I feel like more can be done to push kids academically. I also feel like more can be done to help get parents involved. It seems like parents don't want to be involved. At the elementary level I would love to see parenting classes. "How to" parent classes. So many parents don't know what they are doing or how to be parents.

I feel there are a lot of missed opportunities for those students who work at a higher level. My oldest child was the last class of advanced English in middle school and my son the last group of kids to go through advanced math. There are no opportunities for the younger kids. We should be encouraging those who work at a higher level rather than discouraging them.

I feel there should be a greater emphasis on teaching to the child's learning level.

I feel we're taking away classroom learning time with SEL. I think we need to focus on math reading etc. I also feel since my kids have started high school it's very hard to know what's going on. I realize it's teaching the kids to be more responsible but some main info on a weekly basis to parents would be nice. Also I feel our websites could use improvement. They're not very easy to navigate when you need to find info about our school. I do feel we have amazing teachers at our schools.

I have been discouraged by the lack of support for students who are struggling or excelling academically. Staff members seem more concerned with teaching about feelings than actually teaching reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. HPS needs to return to being a school district instead of a fill-in for parenting. Please make decisions based on what best prepares the student academically versus where the state is offering money.

I have been very happy with the schools my kids have attended. I've been extremely concerned with the board of education's push back on Social Emotional Learning and literature. Concerns about CRT are not based in reality. How can people who have been entrusted to support our schools give breath to these misguided claims? SEL teaches our kids the soft skills that are needed in relationships and future employment.

I have concerns overall with the number of transitions our kids will go through (preschool to pre K, then elementary to the 5/6 building, then to middle school, then to the freshman campus, then to high school). I also have concerns with the overall future planning of our district and buildings. Many of us parents of elementary aged students are concerned with the future of the high school. With all the growth in our district, it seems like all the improvements and additions are just band aids to a bigger issue. Would it have been better to add another middle school instead of the 5/6 building? Thus eliminating one of the transitions. Also, what are the big picture plans for the high school? It sure seems like a second HS will be needed to accommodate the number of students currently in elementary school.

I have not been happy with the special needs program since my son started elementary school. He's now in 4th grade.

I have two kids in HPS. One in [REDACTED] grade and one in [REDACTED] grade. They came from Grand Rapids Public and we're very behind. I feel the elementary school levels have more resources for students who are struggling and they help the student a lot more. The middle school level has not been helpful and they seem to only do the least amount of work/ help that they have to do. I have "worked" with the middle school for two school years with trying figure out ways to help my [REDACTED] grader academically but nothing seems to change with their "implemented plans". It feels that they have in paper that "they helped," and "done all they can," but none of it have helped him.

I haven't heard a single word from my child's teacher. I have not the slightest clue of anything in my child's education.

I love HPS. I am disappointed at the pilot program of RULER being utilized without ever being approved by the board these past two years. The main school board conversation seems to be very focused on our students emotional state, and not equally focused on their academic state. Because of Covid, all testing is lower, math, reading writing ect.....that should be a bigger concern and I am not seeing that.

I love Hudsonville Public Schools but you really need to take a stand and support LGBTQ students in our community. Don't listen to the bullies in our community.

I struggle with the push of less acceptance for kids who are different, not wanting teachers to discuss current events that the parents don't agree with, parents criticism of teacher book libraries, Parents who are pulling books from book fairs that they deem not acceptable.

I think Hudsonville does not focus enough on academics

I think kids have become more socially awkward due to cell phones and social media. They need that face-to-face interaction, so I think adding more online learning would not be a good idea.

I think my survey answers speak for themselves. My high-schooler isn't academically gifted in any way and doesn't get a lot of the help he needs because he's afraid to ask for help because he doesn't want to look "stupid." While my elementary-schooler is very gifted, but is stagnating in his class because he's not being challenged.

I think sometimes there is a lot of emphasis on sports and specific academic avenues. With a school district of this size, broadening the offerings to meet the needs of the vast majority of students whether that is in the arts, those struggling, special needs, and gift and talented students is necessary to maintain the interest of those living in the district and to avoid them seeking schooling in neighboring districts that may offer better support and offerings.

I understand that we have to shift as our world shifts and the needs of students change. However, we do our students a huge disservice when we do not hold them to high standards. We can be inclusive of ALL students AND hold them to high expectations (behavior, studying, dress code, social skills, etc). My children have told me that students go to the office for behavior and come back with candy or they get to play on a staff member's phone for a break. They have also communicated that only the kids who misbehave a lot get a lot of SOAR cards. What is this communicating to our children? Our curriculum needs to be updated and we have to better support spelling and phonics. I have asked my children's teachers about how they support phonics and spelling almost every single year at conferences and they are always frustrated with the resources that are available to them. This became especially true once my children were in upper elementary and had not received consistent phonics instruction during their lower elementary years. Spelling continues to be difficult for both my children who are otherwise very intelligent and hard working kids.

I want more teaching of inclusivity and love and respect for ALL people

I was disappointed to find that Hudsonville Admin/Board of Ed did not find it necessary to train teachers to deal with DEI. ALL students are important and it was disappointing to find that the PD to help teachers learn how to help the minority populations was cancelled because a few outspoken parents threw a fit. If the PD training was found to be important enough to schedule, why was it cancelled so easily? Did the few parents know more about teaching than the admin/Board of Ed? It worries me that a small group of people had so much power over an important PD that they obviously didn't even understand what it entailed.

I was very satisfied with HPS the first few years of schooling however as the district grew I saw less individual attention given to the kids especially in grade school. I think smaller class room sizes would be beneficial to the children as well as for the teachers.

I will no longer be satisfied if SEL is eliminated.

I would be more interested in a gifted program, language program and a more diverse school.

I would like more focus on core classes in the elementary.

I would like to see small group reading centers in the elementary school.

I would love less time devoted to RULER and more time devoted to meeting the diverse needs of our students in math and reading. There needs to be time and attention given to our gifted learners (not just "brain teasers" and "differentiated instruction").

I would need to see school climates improve through district-wide efforts to increase belonging and supports for physical, emotional and mental health before I could increase my satisfaction rating.

I'm concerned that the board will try to remove SEL from the schools because of the current political climate and the fact that most of Hudsonville appears to lean conservative. I'm also not happy with the pricing and inflexibility of scheduling with the before/after school care. Lastly, I think the dress code should be revisited and loosened up for female students - I don't understand why spaghetti strap tops are banned.

I'm concerned with the extent that religious conservative worldview dictates the culture and priorities of the district

I'm disgusted with the lack of teaching for the public benefit. I want more evidence based and science informed Health Education in the schools. Parents who disagree with the content can opt to remove their child. Evidence, not emotion, should inform topics.

I'm incredibly disappointed that DEI efforts were removed. Anyone with training and experience in DEI knows that it is not divisive and very impactful to learners. We are not a very diverse district, so these efforts are more than necessary to help teach our kids empathy to ALL. Not just those that look like them. With DEI comes empathy. It's heartbreaking what is happening in this community. We love HPS, but the BoE needs to open their eyes. This isn't political. It's just being a good human.

I've seen some shenanigans at play with the school board and their politics, and seen some things I don't like in how those played out in the schools.

I'm disappointed with the "things" being taught to our kids. I'm so disappointed with some teachers behaviors about personal beliefs being spoken of in the classroom and how hudsonville literally does nothing to discipline bullies

I've witnessed first-hand duplicity from our administration staff in their effort to further a politicalized agenda and I am very disappointed in their actions. Their plans for the district do not align to my expectations and their intent is plain to see by watching how they craft and manipulate what they present to the community and to the school board. Hopefully the school board can restore people of character into our administrative staff roles.

I'm happy with the teachers, staff and buildings my kids are currently in. But it's hard to say about ALL the schools since there are so many and you don't see or know about all of them. They can be all very different. The one thing I'm not liking is the fact that hudsonville is now becoming bigger and we are stretched out from one side to another making it a very big area with MANY schools. It feels like sooner than later we need to consider dividing jamestown and hudsonville or Georgetown and hudsonville and make 2 districts from our 1 currently. Just a thought,Ä¶

I'm very happy with the elementary curriculum, teachers, communication, safety, etc. I am displeased with the middle school experience. Core teachers are exceptional but elective teachers are not providing a positive learning experience. It has been very frustrating to watch my child learn to navigate through that and, ultimately, come out disliking almost every elective. He does not enjoy attending school and he used to.

Increase safety, staff and student ratios, SROs, more frequent parent teacher communications, not just conferences

It's a wonderful school district, spot on with communication.

It's difficult to change a lack of diversity.

I've seen steady decline over the last 7 years

Lack of diversity or appetite to do better to be inclusive.

Lack of Gifted and Talented programs, the thought that we might get rid of SEL because of minority of loud parents in the district against it....else I'd put "very"

Lacks opportunities for advanced students, bullying is prevalent, low staffing (and newer higher last 5 years are mostly inexperienced except special Ed), lots of rah rah, lacking substance

Look at how many kids have left the district in the last couple years and ask they why they left.

Make the school more safer as more school shootings are occurring. Keep student to teacher ratios manageable and designed to enhance each students learning and learning style. Promote success and prepare for adulthood/ future.

Many places have room for improvement. Hudsonville has gotten too big to place attention to all the details. Too many kids are lost in that huge school, tossed to the side and forgotten. Only the super stars and favorites are catered to.

More STEAM and SEL needed.

More technology and problem solving engagement with business and colleges Increased sensitivity and education about the world outside Hudsonville - this includes diversity awareness, inclusion and belonging.

Most High School students say they hate how conservative the school is. It is not inclusive. They feel pressure to do drugs or else they are bullied. There is a problem with this. It seems to be getting worse each year. People seem worried about books more than the fact that there is a rotating bathroom schedule to buy and sell drugs at the high school. Kids are made to feel insignificant. It is sad and disheartening to think that the school staff doesn't even know who won States, or what extracurricular activities have been awarded either as a team or individuals. Basketball games are not even half full, students don't even go. The disconnect between the school spirit and its students and staff is a huge issue. All you have to do is go to any other school and you will see a drastic difference. We don't know if it is policy or leadership, but something has to change.

Most people I talk to do not like the woke way the board seems to be going, the SEL and PBIS agenda that seems to be pushed on teachers and kids. Why do we still do it? We need to get back to the basics and the rest will come without forcing it in them to be kind,Ä¶

My children were both repeatedly bullied from elementary through high school even when it was brought to the attention of administration. I taught my children to think for themselves and at school, they were muted as they did not agree with the school agenda. Too much emphasis on mstep and standardized testing instead of focusing on learning.

My middle schooler comes home EVERY day and says he is bored in school. Really unfortunate in my opinion. Straight A student who never has homework and is not truly being challenged, especially in the core classes that matter. Too much focus on SEL. Get refocused on becoming the best academic school in the state and leave the emotional challenges to the parents.

Need more full time opportunities for early childhood center. We logged in at 12:06 when it opens at noon that day and it was already full. If that isn't a sign that you need more classrooms your don't your job.

Neutral education.

Nobody is perfect.

Not enough academic opportunities for advanced students.

Not enough diversity and learning to celebrate people's differences.

Not enough emphasis on academics. Teachers favoring certain students and missing the needs of many others.

Not enough opportunities for advanced students at elementary. Don't like the hyper involved parents and current school board. We support VanderJagt and will see how it plays out, but have looked into transferring to another district due to drama.

Our district has made national news this year with the school board meetings. If we want to raise good humans, then the parents in this community need to be good humans themselves and model this. It's embarrassing to get a call from family in Louisiana asking if that's my district on their news stations.

Our district is seriously lacking in keeping kids physically and emotionally safe. The district can absolutely spend funds to hire security, make classrooms more secure, and make the schools more secure. The emotional side is different because the bullying starts at home and I'm not sure what the district can do but it would be great if there is something to decrease it. At the same time, allowing kids to walk around talking and acting like animals (aka furies) is on the rise and is unacceptable. Also, we have no issue with LGBTQ individuals but the standards need to be the same for all kids - no kissing, etc. at school.

Our district spends money on positions like MTSS and PBIS personnel when we should be providing more counselors. Teachers are teaching programs that they are not qualified for and should not be teaching as they are not trained to keep opinions out of this touchy subject. We should not be having this type of program in our schools! Put the money on the professional help vs the data collectors. Students are not widgets!

Our family specifically moved to the Hudsonville Public School district. We chose this district based on past performance and testimony from families that previously attended the school district. Unfortunately, the HPS that we learned about is not the HPS that our children are attending. There seems to have been a shift in philosophy which does not meet our expectations. [REDACTED] teachers and administrators are awesome but they are limited in their ability to execute due to additional (non-traditional) educational requirements that detract from core educational learning.

Refocus on STE(a)M. SEL must be a parent led area - input from teachers is obviously welcome and respected.

School board is being overtaken by those who have zero vested interest in our schools other than to control the curriculum the way they see fit. It's deplorable as well as extremely embarrassing

School is for academics, family dynamics are for social & emotional learning. Hudsonville, along with many other districts, need to learn the difference between the two. Again I will point out that parents should be considered a resource, NOT a hindrance.

Seems to be going downhill too big. Not enough counselors for the number of students. Need to hold kids to higher standards academically and discipline tougher

SEL needs to go Some books need to be removed Security needs to be reviewed/upgraded Parents need to know more about what's going on in classrooms/schools More frequent report cards for elementary kids Do not feel the administration- superintendent or principals put the students first. I feel like they are not doing what's best in education and are rolling over for the unions and not standing up for their parents or teachers- examples- masking, books, sel, etc

Sharing the bus routes with the christian school has lead to some unsafe walking distances for children on busy roads.

Size of school is now being felt. Elementary has been a fantastic experience at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has been a bit overwhelming, and not sure if our kids have thrived there. Infrastructure when issues have come up haven't been handled in a way we are comfortable with. Athletics leaves to little to be desired unless you are a stud athlete. No intramurals, and just looking at the student parking lot is panic provoking.

So many reasons. HPS tends to sweep things under the rug vs actually addressing them. Admin comes across unauthentic and doesn't seem to have the students best interest at heart. WAY too much focus on helping the naughty kids be better vs protecting and growing the kids who are not being naughty. There is nothing for kids who are excelling academically under AP classes in high school. Bullying is not addressed.

Social and emotional learning is important but the question above is far too broad. It is highly dependent on what is being taught and how it is being delivered to the students.

Special Ed services quality, alternative learning styles, diversity, mental health services, life skills

The board needs to get rid of SEL/Ruler curriculum and get back to the basics of teaching! Our kids are falling behind terribly and taking time out for this is getting them further and further behind!

the bullying is out of control and when my child has gotten hurt at school it's not communicated

The district administration team has not taken the time to build relationships with its stakeholders. I do not care that you think you have. You have not. Your [REDACTED] practices are shady at best. You have hired pockets of cliques from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] You have the wrong people leading this work. There is no way else to say it.

The district is managed by a current board majority that is not empathetic or inclusive. Our students on the margins will only continue to feel marginalized under this leadership. Our teachers are spectacular, but could use diversity in their makeup to better accommodate all of our students in preparation for the Global world outside of Hudsonville. Administration is political and though empathetic on the surface, primarily ego driven. More accountability and transparency is appreciated.

The district is too large and needs to find a way to have smaller class sizes and create a better community feel with opportunities for all students. Personally, our family believes there should be two high schools to accomplish these goals.

The district is too large and the schools have not done a good job with keeping teachers connected to students. Also there is a complete lack of diversity in the schools and, even though we are white, we have not seen good discipline for kids acting out against those of different nationality/color.

The election of the latest school board really seems to be a politically driven action rather than focusing on what is best for our kids. The newly elected board members alternate motives should not take away from making Hudsonville a diverse and inclusive educational experience. In addition, the school needs to continue to look at how to make this the best experience for all students by giving them opportunities to pursue educational options that are more tailored to their career choices going forward.

The [REDACTED] is terrible! [REDACTED] is better, but still difficult. Teachers should be far more focused on students actually learning. Stop focusing so much on SEL and sexual issues and just get back to teaching. Help students learn. Support them academically and that might just take care of a lot of the anxiety they experience.

The lack of online or blended options for students who struggle in a traditional school setting is detrimental.

The learning environment is no longer neutral and the focus on learning has decreased due to the following: behavior issues/disrespect, politics/agendas, symbols, flags, and signs being allowed to come into the learning environment, and phones.

The middle school does not have advanced mathematics for advanced students. I'm working to get my daughter into the PATH program at Hope College. This was not offered or suggested. I had to find out about it through a friend then petition the school to allow my daughter to attend.

The new administration has not been transparent with the community and lacks to gain feedback from community members and educators. This district has always been a community that treats people as people first. As a result, the values and beliefs of this district have been compromised.

The new school board has yet to make many decisions that can affect all of these questions. Until they get an opportunity to make decisions that are impactful it is hard to tell. I am concerned about their ability to make these decisions though.

The only worry I have is the current board of education putting their political beliefs above what's best for education.

The recent graduates I work with are basically neo nazis so there's that.

The reputation of this school district is why I moved here but it has changed over the last few years and too many politics from parents have been brought into the schools

The school board is going to destroy Hudsonville Public Schools. There are surrounding districts that was more inclusive where parents don't have to fight and argue. The new board (2 old members before) allows this and encourages this. We need to actually do what's right for ALL students and stop just saying it.

The school board is short sighted. They want to get rid of Ruler even though it was voted on and approved. They only listen to their echo chamber. They violated their positions and voted in people by discussing it before a meeting. They are not transparent.

The school district only cares about building new buildings and pushing their own agenda onto these kids

The school year calendar continues to add more days off during the school year resulting in an early start in the Fall than most schools and later finish in the Spring than most schools. It would be nice to see the district tighten up the school schedule and have the students in school during the school year, while stopping the continual shortening of "summer". The half day every 4th Friday is also quite a burden on parents who have to find daycare or take time off from work.

There are no accelerated programs for elementary and middle school students.

There are way too many early release dates and days off of school. These are very difficult for working parents. There is no supervision for middle school students, so they are home alone. The one to one Chromebooks are not being used for educational purposes outside of school. Our middle school boys very rarely have homework. We have to police the Chromebooks at home so that they are not used for gaming. We would prefer that they stay at school.

There has been no support or resources for children who excel in elementary or middle school.

There is a lot of institutional religion for a public school

There is no gifted and talented or advancements in elementary. By fifth grade we have seen students check out because they've never been challenged before. Making a horribly hard transition into middle school

There seems to be an agenda from the admin and a culture of segregation according to beliefs instead of a culture of growth despite differences. Some teachers are VERY opinionated in the classrooms and online which gives parents concern over how to address stuff so their children aren't targeted from a difference of opinion. Teachers/Admin claim they have kid's best interest at heart but it seems that is only true if the family aligns with what those teachers/admin value. Student's often say teacher's act one way in front of other teachers/admins and then another in front of the students (more in high school). Home work should be greatly eliminated with all the additional asks being placed on these kids outside of the school day. School has gotten so big and the big push against traditional values that formed and made HPS what it is are being pushed aside without regard for what good they have already done. People use to come to HPS because of it's reputation but with all the "advances" we are becoming just like any other large district with too many issues because we are losing the core of who we have always been as a community school.

There is room for improvement.

There were previous, as there will be future, incidents that were unacceptable. We cannot foresee nor meet every challenge with infallible actions. The important thing is we continue to try.

Things are beginning to be introduced and taught at school that I think should be left to parents or professionals in the fields, not teachers.

This is my first year with kids in the school district, preschool and kinder, so I haven't experienced a lot yet.

Too many hidden agendas within the administration.

Too many kids not enough quality help to help each kid some kids get overlooked

Too much focus on non Basics. Schools values do not match community and family values so don't teach them conflicting values. Not your job. Lack of communication from administration/board - no opportunity for conversation.

Too much focus on social issues and staff expressing their own political views and beliefs

Transparency!!!! The sneaky shenanigans need to end.

Under the administration of Dr. Doug VanderJagt the culture of the high school had significantly improved. Now with the agenda of the new school board members it seems all the progress for inclusivity and support has been stripped away. Selfishly I am so glad that my kids are almost done with the school system. But will they ever want to move back to this community once they experience citizens who love one another more than the "Christians" from Hudsonville are able to?

Very -- with the exception of the treatment of our marginalized students, particularly POC and LGBTQ students.

Very happy with the administrative direction but am increasingly concerned about the new board members agenda to take us backward.

We are low nationally, with very few project opportunities for elementary and middle schoolers that aren't Google slides. There are no living museum days, no creativity In presentation - just online slides. What happened to poster boards and book reports that required something other than Google? Our kids don't give enough oral presentations and there aren't enough opportunities to showcase these types of skills to parents.

We are unhappy with the size of hudsonville and the fact that it allows students to fall through the cracks so easily. Since our child's learning disability diagnoses we have heard from 5 different professionals (not associated with a particular school, but familiar with them both) that we would get more support from Jenison. To be clear I whole heartedly think the elementary is amazing and every teacher we have had would do anything above and beyond required to help our kids. But it goes beyond the classroom especially when they get older and don't have the same teacher all day. I am wondered they will just be another kid.

We do not like the integration of political bias we see in the hallways of the schools. We are unhappy with the large amount of time and focus spent on SEL. We have heard disturbing statements by teachers and administration that seem to believe they are co-parenting our students instead of teaching them academics in a positive environment while readying them for college and/or future endeavors. We hope the direction changes.

We have 2 high schoolers who are not being challenged enough academically. We've also gotten poor advice from counselors there and have not found much value there.

We have been very happy with Georgetown Elementary, however, our experience with middle & high school hasn't been as great. Teachers are allowed to push their opinions on our kids.

We have had amazing teachers at Hudsonville and great experiences for the most part. Georgetown has especially been amazing to us. My dissatisfaction is only about public education in general. It seems that in many ways the school is taking over the job that parents should be doing. And academics are not the priority because there are many behavior and other problems teachers have to deal with.

We need the core subjects; let parents do the rest. Keep them safe, teach them to read and write. that is all we ask. We picked Hudsonville because it seemed at the time that this school system was more interested in helping children succeed than medicating them and turning them out (like our home district.) I think covid may have ruined all of that though.

We were very happy with HPS until 2021. Since that time it's become apparent administration cannot be trusted. They are out of touch with the community as a whole on most topics. This is why [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were elected to serve on the school board, and won by a landslide. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are dishonest in survey results, and appear to have an agenda different than what the community desires. Teachers are frustrated and parents are frustrated.

Well, I was so not satisfied I removed my children from the district. The short list: atmosphere, ideology, curriculum, lack of consistent discipline, fiscal mismanagement, lack of parental support from administration. Also, if there is need to remove funding from anything to fund more teachers in the classroom, let it be from administration. HPS is top heavy.

While this is not something HPS can really control - I am disappointed in the lack of diversity in our district. I also struggle with the conservative "Christian" viewpoints that often feel pushed in our community and the decisions that are made in alignment with or to not ruffle the feathers of the conservative majority in Hudsonville. We are not welcoming to all. Hudsonville is welcoming to white, cis-gender Christians and it is hard for me to believe we are preparing students for life outside of Hudsonville Public Schools with this bias in our district. I fully acknowledge the role of parents in teaching and exposing children to diversity of thought and experiences but nothing will replace having peers, teachers and neighbors who are from diverse backgrounds, races, religions and experiences to support understanding of the world outside of Hudsonville. I believe this will be one of Hudsonville biggest challenges in the years to come. I do believe my children are getting an excellent academic education in Hudsonville.

Wish there was more individualized instruction for my child. Has been at end of her grade level in reading and math since fall and still just on the same course. When asked how we can challenge her. Instead of providing things she put it on us. I asked a specific resource to buy and no recommendation.

Would like to see improvements in our curriculum and taking care of our existing buildings.

Would like to see more option for kids to log on to things like epic, or online learning.

Other residents (n = 14)

Because there is always room to improve.

Bigger isn't better.

I am concerned about the moves of the current school board to usurp educators authority in their profession

Lack of foreign language offerings

Lack of Leadership, discernment and integrity within the upper leadership and administration. Examples then and now show ineptness in capabilities and Talent and the lack of caliber that is needed to fulfill parent and resident requests and overall direction.

Lack of SEL at all levels; lack of flexible learning options; lack of alternative graduation pathways; lack of clear acceptance and support for LGBTQ students/families, persons/families of color, non-Christian families and students as shown in communications, books, and programming - VERY disappointed in several school board members on these and concern for the direction of the District around all of these items gives me pause for recommending to others.

Liberalism has crept into our school and torn down the virtue that once represented Hudsonville Public School.

Probably because I sense a steering away from academics to other things that take away from learning. Overall I'm happy but don't like the recent changes I've seen.

The HPS Board should not allow sexually explicit books to be placed in HPS Libraries or Classrooms. Sexually explicit books have no place in K-12 education where the majority of students are under 18 years of age. Sexually explicit books are degrading to women, children, and men and are prohibited by State Law to be given to those under the age of 18.

They have allowed the culture too much influence, and the values taught in the public school do not align with much of the surrounding Hudsonville community.

Though [REDACTED] has some very good things going for them they fail in dealing with bullying, which is a big problem for many students. The bully knows how to get around the rules so they can continue bullying.

We are not focusing on learning.

We have had horrible results without children in Hudsonville, and back in early 2000's I had a [REDACTED] experience as well!

Where most teachers are amazing, most policies and the current representatives of the board do not reflect a safe environment for marginalized community members.

Primary reason why recommend Hudsonville Public Schools to families

Q. If you replied “yes” to the previous question, what is the primary reason why you would recommend HPS?

More frequently mentioned reasons include:

- ❖ Dedicated, caring and outstanding teachers and staff.
- ❖ High academic expectations, standards and performance.
- ❖ Wide variety of classes, electives, and extracurricular activities.

Current parents (n = 294)

A very positive and safe environment, great academic opportunity and extra curricular activities
Academic opportunities.

Academic standards, scores and options for classes.

Academically strong, caring teachers

Academics and safety in the buildings.

Academics are great and for the most part schools are great

Academics are overall decent, mostly friendly caring staff, buildings and technology kept up to date, overall student behavior is generally good.

Academics are up to par.

Again, the parent client, ottawa impact, and the school board members who drive their terrifying agenda is a huge Turn off to the district. We are going to lose great teachers in masses.

All the staff I have talked with are excellent and personal and care about my child and all the rest of the children in the school

Although some things could be improved, we have a phenomenal public education in Hudsonville. I have no doubt that when my kids graduate from HPS that they will be ready for further education or a job.

Although we are a large district, it feels smaller and personalized to our child and their teachers, school, and all of the adults she interacts with.

Alward teachers are amazing and have been advocates for our kids. Impressed with Dr. Vander Jagt's response to events such as the pandemic, school shootings, inclusion, etc.

Always room for improvement but overall a strong district, with many wonderful staff members, doing many things well.

Amazing elementaries, esp Mark Heagle at South elementary is phenomenal

Amazing teachers and academic opportunities

Amazing teachers and staff

Bauer Elementary staff have been absolutely, top to bottom, the best teaching staff I have ever encountered.

Because of the teachers. I also love how we value ALL extra curricular activities and not just sports.

Because they have great teachers and just a quality school district

Better than other public schools in the area but definitely choose a private school if possible

Big school with a hometown feel.

Both Jamestown and Riley have been wonderful schools (with great teachers) for all of our kids.

Caring and competent staff.

Caring teachers who are willing to partner with parents in educating our children

Caring, good community

Class sizes are too large and unless your children are elite athletes, they probably will not have opportunities to play.

Clean schools and town

Committed educators and opportunities for students

Communication and struggling student support

Community and conservative values

Community spirit, access to resources, commitment to providing opportunities for all

Community. Wide array of offerings.

Conservative Christian culture and beliefs

Conservative staff

Currently at the ECC, I feel that our teacher is teaching fundamental emotional coping skills. My 3 yr old has a structured environment that is teaching how to be kind to others as well as the curriculum

Dedication to a students education

Despite some struggles, there is much about HPS that we love. For the most part, teachers and staff care greatly for their students and most of our kids have had a positive experience thus far.

Dr VanderJagt and administration overall, as well as great teachers

Excellent academic, athletic and arts programs, teachers who care and are passionate about truly making a difference in our kids lives.

Excellent instruction! Great teachers!

Excellent teachers

Fabulous teachers and staff

FANTASTIC school with strong teachers and caring families.

Focus on improving academics.

For academic support above normal. Most children are well behaved, sense of community and safety

Friendly students & staff. Welcoming community. Great education standards.

Friendly, knowledge teachers and leadership who build connections and relationships with their students to help meet them at their level and offer support and challenges to grow the learner

Georgetown elementary has been nothing less than an exceptional experience with our oldest starting elementary.

Good academics. The only reason I wouldn't recommend would be due to community influence of not being as accepting of people who have a different lifestyle than a majority of the area (race/ethnicity/family structure/gender/religion/etc)

Good Early Childhood and Elementary schools

Good education

Good education (and educators), opportunity, location, sports teams & I know from personal experience that there is excellent support for Autism and other special needs.

Good learning environment and disappplied learning.

Good quality teachers overall

Good support. Good communication. Safe on the whole. Good community involvement. Teacher involvement.

Good teachers, small town feel

Great academics, staff that care, continue to make it better

Great academic opportunities

Great community.

Great education and amazing teachers that care about their students.

Great leadership

Great opportunities and some amazing teachers. Special education is top notch!

Great opportunities in classes, sports, clubs, and we have really great teachers!

Great opportunity for kids to learn and grow.

Great public school compared to others in the area

Great report with teachers in elementary school.

Great schools community supported.

Great staff

Great staff and opportunities

Great staff and overall a great district. Honestly, my biggest concern is with the community and other parents in the district.

Great staff and schools that are willing to work with families to meet the needs of their child(ren).

Great staff at Park Elementary.

Great supportive staff

Great teachers

Great teachers - Great leadership - Great kids!

Great teachers and staff at South

Great teachers and staff that push for what is best for the students.

Great teachers and staff who are dedicated to seeing kids succeed.

Great teachers and staff.

Great teachers and supporting staff

Great teachers at the elementary Jamestown lower area. Teachers and staff allow parent to be part of their child's development and learning. Clean, friendly, teaches accountability and responsibility.

Great teachers on a whole and many opportunities for students

Great teachers who love their students!

Great teachers, community

Great teachers, support staff, and administrators!

Have been mostly very impressed with all of the teaching and support staff. Everyone seems very kind and caring.

█ seems to be following agendas broadcast in the media.

High academic standards and highly prepared students for college and for work

High academic standards with involved parents and staff who genuinely care

High academic standards, great staff, great communication, lots of sport and art opportunities for students.

High quality education with caring teachers and support staff. Well educated team supporting childhood development, using modern learning techniques. A wholistic approach to education for well rounded students.

High quality education, great teachers and principal at South Elementary. Availability of childcare for before and after school.

High Standards and Quality Leaders

High standards of academia

High standards, great community, and wonderful staff.

HPD has not become nearly as out of touch as JPS when it comes to pandering to fringe groups.

HPS as a whole cares about its students.

HPS has a team of dedicated administration, teachers, and staff who look out for the best interests in students. From my experience, there has always been great communication to the parents and employees, no matter what level, make themselves available to the parents as needed.

HPS has an evolving ASD program that provides inclusion and the staff that work with the children everyday are wonderful and caring.

HPS has been very good for my children. Both of my kids are reading above their grade level and doing math above their grade level.

HPS has some of the best teachers around! They genuinely care for each student and want them to succeed.

HPS is a k-12 grade school.

HPS is quick to integrate academic/extracurricular programs used in other districts (STEAM, Robotics etc) and aspires to promote academic excellence in ADDITION to sport performance with accountability practices. The district continues to seek public input while planning and implementing changes/improvements.

HPS is very invested in caring for kids.

Hudsonville provides wonderful learning and extracurricular opportunities for its students. We have many amazing staff members that go above and beyond for all kids.

Hudsonville staff are proven to prepare you for college courses.

I am an alumni and have a lot of pride in HPS.

I can't say yes anymore. There's an anti-God attitude. I know you can't promote God, but can't you respect and welcome kids who do?

I do believe this is a good school system. I have 2 children that graduated from Hudsonville almost 10 years ago and I have my younger children that are in elementary & middle school. I think the school system has definitely changed between the 2 sets of children. The question is why did it change or maybe it didn't and I just didn't realize the shenanigans that were going on behind the scenes.

I feel like Hudsonville does 'see' each student, there are great opportunities compared to other schools.

I feel like my kids are known in their school and as a working mom, I find it amazing that they know me too!

I feel my children are very well prepared academically for their next steps after graduation. If the district continues to grow, and HHS continues to be one enormous campus, I may feel more hesitant to recommend it as readily. My youngest ([REDACTED]) already feels lost in the crowd and unnoticed at [REDACTED] due to her large class size.

I have always had a great experience with my daughters teachers. Their dedication, love for children and ability to pick up on individual child needs is wonderful. I have not always had a totally enjoyable interaction with office staff. Most are great. Have has a few short, less than caring conversations.

I have been very satisfied with the education and learning that my kids have received through HPS.

I have greatly appreciated staff, administration, facilities, and opportunities for my children. My hesitation to recommend HPS to anyone would solely be because of the board and the hostility in the community toward supporting ALL students and trusting staff to continue to deliver the thoughtful, meaningful, and intelligent instruction that they are all highly trained to do.

I have many nieces and nephews that have and do attend HPS and they are all thriving. We enrolled our first child into Hudsonville as soon as he was school age and do not regret it at all. The teachers are passionate and supportive, the curriculum is challenging, and the community is second to none.

I have serious concerns about our school board and the lack of care and concern for ALL students and teachers. I believe we have the best superintendent in the state and our teachers are second to none, so I would recommend HPS quickly to my white, Christian, heterosexual friends. I'd use extreme caution to suggest anyone that doesn't fit in that bucket or who might need extra resources for their child's education.

I love the support from the schools. I appreciate the community and the importance of faith in this community.

I think it's a great district with good morals and good teachers. Some of that seems to be changing but hopefully the good one will always outweigh the "bad" ones.

I think there is a need to reach all students where they are at individually with more staff support and programs to help children who may need extra help but do not qualify for special education services.

I truly believe HPS has the best interest of the students in mind. Nobody will be 100% happy all the time, but I do trust that HPS takes the time and commitments seriously in all decisions regarding students and staff at HPS. Thank you!!

I would (and have) recommended Jension over Hudsonville many times, and at present, I stand by that.

I would be careful to only recommend schools my children have attended. My personal experiences have been excellent, but I would tell them the direction the school seems to be heading in (DEIB, ruler, PBIS) and caution them to stay extremely involved.

I would not for middle school and high school until there is a shift in the current school board.

I've been very happy with the schools my children have attended. The staff are kind, supportive, and great educators.

I've got good kids, they like school...we'll see how successful they are when they graduate.

If the family was part of the LGBTQ community, part of a non-Christian community, or part of a community of color, I would recommend they look at all other options before considering HPS. These groups of people are more likely to struggle with belonging, bullying and harassment in HPS and I would worry about the toll it might take on their mental health.

If the student is straight, white, cis, and Christian, they will be accepted

If your child performs and acts at their age level they will be fine

In the 5 years my children have attended HPS, they have had wonderful teachers/staff in the building and they feel loved and safe at school.

It has been evident that both HPS and the community care about the education of their students. Although we are frustrated with some things, we still give it high marks.

It is a good school district academically.

It is a quality school district. Just like all people and all institutions there are some that are the best and some that are the worst and there is an average. This school district as good as I can hope for my kids.

It's a very well organized district.

It's a good community.

It's a tight community that values kids.

it's a great school and they are always welcoming and know all the students

it's too big

Its a great place for my kids.

Jamestown elementary buildings have excellent teachers and community vibe.

Kids seem to be in a safe learning environment

Larger districts have more resources for an array of educational and athletic opportunities.

Learning and culture

Like everything HPS has areas where it could improve but overall it is a wonderful school for academics, athletics, social, emotional and physical safety.

Lots of great staff. Good testing results which has to mean something.

Love our elementary school and staff there

Love our teachers and community!

Love the school district, but the high school is extremely large.

Love Working for HPS Son Loves his Teacher

Most teachers are a good role model.

My 3 children are all having a great educational experience and I believe others would as well!

My children are doing amazing in this school district and. For the most part feel they belong where my other children went to different schools and didn't feel like they had

My children are thriving here.

My children thrived! Great teachers and safe environment. Thanks to all!

My experience with my home district (JPS) for all three of my kids was AWFUL. I have had such a different experience with HPS- grace, understanding and patience has taught my child FAR MORE than shaming.

My family had lived in Hudsonville for generations. As long as it continues to be a good Christian and conservative town I'd always recommend it. HOWEVER, if transgender bullshit or acceptance of furries happens then I'll have a much different opinion.

My kids are cared for by the teachers and their educational growth has been sensational

My kids have been successful within the school district. I would not recommend for families of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds.

My kids have felt at home at hps, the teachers care for them

My students have an overall good attitude towards school and the environment of the school.

My two girls are very happy with their school. There are lots of opportunities and I think Hudsonville is a great place to send your kids. I am concerned with how big the school is getting.

Nice, safe school campus, concept development based math curriculum

Not if there child is special needs.

Other schools are still worse.

Our child's preK teacher has been so incredibly helpful and caring. Our child loves his teacher and his class.

Our children's experiences with HPS have been mostly positive.

Our experience with HPS staff has been very positive. Our family feels very supported even given different academic needs for our children

Our family has had an excellent experience!

Our kids have been supported well and have grown. Good experience

Our teachers care.

Overall a good school, but worry about how big it is/getting.

Overall a great district with great teachers. I can see what my children are learning each day. They are doing very well.

Overall a solid district. Certainly some room for improvement, but overall a district that provides a good education, is well-managed by the administration, and as long as the board doesn't overreach, a good long-term outlook for positive outcomes.

Overall a very good school system with lots of opportunity for students to learn.

Overall good school and most teachers we experienced were nice and cared for kids.

Overall great teachers who care for their students, and lots of opportunities for extracurricular activities

Overall hudsonville school have been outstanding. Our son has only attended hudsonville schools.

Overall I am very impressed with the breadth of opportunities my children have had in academics and extra curricular activities along with the amazing teaching staff.

Overall I feel the school district it good.

Overall meet the mark and expectation. Good school

Overall my students have received a quality education

Overall the district is well run, the schools are well funded, and the community really supports them.

Overall the staff, athletic programs and all the support of the teachers in school program

Overall, Hudsonville is a good district that focuses on academics. The majority of the staff is caring and wants the best for each student.

Overall, it's a safe and emotionally healthy district. The teacher shoe that they care about the entire person of each student.

Overall, there are many wonderful, wonderful instructors and administrators who work very hard to create an incredible environment for our students to learn. The changing tide of our culture, behavior issues with students, and lack of morality are reasons we are continuing to keep a close watch on HPS. If the our worldly societal and political standards continue to be brought forth in SEL, etc, we would pull our students from HPS and find alternative educational opportunities, as we feel these pieces are for the discretion of parents to invest into their own children. We are thankful for the quality education our children are receiving at HPS and would like to see the district continue to focus on these pieces.

Pathway for success

Performance of my children and the aquatics teams which all of them are on.

Phenomenal teachers and staff with high academic achievement results.

Primary reasons: It's a wonderful district. Which means academically and staff wise. We have been nothing but pleased with the education our children have received.

Quality and opportunities

Quality education

Quality of teachers and staff

Regardless of its faults and growing pains, Hudsonville is still a great place to be. Academic expectations are high. Students walk away from HPS with an excellent education.

Reputation, satisfaction of neighbors with older children enrolled.

RULER and SOAR. RULER has helped our children name and understand their emotions and the emotions of others. It has helped them be more empathetic toward themselves and others. SOAR aligns with the values we think are important and knowing that these values are reinforced at school.

Safe and constructive learning environment with a large array of opportunities for those of varied interests.

Safe environment to learn

Safe schools, good reputation

Safe, kind teachers, good academic scores

Schools communicate well with parents. It is obvious staff loves and cares about my children. Staff does an outstanding job.

So far the teachers!

So far, everything my kids have experienced at Forest Grove has been wonderful.

So far, have kept CRT out of school and have not gone ,”woke,” with bathroom and locker policy changes. Please keep things this way.

South Elementary has done a phenomenal job educating my 3.

Staff

Staff and families

Staff and teachers have been great thus far through elementary.

Still good overall. A lot better than most.

Strong academic reputation

Strong academics/athletics and good teachers/coaches

Strong families and very good teachers.

Supportive staff

Teachers and principal are engaged and very much care about their students.

Teachers and staff

Teachers care about your kids and want them to do well in life

Teaching staff is amazing, they genuinely care for the kids

The academic achievements, expansive extra curricular opportunities, and care that is shown for students.

The atmosphere of Hudsonville schools is very good and I would recommend HPS to anyone

The care and attention given to each child. The teachers exhibit true passion and energy in their work and it shows in my child's improvement.

The care and attention the teachers give to students. It is 100% because of the teachers- they deserve all the credit for HPS being what it is.

The direction of the new school board is extremely concerning. They do not care about our students and they do not trust our teachers. They will drive away the people who actually care about the children of Hudsonville. For the most part I trust the teachers and administrators and I'm happy with offerings at the high school. The board is stuck in the past and have no idea what it's like to actually teach or be a child growing up in 2023.

The district leadership and teaching staff are top notch. My main issue with HPS for my kids have been its lack of diversity, but this needs to be Board driven.

The district's reputation for having a quality education and athletics programs.

The educators at our schools love our children and give so much time and energy. There are countless examples of multiple teachers that went above and beyond to help my boys succeed both academically and socially.

The elective options at the high school are impressive

The focus on student achievement, well led and managed, many opportunities for kids both in and outside the classroom.

The good teachers we have had as well as people like [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have made a huge impact on our kids.

The great staff, and high priority of education.

The great teaching staff

The involvement of the students to support others. The integration and love students have for their peers with special need. The desire to voluntarily be around them to support and participate.

The overall school ratings

The people! The community! The opportunities! The staff!

The people! Wonderful teachers & families that we've met along the way.

The quality of most teachers is unparalleled

The quality of the education

The school district offers a wide variety of clubs and opportunities to students. The schools are safe and the academic performance seems to be high compared to other districts.

The sense of community in a larger school setting.

The staff

The staff go above and beyond norms to ensure our kids are given the opportunity to do their best everyday.

The staff has been responsive and addressed any issue I have brought forward, my kids have great teachers that really enjoy their jobs. The middle school has a variety of options to choose that creates a day they enjoy, the staff has been great and helpful and FLEX hours are helpful for questions or any help when kids need it in any class. Communication I feel is essential and both elementary and middle school has been great in keeping parents informed what is going on and what is happening in the classroom.

The staff in the elementary and middle schools is truly invested in student success. The HS is also filled with caring staff but the emphasis seems to be more on teaching than learning in many cases. Teachers feel pressure to get through the curriculum and that doesn't leave much room to go back and fill holes in student learning.

The staff is amazing

The staff is wonderful (at least at Park.)

The staff. There are so many people who CARE.

The superintendent is leading the district in the right direction. Even though we have a long ways to go in terms of DEIB and SEL, he is pushing forward as he should.

The teachers and administration care about kids in Hudsonville

The teachers and principals

The teachers and school leadership.

The teachers and staff at Park know my children well and work with them through their struggles

The teachers and staff have been absolutely amazing! My children have felt loved, valued and safe at school. Couldn't be more grateful for the teachers and staff at Jamestown!

The teachers and staff really seem to care about the students

The teachers and staff.

The teachers are amazing!

the teachers we have encountered have been very supportive of our kids; overall good learning experience

The teachers we've had so far have been incredible!!

The teachers! You have fabulous faculty who show every day how much they care for their students

The teaching staff

The things I know about and experienced have largely been positive, it is the unknown that is concerning.

They are great working with the special needs my child has.

Variety of classes, good teachers

Variety of opportunities available

Very complete program, very sports emphasized, probably needs a bit more arts. Overall, its a solid curriculum and kids are prepared for advanced education.

We are missing principled leadership based on many decisions I have seen since 2020. I did not feel this way prior to 2020. Prior to 2020, leadership was strong and the district was headed in the right direction focused on academic success. So many poor decisions have changed the direction and have swayed our confidence in HPS.

We are very happy with the schools in general. Only concern would be how big the district is getting.

We have a great experience at Alward and the staff we really like it there

We have always had good communication, high quality teachers, good extracurricular opportunities.

We have been extremely happy with our kids' education. We also love the opportunities the Tech Center provides. We have a previous graduate who is extremely successful in his new career because of the Tech Center, and our younger boy was just accepted as well.

We have been happy with the progress all 3 of our kids have made since we moved here in August 2021.

We have been pleased with the instruction and support our kids have received. We do have concerns about the lack of diversity and recent efforts to scale back SEL, sex education, and trust in teachers. My hesitancy to recommend HPS would be about those factors.

We have had a great experience with HPS so far!

We have had a very positive experience through our kids first 6 years of school with HPS. I know everyone has had their own unique experiences and circumstances, but we have found the teachers to be compassionate and caring. We have also been blessed by great building leadership with [REDACTED] and Now [REDACTED] We have seen our kids grow academically and flourish socially during our time with HPS.

We have many privileges and advantages to our school district vs a district located in a lower income area. I feel our community is safe, however, if we don't do more to keep our kids and parents held accountable, we will be in trouble.

We lack diversity and teachers are being shamed for caring about all learners.

We love our school, the staff and teachers are all wonderful and caring. We've had good experiences with the other families in our children's school. Our kids feel supported and are learning and growing well.

We love the city of Hudsonville, Georgetown township and our neighborhood. I think the city reflects the high quality of the schools. We know a lot of people with kids in the district who are very happy with their experience.

We love the ECC and Bauer staff! So far we have had an amazing experience

We love the school district all around

We love the teachers my son has had and currently have. The schools offer fun and exciting classes.

We love this school. The staff has been amazing to ours kids.

We only have one child in HPS so far. His [REDACTED] teacher, [REDACTED] is more amazing than we could have ever imagined. She has gone above and beyond in helping our son be more comfortable socially and emotionally with beginning full time school.

We've been very pleased with our two years in the district so far. Hudsonville has a good reputation for academics, although some of the beliefs held by the majority of the community are concerning and I don't know if or how that manifests in the higher grade levels.

Well rounded, supportive, good reputation

what about if i replied no or not sure? these are terrible questions, there is not equal measure for disagreement.

While you can always strive to be better, HPS is already a great school district. Nothing's perfect and there is always room for improvement.

Willingness to apply continuous improvements, hold strong values, excellent teachers and support

Wonderful and attentive teachers. My 3 kids are thriving at south elementary!

Wonderful facilities, staff, and programming.

Wonderful superintendent. The elementary schools are amazing. The district is safe. Most of the teachers and principals are incredible.

Wonderful teachers who care so much about their students

Yes if their kids have zero issues and are 100% neurotypical. No if their kids have any type of special needs.

You are a wonderful school system with amazing teachers!!! We love our teachers!

You have not gone WOKE yet! I will pull me kids out if any on the nonsense of other schools start at Hudsonville.

Other residents (n = 5)

Caring & supportive staff

High academic standards

HPS has many good qualities that I hope outweigh the things they could improve on.

I would say yes, with reservations. I would keep a very close eye on curriculum.

Overall a good education

Unaided Additional Comments

Q. Do you have any questions or comments about the issues in this survey or anything else about Hudsonville Public Schools? If you would like a reply or further information, please include your name and preferred telephone number or email address to contact you.

More frequently mentioned comments include:

- ❖ Specific teachers and staff members are praised by name.
- ❖ Some parents feel the district has grown too large and should be split.
- ❖ Again, some parents feel HPS and public schools are following a too progressive political agenda, while other parents feel that the district's Board is increasingly intentionally exclusionary and discriminatory.
- ❖ Several parents note their appreciation for the SOAR research and strategic planning ...
"Thank you for reaching out to parents/community and asking."

Current parents (n = 165)

A survey should not be 96 questions long. That is a test and then some. Think about how much time a person has to spend filling this out.

Academics are preventing an A

After touring the new 5/6 building I saw a lot of difficulties for kids with special needs to transition to both floors...the bus loop, the playground, the special classrooms.. not every child can use the staircase or is comfortable in a small elevator

Again, the politically charged actions of the newly elected board members along with their ties to the Ottawa Impact group shows that this community has a long way to go in making this more about education and learning and less about ideological and political beliefs. We should be looking at what is best for our kids when it comes to learning and their future and not about forcing someone's beliefs into education. When we first moved here, I was excited about what Hudsonville had to offer. Now, I am not sure I would want my future grandchildren to be a part of a community that struggles with inclusion and diversity. Hudsonville needs to get back to making education the forefront and getting the politics and religious beliefs out of the process.

Any swap and change to traditional start times needs to get ~100% public support and comment. Scientific findings change and get superseded with new knowledge MUCH faster than K-12 policies can change.

As a resident of Lowing Woods I am disappointed in the districts recent decision to restrict bussing for Jenison school of choice students. Many people built homes with the assurance from both districts that bussing would be provided and it's unfair to remove that now.

As a teacher in a neighboring district, I feel that it is important to be inclusive to all students and to teach emotional skills. Coming off the pandemic, it is even more important to continue the work to be kind, include all, and teach about others.

As previously stated, I do not think SEL should be offered to every student. It can be a support tool for students that need it. I also have concerns that HPS isn't doing enough to limit controversial content from being in the schools. This is not about limiting student access, but instead not having those items in the schools to begin with.

As someone who moved here three years ago, I am beyond impressed with HPS. Every teacher and administrator are dedicated to our students. In particular, our Superintendent is a spectacular and beloved leader. I would hope HPS continues with its current stable leadership for decades to come.

Be strict on our staff...hold them accountable. We need to be the examples, the role models.

Common Core and DEI curriculum has definitely had a negative impact on my opinion of Hudsonville Public Schools. The High School has gotten too large for it's location and having a negative impact on the local area especially in regards to traffic and safety.

Continue to stay conservative and keep the ideology of the left that's destroying american foundational values out of Hudsonville. DEIB, BLM and any other social movement doesn't need to be a part of any school. All lives matter and that's what should be taught. There's no need to separate people into groups. If you're not allowed to preach the gospel, no school should be allowed to preach about other topics that people may take issue with. The teachers should stick to teaching what they went to school for and not push their subjective opinion on our children. We were all better off when there was an objective standard beyond our own feelings to aspire to.

DEI needs to be a priority at all ages and in all buildings and programs

Do we have any Hudsonville veterans recognition programs? I know there are West Michigan Veterans Coalition programs that support and acknowledge the efforts of high school students to create awareness around veterans' presence/contributions. Perhaps is an opportunity to give students a volunteer/recognition opportunity for college apps as well as build a connection with the greater Hudsonville community.

Enormous amount of money being spent on athletics/buildings which are far too grandiose for the intended purpose. Please practice restraint as this is just not needed and adds to upfront costs as well as additional continued maintenance expenses.

Extra adult needed on elementary buses to help with behavior. This should not all fall on the driver, they cannot manage behavior and drive at the same time. Keep SEL in the classroom, the elementary students need to learn how to manage feelings. Young students are dealing with HUGE emotions and many do not know any strategies to manage these feelings.

Fantastic survey

Feel middle school needs more counselors to help with transitions to middle school and helping kids get the needed help in classes and placements

Fix the website so parents can navigate and find out about all these questions on what Hudsonville offers on your survey. Navigation/links of the website is dating back to the early 2000s.

For the question about "learning styles"- "learning style" theory has been debunked.

Greg Chanski, Barb Hooper, and Mark Davis need to resign. Chanski is personally bad for kids and bad for any organization he touches. He is a liar and continues to try to hurt the district. Hooper can not be trusted and Davis is out of touch with reality.

Having younger children and their days earlier would be tricky for working parents. Right now, the older kids get out earlier and are fine to be home on their own after school until parents get out of work. If younger kids got out earlier, there would be more need for after school care.

HHS lacks a student body comradery. We have had a few kids go through HPS and therefore have had a front row seat in watching this decline over the past five years. Most recently we have noticed the lack of interest in high school basketball games. Students are lacking connections with their peers. It's alarming.

High school counselors and assistant principals need to take the time to learn about kids that have been bullied in their previous school years so they know how to handle them if situations arise. My son who is a freshman says that there is no one he trusts at that high school or freshman campus. He is a victim of bullying to the extent of broken bones in 5th and 6th grade. [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] was the only one who worked to put a stop to my son's bullying but not much is being done this year for him as a freshman. He gets told he is a liar which makes me so very angry.

Holy moly this survey was too long. It took me over an hour. I am sure that most people probably have given up by now.

How are educational and functional choices made on running the district compared to other schools? Are only local Michigan schools compared or are schools across the nation compared? Who makes these choices and what do they base their choices on? The demographics of the district?

HPS needs to discuss splitting schools similar to Zeeland. We are losing great teachers and know one knows why. Busing needs to be a priority to get more routes and drivers again SEL in the curriculum needs to stop

HPS is growing rapidly at what point do we seriously look at splitting the district. Yes, I know running two schools and athletic departments is expensive/ hard, but at some point it has to happen. We can't keep adding to class size (talking total number of kids in a grade level) without the kids ability to participate being hindered (ex. So many kids wanted in for MS play this year they had to cut kids that requested to be part of backstage crew. Not so many years ago the 'play kids' were begging people to help because there weren't enough to make a production). When are we too big for our (our kids) own good? Are we trying to be the biggest and the best or trying to create a great experience for our kids. Also, are we continuing to not only get kids ready for college, but what about those that don't want or need to go to college? Are we getting them ready for adult life, showing them the many great careers that don't require debt? Or the great opportunities for trade programs and careers? Are we pushing college when it is not needed or is there still the stigma attached from the 80s-00s that you need debt and a college education to be someone. As a first generation college graduate myself, there are some great opportunities that my kids may not need to go to college for and we need to be ok with that and prepare them for other life paths.

HPS is starting to academically fail its students by rewarding bad behavior. The SEL is encouraging rewards to children who are not following rules, since when has this ever worked to benefit anyone? It is encouraging these children to behave poorly so they get to visit the PBIS instructors and get candy or other rewards to ,” calm,” them down. What is this teaching the child? The other children in the class? It isn't excepted behavior anywhere else, so why now at school? Why has HPS recently decided to launch and continue this? Many teachers do not believe in it or see it as impactful. I believe the funding spent on the Sel/PBIS could be used more wisely to educate or support the children academically.

Hudsonville Robotics has won 3 of the last 6 state championships and we can't even get a banner hung in the gym or decent facilities for the teams. Robotics is a year-round activity and these kids get very little recognition. I feel if they were athletes they would be treated differently.

I applaud you for seeking feedback from families within HPS! It is appreciated! My one question is what is being done to proactively address mental health issues and suicide in our youth? My children in HPS are young so I do not have a good grasp on how large of an issue this is in HPS and our community. Just looking for better understanding on this. Thank you!!

I appreciate the breadth of the questions asked in this survey and the opportunity for parents to provide input.

I do highly praise the ASD program at Bauer Elementary, where my two boys attend, but I'd love if you had more questions asking how you might be able to improve or just the public's opinion on certain aspects of that program.

I definitely think Hudsonville should focus on bullying and being proactive with it's discipline for the problem students. There was a student at my children's lower elementary school who had a terrible problem with her anger and she constantly had violent outbursts in the classroom. The students needed to evacuate the classroom every time she had an outburst. She was a constant disruption and danger to other students. I even complained to the principal but they kept putting this student back into the classroom until she physically hurt another student. Even then she was only gone for a few days. This type of situation should have been handled a lot better and that student needed to be in a different type of classroom setting where she couldn't hurt anyone or be such a distraction. Everyone has a story where their child is being picked on. The school needs to better address those situations before they become bigger problems. Also there needs to be better control on the school buses. I've heard far too many stories of the same problem students on the bus and nothing being done about their bad behavior.

I do not want RULER to become our SEL curriculum. I do not like the mood meter, as it is a psychological tool, that should only be used between a parent, child and therapist/counselor. I notice in school board meetings the word empathy or value is used as an example of RULER, which are great words, but not anxiety or pessimistic or despair, words that are also included in the curriculum and taught to our children. I do not agree with the idea of "emotional intelligence" is linked to my son at 10 years old needing to "regulate" his emotions on the mood meter. Daily. I believe children will naturally learn through every day experiences the words, value and empathy and compassion and what that means. Teachers naturally teach that every day. RULER needs to go. We can find a better resource! We absolutely love SOAR!

I don't know that I agree with what they have built more recently and where. I feel as a parent and community member there may have been better ways to use that money or even better places. Granted I may not know all the financial information or what is exactly needed, but from an outsiders view that is my opinion.

I don't think anything will change positively in our district with Ottawa Impact holding the majority of our school board. These people don't know education or even understand SEL. Lucy Caulkins does a disservice to learners and we need to look into something that aligns more with the Science of Reading. But the board may not even understand how to teach phonics, PA, decoding, fluency, etc. they just see dollar signs or drive whatever their neutralize education in HPS Facebook group tells them to.

I feel HPS needs to address how they are handling inclusivity. We need to support ALL students and there is a tendency in this community to be against certain topics like the LGBTQ community (book bans, etc).

I graduated in the top 5 of my class despite my mental disorder because I had teaching staff who cared and helped me flourish. I haven't seen a lick of that in the nearly 10 years of being a part of this school district. I am not an educator so I can't tell you how to fix it, but I suggest you start by listening to your teaching staff.

I have total confidence in Dr. VanderJagt. I am TERRIFIED of the influence of Ottawa Impact on our school district and community. I am scared that our school board has been taken over by people that fundamentally oppose diversity and inclusion. I'm scared that some of our board ultimately aim to purge Hudsonville of everyone that isn't exactly like them. This is not imagined; a Jenison School Board and Ottawa Impact member recently said at a school board meeting that she wants to reserve Jenison for conservative, evangelical Christians. She invited those who do not share her views to leave the community. Her statement is recorded and available for all to see. I believe some members of MY school board feel the same way. I believe some members of MY school board want my mixed-race, non-fundamentalist Christian family of , "outsiders," to leave Hudsonville. I believe some members of MY school board see my family invaders that need to be repelled. We want the freedom to live where we please as we please. I pray that Dr. VanderJagt will resist the wishes of some members of the board to push me and my family out of the community.

I hope that our school board listens to the administration and works with the schools. So far it seems they are just listening to a few loud voices or those in their own small circle. I would encourage them to get into classrooms and see for themselves what teachers and students are doing. That way they would have first-hand knowledge to defend against those who say negative things about teachers, administrators, and curriculum. We have exceptional teachers and administrators whose only "agenda" is student success. Board members might also see that SEL is a great benefit and a huge necessity, especially at the elementary level.

I just wish my special-needs child could be supported and educated without police involvement... He misses his friends dearly, but his mental health is much better attending virtually at this time. He'd like to return to HPS, but I just don't know if it's safe for him. He says he'd rather attend HPS in-person, because he'd spend the day in seclusion not working... That's all he learned. That's so sad.

I love [REDACTED] Elementary's principal but I liked [REDACTED] better overall.

I think Hudsonville is being held back in terms of education and expectations for their students compared to other contemporary school districts in West Michigan and beyond. As a resident who did not grow up in Hudsonville, I have experienced that there seems to be a multi-generational minority of residents who speak the loudest and wish that HPS would be operated more like a private faith-based academy rather than taking a holistic approach to reaching an entire community. Sheltering our children while also preparing them to leave and go to college is oxymoronic, at best. I hope that our school district can grow in these areas and that Hudsonville does not continue to increase its reputation as a stubborn, closed-minded, and entitled community, which is the feedback I receive when speaking with others from outside of our district.

I think that kids are academically falling through the cracks because of how large the school is. I think better grades are given than deserved, and communication should happen early with parents when there is a concern about a child. Kids in the middle, "average," kids get lost in the shuffle the most.

I think that Seniors should be allowed to leave campus for lunch. Most/many will be off to college and taking care of themselves the following year. I think the school should support their trust/respect in these young adults and let them leave campus for lunch.

I think the coaches need to be adults for elementary and middle school sports/activities. The things run by highschoolers that I have witnessed do not run the best.

I think the political nature of things in the district is shameful and needs to be curbed. Education exists to expand knowledge and build curiosity and understanding, not operate in narrow silos.

I think topics such as bullying, SEL, and inclusion need to be continuously taught to students. They learn from their parents and those around them, so a different perspective and reminders could help them become even better members of the Hudsonville community.

I understand doors are locked but I do not know if glass is shatter resistant or bullet proof. Also there is not enough staff to reasonably stop a person who really wanted to get in and do harm. I am consistently buzzed in without hesitation at the front door. Maybe someone recognizes me so it appears I am safe but I think an entrance to a school should be like the entrance to a courthouse. Metal detection and guard approving all visitors.

I used to be proud to say that my children attend HPS, but the community and school board make it embarrassing. I know the teachers and admin continue to do what's best for students, but they have their hands tied with the current school board.

I want to say thanks to the Super Intendant and all the teachers. I appreciate you all.

I want to see more flexibility in providing instruction at students abilities for math. I want continued SEL and staffing to help implement this.

I want to see more inclusivity taught. Discrimination against certain groups is still taught in the classroom and by parents and I would love to see more acceptance and inclusivity taught.

I want to state again my concern for safety at [REDACTED] I think it should be much harder to walk into the school. Also a new plan for parent pick up.

I wish the school board would stop entertaining people who don't know what they are talking about. Our board is inexperienced and will listen to whoever holds the same politics as they do. Additionally, there are four board members who were elected by Ottawa Impact (or lean that way) who are out of touch with the teachers they support and they are catering to their election donors.

I worry about how the angry parents who argue against SEL will impact the schools if the Board listens to them. Please continue to provide SEL, so the students don't end up as rude and mean as their parents. The local community is what scares me, not the schools. Keep fighting the good fight!

I would encourage the counseling department to work with the high school students more. There is no communication regarding SAT/ACT, college prep for the students and parents. Information should be sent out at the beginning of each year of high school explaining what they will be doing/need to do that year.

I would like more communication from the [REDACTED] I have two children in the district in the [REDACTED] program. We have been a part of the program since it started many years ago. I could not tell you the last time I received an update on the growing district/program. My daughter is at [REDACTED] and hasn't had a consistent teacher all three years she has been a student. My [REDACTED] is currently at [REDACTED] and will be entering the [REDACTED] How can I be assured there will be the proper and licensed staff to support him for these next several years? The parameters for meeting the need for [REDACTED] has changed over the years. If my child qualifies for the [REDACTED] program they should qualify for [REDACTED], no questions asked. That has not been the case for our household for the last couple of summers. Overall, the staff that work with our children everyday are amazing. We are frustrated at times by the logistics and the behind the scenes lack of transparency from administrators.

I would like to see a district split. We are getting too big and that decreases opportunities for athletes and those in the arts.

I would love to see more opportunities for children to participate in intramural sports so that more children have a chance to be on a team and develop skills. Hudsonville is a very large district and the participation in team sports helps children grow and learn in many ways both physically and emotionally. Since spots are limited on the competitive athletic teams, it would be great to have more opportunities for more children.

I would love to see [REDACTED] elementary be improved. it's so old and needs help :) the office and teachers are wonderful though! [REDACTED] also needs updating but specifically in the gym. Would be nice to see a new paint job with a hudsonville eagle somewhere in the gym. Nice representation for when away schools come. Bathrooms should be cleaned too before home games. They were gross at times during basketball this year.

I would love to see these kids with real world things being taught. Like managing money, counting change, basic things they do NOT learn. Reading can also be improved.

I'd like to see half days eliminated. This causes extreme hardships especially with the younger students. Better off to see a shorter school year or longer break.

I'd like to see more emphasis on opportunities for students that struggle with certain subjects. Also a bigger focus on teaching kids study techniques and test preparation. Learning how to successfully study.

I've heard Hudsonville is trying to make things the same across each building, yet the elementary building each do their own field trips. Why not make these equal too?

I'm concerned about the social emotional learning curriculum. Want to learn more

If a boy is born a boy he should use the boy's bathroom. No matter what. Same for a girl born as a girl. Otherwise you're created safety issues for our young girls and MCO uncomfortable situations for our young boys.

If the board tries to out Dr VanderJagt as it's been rumored, that would be a massive mistake.

It is important to remember the community. This is a Christian and Conservative county and city. We elect local officials to positions such as the school board that represent our values. In order to remain an excellent school we need to continue to be a beacon of hope and continue to develop our kids and community the correct way.

It would be nice for staff to have more support during recess time. Some students are being aggressive on the playground and adults are not seeing what happens. Kids are having to try and defend themselves and they get in trouble because you are not supposed to put hands on anyone. What supports can you offer my child if someone is hurting him and they don't listen to his words and there are no adults around to help him? If a child doesn't have an IEP or RTI plan but they can be very distracted during work time how will they be supported? Expecting a child to complete work when they are distracted and don't have a quiet space to work is a challenge for most kids. Buildings need more quiet spaces for small groups.

It would be nice to attract more diversity to the district.

Just make Hudsonville a great place to learn. Make it safe, and TEACH! If students learn to read, and study history. They will learn what they need to about how to treat others. If you teach the tricky subjects, maybe they will learn how to learn and learn that they can learn and even enjoy it! Stop pushing sex and gender issues. Stop focusing on only the dark parts of human thought and history. Inspire, show the good! Encourage them to be better!

Just to continually look to keep the kids safe. In current climate, nothing is too much.

Keep politics out of the schools and it will go back to excellent but until then there's a bunch of asshole kids running around like their parents and it's a disaster

Let's get back to the basics.

Let's hold talented athletes accountable for their behavior. Some of the things that have been ignored are absolutely disgusting. I know, you know, exactly what I am talking about. It is embarrassing for the district and I am shocked parents haven't pressed charges.

Lets pay teachers what they are worth. Lets hire experience. Lets go after the best. Only hiring on step one no matter the experience level is lazy and irresponsible. Our principals and our students deserve to work with well paid, happy, and supported top of the barrel teaching staff.

Listen to the parents. Specifically the majority, not the minority.

Listen, listen. listen. Listen to seek understanding. Support the educators doing the work. Seek feedback from community members and families. Put your own agenda aside and listen to the people you are privileged to serve. Please stop adding more staff to the administration office. Put more bodies in schools to support students! Appreciate the opportunity to give feedback.

Management of bullying needs to be improved. It's not taken seriously in the elementary schools, specifically at Alward it wasn't in the past. More help for students available with struggles in writing in elementary and middle school, who are not sp.ed., would also be a big improvement.

Middle School and HS need to do more to educate students and parents on the dangers of social media. Both content and overall time spent using. So many teachers at HHS have told me that students aren't getting adequate sleep because they stay up so late on their phones and many parents are oblivious to it

Middle school students need to write. Kids spend too many hours on their chrome books. Put pen to paper. Do some worksheets. Have at home projects. More and more our kids don't know how to do something unless it's on the computer. Despite how advanced technology has become, kids need to learn in a variety of ways. Our schools are becoming too computer dependent.

More focus on inclusion and diversity across the district

Mr. X doesn't teach, he just hands out packets. The thing that Jamestown upper did with the football players in their room was SOOOO amazing!

Mrs. X at Alward is a real problem. She should not be in a classroom. She is toxic and detrimental to the wellbeing of her students. The district's inability or unwillingness to deal with her is a disservice to every student she has year after year.

Need more full time opportunities for early childhood center. We logged in at 12:06 when it opens at noon that day and it was already full. If that isn't a sign that you need more classrooms your don't your job.

No complaints

Not a big fan of the superintendent. He will say whatever the public wants to hear...very slimy

Not just HPS but includes HPS - would not enroll my child (or would remove if younger) until public schools return to academic instruction only.

Only negative thing I have to say about the ECC is the appearance of the outside and inside of the building. The outside front door area could use a facelift and update on the sign and there needs to be updates inside the building to repair leaks/etc

Our school bus is terrible. I no longer bus and haven't for almost two years now. It was over crowded and the students were awful. My youngest is petite for her age. She was in kindergarten when fifth grade boys beat her about her back and abdomen with full water bottles. She was terrified. I called the transport office and never heard back. It was not the first incident of wild and unsafe behavior on the bus. I cannot believe that we can't hold to a better standard, labor shortage or not, children cannot bully and strike each other with impunity.

Our schools were taken over by an electorate of grandparents, churches, and private school families that lacked HPS involvement but felt strongly about their ideals. It saddens me that they will use any negative feedback as a projection that the community desires a change that they are bringing. Quite the opposite. Our community is made up of many necessary voices, but the money that was used to buy seats on our board if abused will not benefit the students of our district long term.

Parents need more time to talk at conferences. The speed dating concept isn't relational enough.

Please continue SEL and encourage less computer time and more time spent learning collaboratively. Please invest in more science of reading curriculum for lower elementary classrooms.

Please devote more time and instruction to our gifted learners at all levels. Please scrap the immense amount of time wasted on RULER and use that time to appropriately teach math, reading, science, and history.

Please enhance and reinforce your physical safety protocols at these schools. It breaks my heart to see all of the shootings and tragedies on the news, and have no idea what my child's school is doing to prevent this here at home.

Please focus on educating our children and avoid indoctrinating children. Create physically safe environments. Pay teachers well so we have the best educators in the state teaching our kids every day. Thanks to the Park Elementary staff and teachers. We're excited to have our children in the HPS school system.

Please focus on providing quality academic teaching for our students. While teachers certainly should guide good behavior, they don't need added SEL curriculum in order to achieve this. We also need to get back to fostering a partnership between teachers/staff and parents as opposed to making the relationship adversarial (teachers/staff keeping valuable insight about our students from their parents).

Please place more emphasis on career exploration and preparation. We are doing a ton of work on our own at home with our high school daughter to make up for the lack of focus on this in the high school. Also, the high school science teachers do not seem to truly embrace NGSS- there is very little time given to inquiry and working on the engineering practices (which are almost 1/3 of the standards). The focus seems to be on memorizing the DCI's and very little real-world application of concepts which does not result in deep learning.

Please remove SEL and the RULER curriculum and utilize that time to teach math, writing, science, social studies, and reading.

Please stand strong against these library defunding, parental over reaching, religious pushing, and science denying crazies. Do not allow them to infiltrate or influence our public school system as they have our local government.

Please take action to make schools more secure. Do NOT let administration keep doors propped open.

Please trust our superintendent.

Politics needs to be taken out of the schools, forget about teaching my child to consider what gender she is or what pronoun she prefers and teach her to read, write, how to do math, etc. I feel like [REDACTED] has lost sight of education- teaching students period I feel like the district is trying to teach my child WHAT to think and not HOW to critically think for herself We, along with many others, are strongly considering homeschooling or private school because of the decline in the district.

Portions of the survey seem to be leading questions where the positive answers (based on how the question is phrased) will be used to justify increased funding for initiatives where the district has probably already decided it wants to spend more.

Question 94 is a difficult question to answer as you need to separate the staff from the curriculum. Bauer Elementary staff and administrators are great. I would give them an A however I do not agree with some of the curriculum they have to use (I recognize that this is a school district decision) so that is why I selected C. My response does not reflect the performance of Bauer staff.

Reduce or eliminate early release days.

Seems like we need 2 high schools. Concerned about opportunities for students to participate in extra curricular. We should consider year round school.

SEL curriculum is critical. Please keep our LGBTQ kids safe. No book bans. If parents want to restrict, there should be systems in place to place the responsibility on those parents (Book check out approval for ALL texts if parents opt in...) Veteran teachers are not paid well in the district. A teacher with 19 years experience and a MA 30 would make 15,000 more A YEAR at Byron Center, 11,000 more a year at Wayland, 6,000 more a year at Kentwood...there is a teacher shortage, and we need to keep quality teachers. The board needs to compensate them better, especially in this charged political climate. A board/admin that will not stand with its teachers will lose its teachers.

Since we started hps we have seen the classes grow so quickly. It is important to listen to the parents in the community to hear the concerns. Many feel they aren't being heard. We have seen families transfer to other schools bc of this.

Special recognition: Ms. Figurski and Ms. TenBrock I am grateful for the compassion, investment and encouragement you have shown my son. You have made him feel valued and confident in his own skin. I feel blessed to have your support. Concerns: As we voted for the school board this fall and the news you see about the Ottawa County Commissioners it has made me concerned that there are hidden agendas amongst people in elected positions that will not follow the process including full transparency to make changes. I truly hope the responses to this survey are used with genuine commitment to make improvements versus a way for certain board members to control the narrative.

Spend the money on our kids future. Higher teacher wages, better security, more staff for assistance in music programs, social work and counseling.

Start having difficult conversations within your organization to improve the district. Hold others accountable. Deep dive into the people you have leading this work. Are they the right people? If not, why are they still in that role? All organizations are about relationships. Fact: you didn't build them when you arrived, and you haven't nurtured them since.

Stop being so home grown and search for outside blood to bring new and current insight to your community, curriculum, and CAMPUS CULTURE!

Stop teaching Ruler programs.

Surveys are worthless if nothing changes

Teachers and staff are amazing. We are more concerned with the direction of the current Board. Too much ideology entering this area and it's scary. We are already losing a library over it. What is next?

Thank you Dr. VanderJagt for your leadership and support of faculty and staff. Your communication with parents is excellent as is the messaging you send. We have been very happy with the leadership and faculty of Georgetown and Baldwin schools as well.

Thank you for all that takes place to make this a healthy place to learn and grow.

Thank you for reaching out to parents/community and asking. I feel like many of the issues I see in the district are tough to manage for any school administration. We live in a close minded community and it's tough to combat that in the public schools, especially when the community speaks and elects the conservative folks for school board. Why are we providing transportation for Christian Schools when we don't have enough busses for public school students? We now have Group A/B busses at the middle school, where a group waits for Group A to get dropped off home before group B is picked up to be taken home. There are busses with seating capacity full for middle schools. They are getting big for 3 per seat. Seems like we need to evaluate this a bit...

Thank you to everyone involved with HPS; administrators, faculty, nutrition, busing, and all other support staff; you're doing a great job! I'd like the district to provide clear messaging that people of all gender identities are welcomed, valued, and will be safe. Teaching our children the rewards of accepting everyone's individuality is crucial to fostering a healthy community. Acknowledging and accepting all genders should not be conflated with accepting or encouraging inappropriate expressions of sexuality at school. I hope the district will prioritize solving our apparent bus driver shortage.

The agenda of the new school board will bring lawsuits to the district - which will take time, money, and focus off our kids education.

The Board of Education needs to be out in the public supporting Hudsonville Public Schools and encouraging all community members to VOTE YES on the upcoming (and future) bond proposal. That there is any doubt that a school board member would not be in favor of supporting the schools and TEACHERS is appalling. There are board members that are NOT listening to TEACHERS. They are professionals in education. They have degrees in education. Board members vote based on their personal beliefs instead of what is good for ALL students. They have lost the trust of teachers and need to do better.

The district is booming with student enrollment/growth. I'd like to hear more on how the freshman campus/highschool can support this growth for years to come. Class sizes can't keep increasing on the highschool level. Parking lot space etc

The first week of school is too early and a full week of half days is very difficult for working parents.

The high school traffic and parking lot is a mess! Is there a future plan for another high school? What is Hudsonville doing about gun safety and monitoring students who may have mental illness?

The lack of dealing with bullies and disrespectful kids on the buses has to end. Kick these kids off for a week or two. Complete lack of respect and discipline.

The lack of inclusion and understanding the need for diversity is severely hurting many students and households. I believe the Superintendent wants more focus on all children's needs, socially and emotionally. He is blocked by the traditional "values" and the board who think they have a better idea of what needs to be done than the professionals.

The new emphasis on the cell phone policy has been positive for our students. Although this is very PASSIONATE topic in the school district, students should NOT be able to wear whatever they want. The current dress code is too general - including simple language such as "all parts of stomach and back must be fully covered" for BOTH boys and girls should NOT be that controversial.

The only reason I wouldn't recommend Hudson schools is because of the community and board members attempting to do away with DEI and RULER programs. I'm concerned for the future of our schools with Ottawa impact taking over more and more.

The options for the satisfaction questions "slightly" and "somewhat" seem to be the same. I believe the middle option should have been "satisfied" and the option to the right should have been "somewhat".

The politics that have been brought into the schools by the parents is not ok! It has gotten worse since COVID

The schools would be fantastic if there was more focus on education instead of SEL, diversity, and every other emotionally tied RULER type program you're attempting to install in our kids. That is not the responsibility of public education.

There are too many half days in the school year at HPS. JPS doesn't have that many. This is a hardship for households in which both parents work.

There seems to be such a push for zero homework. Although students shouldn't be bogged down with hours of homework each night, it would be more beneficial for establishing good study habits to have some. For example, elementary students read 10 min and do 10 min. of math 2-3 nights a week. This also gives parents have more opportunities to reinforce and support what is being taught. At the middle school level, it would be helpful if parents got a heads up on when tests and quizzes were coming up. Parents aren't going to check Google Classroom because it's a pain to sift through each class and find each item. Also, it's not always updated with what items were already turned in. PowerSchool displays things nicely, but it really doesn't tell you what is coming (or at least all of the teachers aren't consistently entering future events).

There should be a trained, armed person at each school buildings entrance

There were a couple questions about safety but I wish it went more in depth. I think we need to put more into making the schools safer and entertain the idea of an armed guard at each school. This is something you cannot put a price tag on and funds should be allocated starting at the State level.

This current board needs to be very careful in any changes it looks to enact. It needs to make sure it has the best interest of ALL students in the district.

This survey is way too long in my opinion by a factor of 3x. I am sorry. It is so appreciated that the school asks for feedback, but I could not answer/read all of this and when I paged through to get to end....my market research background with survey research was a bit shocked by how long this was. All well intended I am sure. fwiw

Too much discussion at board level of book bans and RULER rejection. This is minor stuff that misses the bigger picture. Move on and focus on student achievement.

Two high schools for discussion. Kids need more opportunities. Don't limit our students and what they can do. It benefits the elite who can provide lessons year round. Don't combine Middle School sports or plays. Don't lessen opportunities for our kids. Students shouldn't have to try out to be part of a musical crew! Maximize participation. Don't require that middle schoolers get a ride to a different middle school to practice. That isn't equitable. You are minimizing who can play competitive sports when there isn't provided transportation.

We adore HPS. Special thanks to Sara Murphy and Shannon VanDerPloeg at the ECC for their efforts with our child. We are forever grateful.

We are new to the district this year and are extremely impressed with Hudsonville Schools, best decision we made! Our youngest has an IEP and we cannot believe all the help she has been given and the unbelievable progress she made in this school year. All 3 of our kids in the district love their new schools and are impressed with all of the opportunities they have.

We have been very pleased with the SEL program at HPS. It is essential for students to succeed in the world. Learning empathy and equity is of the utmost importance in an area that does not provide much diversity.

We have pulled our elementary student from the ruler classes. If we have to have sel at hps, I object to ruler and the philosophy behind it. Im not a fan of PBIS (as a parent and a former paraprofessional) or the MTSS. Too many levels of admin. I'd love to see classroom teachers better supported and paraprofessionals better paid. We want high school to be a great experience for our child and we are planning on it being at hps, but we are willing to pull our children of agendas become more important t than the education of the children.

We moved to Hudsonville when we relocated from the Kalamazoo area because of the school programs and we've been very satisfied with that decision. We've been impressed with Hudsonville, and when we looked to move and build a new home, we stayed in Hudsonville school district for that reason. All our children's teachers have been excellent

We need honors classes, not necessarily a gifted program. We have students bored and not challenged until the begin AP classes. Thank you for all your work!

We need more emphasis on Maths and Science and active preparations for Olympiad and competitive programs for Maths and Science at the middle school level onwards.

We need safer buildings and plans for students who struggle academically but do not have an IEP - general ed students.

We need to be very careful about any kind of political manipulation in our schools. Diversity is important and respect for both liberal and conservative voices as our children grow up. I'm concerned about how my child will be treated as he advances in the school system.

We need two high schools. Stop trying to be Rockford.

We really would like to stay here but are concerned about the focus of our kids education and community beliefs and have considered leaving due to above. Good and fair board members were ousted due to a religious and unrealistic desire for sameness. We want our kids to go to good colleges and have success in their life socially and professionally and have concerns with how the district will progress given the challenges from the community.

Will we see some results?

With 2 new members on the school board the public has sent a clear message. We are not happy with the direction we are headed. Time to refocus on academics and offerings that prepare students for real life and give them the tools and knowledge they need.

With each child that passes through the school system I become less satisfied. I had a child graduate in 2020 and I would have graded the high school a B, I have a current senior and I would give his experience a C, and my sophomores I would grade the high school a D. Something needs to change at the high school!

With the school size and district growing so much, the limited roles on sports teams at older ages is a concern. Having kids be part of a team helps them grow and learn teamwork, goals and hard work. Having a limited number of spots on teams does concern a lot of the parents of elementary school kids.

Work on the busing issues and especially the early and late bus riders. My kids are both early and late. They are left unsupervised. My youngest got shoved by another student and broke his foot. Not enough supervision for this number of kids. Also stop providing busing to the Christian Schools when they are Hudsonville Public School buses. We do not have enough current busses as it is. Please let the Christian schools provide their own transportation to their students.

Would definitely like to stay up to date with what/when elementary schools are being taught about sensitive topics such as lifestyle, sex, religion, identity, or race to ensure we can engage in conversation with our kids at home as those things come up.

Would like more emphasis on social wellness. It's a huge high school and more emphasis should be placed on ensuring kids are out in classes with friends.

Would love to address the school lunches at HPS. We need better options for kids for truly healthy foods. My child should not be offered "apple juice" as a fruit. There is so much good coming from catch programs, why can't this be incorporated into hot lunch options?

Would love to see career based learning opportunities expand at the hs level (ie. Law enforcement, fire fighting, DNR, etc).

Would you be concerned about your child's education if they went to school and you knew absolutely nothing about the school or staff?

You guys are doing great!

Other residents (n = 5)

Academics are not the only things that determine student success. (In fact, as someone who has hiring responsibilities, technical/academic knowledge is NOT the deciding factor when choosing an employee. It's what gets someone in the door. The things that matter most are emotional intelligence and cultural fit. I did not know what was missing from HPS for my students until one of them moved to a different school system. Now that we have seen the benefits of SEL/alternative programming formats (virtual, etc), I see what we were missing in HPS. Additionally, our family struggled with the lack of appreciation, understanding, and respect for diverse economic backgrounds, non-white race and culture, non-Christian faith traditions, LGBTQ populations, etc. Once we had exposure to other school systems with a different environment and culture where those struggles are minimal to none, it brought our HPS experience into sharp relief. We didn't leave HPS because of the culture... we left out of necessity. But we are incredibly grateful for where we landed. I know that the school district is very large and contacting every family that leaves is not practical. But there was ZERO communication with us once we said we were leaving. I held a parent position within the district that made it noticeable when we left and nobody reached out to ask any questions or get feedback. This feels like a missed opportunity. Exit interviews can be a powerful source of data and reflection. Now as a community member I find it hard to gather information and especially hard to participate with the District in a meaningful way (even though I regularly attend board meetings.) I understand that community involvement can be complicated. But school districts are the foundation of communities and support from residents other than parents is important.

I would advise HPS to avoid "fads" in education. Hudsonville has built a reputation of excellence and that could be eroded. I've done some reading and have found philosophies of socialism creeping in through curriculum. This is something to veer away from to maintain excellence, and the confidence of parents and taxpayers. Thank you.

Leading questions- open to subjectivity of the results . Hope you do them justice.

SEL and RULER should not be taught or tried in schools by teachers. They should only be used in a clinical setting with licensed professional psychologists or social workers. I know that in public education they are considered to be the latest and greatest thing, but to follow the masses does not make it right, More classroom attention to reading skills and math skills is needed to improve test scores.

We absolutely love the staff at South Elementary. Mark Heagle is one of the best. Although we no longer send our children there, South will always be a special memory for us simply because of the people.