

To Our Parents and Families,

Our district is engaged in some important work which will impact our planning in significant ways. Our Ten-Year Strategic Plan Project is being guided by a team of district staff, community members, businesspeople, and students. As a district, we are keenly interested in listening to our community about needs, interests and insights. Students are a very important part of this, and as such, the students on the team suggested a survey of their fellow students.

The Student Voice is a comprehensive survey designed for students grades 4 – 12. It has a number of key questions in areas such as instruction, coursework, communication, co-curricular activities, athletics, environment, opportunities for student involvement, grading/assessment, etc. Students will also have an opportunity to write comments.

The Student Voice is scheduled from March 7 to March 18. Responses are anonymous (names will not be shared). Data from the survey will be provided to the district for discussion and planning. We would like to have as many students as possible involved. Therefore, we will be utilizing _____ (class) to have the students take the survey. Teachers will be present to give directions and answer questions. The survey will take 15 – 20 minutes.

PLC Associates, Inc, a consultancy based in Rochester, NY is the creator of the survey. They will be delivering the scan, compiling the data and providing our district with results.

If there are any questions, please contact _____. We look forward to this initiative. Student input and feedback is an integral part of our continued success.

Sincerely,

Principal

Horseheads Central School District

Student Voice Survey

4th Grade Questions

My Teachers

1. My teachers treat me with respect
13. My teachers are good at teaching and helping me learn
25. My teachers give me extra help if I don't understand
37. My teachers expect very good work and behavior from me

Sports – sub committee recommends that these questions be eliminated from the survey; these questions do not apply to the elementary level student

- 2.
- 14.
- 26.
- 38.

After School Activities

3. My school offers activities during and after school
15. I have participated in at least one after school activity
27. Our school clubs, special groups and events are fun and enjoyable
39. Our clubs and special groups are well run and organized

Communication

4. Our school has clear rules
16. I usually know about school news, activities, projects, and events.
28. I am free to give my opinions and thoughts to adults in my school.

Being at School

5. The adults at my school care about me
17. I like being at school
29. Our school is a great place to be; good things happen there.
41. I feel safe at school

Class/Subjects

6. I am challenged by the homework, class work and projects my teachers ask me to do.
18. I am expected to do my best
30. My school teaches me about many subjects, for example math, science, social studies, language arts.
42. My school is an outstanding school

My Classroom

7. My teachers believe I can learn. They help me in many different ways
19. In class we work in many different ways, for example in groups, with partners, and on projects
31. We use technology to learn in my classroom (computers, interactive whiteboards, laptops)
43. Classes are interesting and keep my attention

Horseheads Central School District
Student Voice Survey
4th Grade Questions

If I need help

8. I have people to go to if I am having trouble
20. My teachers and other adults in the school care about me. If I have a problem, they listen to me.
32. (committee recommends that this question be deleted because it is not appropriate for 4th grade students)
44. I feel welcomed and part of my school

My Principal

9. My Principal is a good leader
21. My Principal thinks about students first when making decisions (My Principal makes good decisions in the best interest of students)
33. Discipline decisions made by my Principal are fair.
45. My principal cares about the teachers

How I get involved in school

10. I can help make decisions in schools
22. Student groups help in school planning
34. Adults in my school ask for student ideas before making decisions
46. Kids in my school go to school events

Our School

11. My school has the latest and greatest in technology (for example: interactive whiteboards, net books, or laptop computers for our classroom)
23. My school is clean and neat (there is no litter, floors are clean, cafeteria is clean, windows are clean.
35. I feel safe on my bus
Our buses are on time
47. Our cafeteria serves good food and healthy choices

Student Work and grading

12. I am recognized for good work
24. My work load (assignments, readings and homework) is fair
36. The way I am graded is fair and correct
48. My teacher gives me helpful comments.

Section C: Proposed Open/Ended

- What do you like about this school?
- What do you wish were different at this school?
- What do you wish I would have asked you?
- How could your school experience be better?

Section A: Stakeholder Group/Site Identification

The Student Voice is intended for students in grades 4 - 12. Data may be separated by individual grade or sorted by middle school/high school.

Groups:

Grade Level (4-12)

Gender

School Involvement (examples)

- Athletics
- Intramurals
- Clubs
- Arts/Drama/Music
- Other

Section B: Rating Scale

Italics Highly encouraged key questions (24)

*** Appear in exact or approximate form in DPS CES and SV (12)**

+ Used in comparison between districts (12)

OUR TEACHERS

1. *My teachers treat me with respect.*
13. *My teachers are good at teaching and helping me learn.**
25. My teachers are available to meet and follow up outside of class time.
37. My teachers make their expectations clear to me.

ATHLETICS – not for grade 4

2. This District has outstanding sports teams.
14. *Our sports programs, clubs and other student groups are important to me.**
26. Our sports teams create school pride and excitement.
38. I have the opportunity to participate in athletics and sports.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS

3. *We have a good variety of student clubs and special student groups.*
15. *I am actively involved in at least one school club or school group outside of sports.*
27. Our school clubs, special groups and events are fun and enjoyable.
39. Our clubs and special groups are well run and organized.

COMMUNICATION

4. *Our school has clear rules.*
16. I know “what is going on” at school.*
28. *I am free to give my opinions and thoughts to adults in my school.**
40. If I have a conflict with a teacher or administrator, it is resolved easily.

BEING AT SCHOOL

5. *The adults at my school care about me.**
17. I like being at school.
29. *Our school is upbeat and positive.**
41. *I feel safe at school.**

COURSES AND ACADEMICS

- 6. *My classwork/courses are challenging.** +
- 18. *I am expected to do my best.*
- 30. My school has a good variety of courses and programs.
- 42. We are an outstanding school district.*

CLASSROOM PRACTICES

- 7. *My teachers use different strategies that help with the way I learn best.*
- 19. In class, students work together in different ways (i.e. groups, partners, projects).
- 31. *I have access to current technology.**
- 43. *Classes are interesting and keep my attention.*

STUDENT SUPPORTS

- 8. I have people to go to if I am having trouble.
- 20. My teachers and/or counselors listen to me.
- 32. I am able to get help and guidance in planning my future.
- 44. *I feel welcomed and part of my school.** +

OUR ADMINISTRATION

- 9. *Our administrators (Principal/Assistant Principal) are good leaders.**
- 21. Our administrators make good decisions in the interest of students.
- 33. Discipline decisions made by administration are fair.
- 45. Our administrators support teachers and students.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

- 10. I can participate in school decision-making.
- 22. *Organized student groups (i.e. student council) help in school planning.*
- 34. Adults in my school ask for student ideas before making decisions.
- 46. Students actively attend school events.

OUR FACILITIES

- 11. *Our buildings and schools have the latest advances in technology.*
- 23. *Our buildings are clean, updated and well-maintained.**
- 35. Our transportation system (buses) is safe, effective, and on time.
- 47. Our food services program (cafeteria) has good food and healthy choices.

STUDENT WORK AND ASSESSMENT

- 12. I am recognized for good work.
- 24. *My work load (assignments, readings, homework) is appropriate.*
- 36. The grading system is fair and accurate.
- 48. *I receive helpful feedback from my teachers.*

Section C, D, E: Reference Other Scans

Section C: Proposed Open/Ended

- What do you like about this school?
- What do you wish were different at this school?
- What do you wish I would have asked you?
- How could your school experience be better?