

Spring 2016 Staff Survey Open Ended Responses:

What do you like best about our school?

- We provide students with many opportunities for learning and growing both academically and socially.
- It feels like home.
- Small class size. Access to chromebooks. Quick intervention for struggling students.
- Administration is very open to hearing from ALL staff members. They are always willing to listen.
- I like that everyone is very helpful. If there is ever a need for someone to cover or help out with a student the teachers or paras never hesitate. I also like that we collaborate and work together to solve an issue. Lastly I like that the students are taught to a very high level and have many opportunities for success.
- I love small schools. We go above and beyond to help the students in our school.
- I like the camaraderie of the staff and the ability we have to collaborate with others. The staff works together well to make things work out best for every student. We care about our students and go "above and beyond" to meet the needs of all students.
- The thing I like best about our school is we are given the opportunity to learn and grow as professionals. It is often encouraged to take on new professional learning opportunities.
- I like that the class sizes are small enough to ensure quality help to students that may be struggling with certain concepts. We are able to catch struggling students and provide necessary interventions. Staff members know each of the students and can work together to set up a plan to help struggling students.
- All para support throughout the classrooms and with interventions.
- All the work that goes into Aimsweb and monitoring student progress.
- The family feel that we have!
- We are like a family. Everyone supports each other, so we can do the very best, as a student and as a staff.
- That it is small and that you know pretty much everyone.
- Supportive administration, friendly and welcoming atmosphere, very few behavior issues and flexibility.
- Enrollment Size and the community support

What do you like least about our school?

- Limited space
- Staff are not all treated equally
- Since we are so small, we all do know everything that is going on within the building. Sometimes that becomes uncomfortable. We do have a great staff, as to confidentiality, but students sometimes are too aware of all activities happening in the building.
- Nothing
- The teachers are not treated the same. Some teachers can get away with things that others wouldn't dare to do.
- Administrations doesn't seem to always have the teachers' back. Instead they tiptoe around the parents because they do not want to anger them, but sometimes parents are in the wrong and need to be told so. Teachers and the benefit of ALL students need to come before the parents.
- Behavior is taken lightly even if we see the same behaviors over and over from same kids. The behavior is not being addressed and pushed under the rug. We need to be more serious with students that are making terrible choices because they are hindering the learning of their peers.
- I don't like that mass e-mails get sent out to address a problem with one or two staff members. Our school is small enough to be able to address problems with only staff members involved. I also don't like that we give parents many chances to take advantage of our school and the rules we have in place. The after school program is one example of this. I agree that it is a valuable resource for parents, but some parents take advantage of the system with no consequences when rules are not followed.
- The thing that I dislike most about the school is that the staff is not held to the same expectations. There are often staff coming late, not following standards, and some who lack professionalism. I would like to see all staff members held accountable for their actions and held to the same expectations.
- I think consistency across grade levels can sometimes be an issue. Even though we do have chances to collaborate I think there are still gaps in some curriculum areas that get missed.
- We are not a team.
- I feel we need a more effective plan for behavior students. Whether it be disrespect, absences, or late/missing work. There needs to be something in place so that the repeat offenders stop being repeat offenders. It seems like it is the same kids. If the consequences aren't strict enough, what's to stop them from repeating their behavior? I know these are hard issues to deal with and come up with effective policies, but I feel this is something we as a whole school can improve on.

- Some teachers refusing to change their instruction/assessment according to students needs. Assessment doesn't always have to be paper/pencil tasks.
- Low Morale. Not keeping up with latest best teaching practices. Not utilizing technology and web resources enough to differentiate students' learning needs. Lack of professional development and positive teacher collaboration time to share ideas and help each other learn new things.
- Feels like too much testing that leads to results not matching up.
- Staff are not treated equally.

What is one suggestion you would like to offer to improve our school?

- Continue to add technology for kids (chromebooks) to ensure comfort when being required to use them.
- Utilize our technology and access to web resources to provide differentiated instruction for students who are on the higher end of the class.
- Regular ed teachers attend more learning/instructional conferences and not just do continuing ed (or whatever is assigned through RRVEC).
- A school wide plan for behavior issues, missing work, and late work. So all teachers are handling it the same way. Or groups of grade levels are handling it in the same way.
- Be consistent with students and staff. Hold everyone to our school and job expectations.
- I think it might be important to have the teachers meet to look over standards to see where things are missed. During MAPS & state testing, it's clear to me that certain areas in math and language arts are not being hit hard enough. I'm not suggesting we "teach to the test" but instead look at what we can do to make sure students are getting taught what they need (and when they need it) at each grade level.
- My suggestion would be to departmentalize more throughout the grades. It would be nice to see teachers giving their best teaching in their best areas.
- I think we need to set high standards for school attendance. I realize a letter gets sent home and placed in the child's cumulative folder for recurring absences, but there is little accountability from parents because there are no consequences. We need to look at consequences and setting a minimum absence for school rewards/functions. Wolf Ridge would be an example of a school function that students should have to earn to be able to attend. If a child misses over a certain amount of days, they should not be able to attend.
- NO PAPERS WITH LUNCH!!!! We do not need to fill out what every child is having for lunch. The only information that is needed is how many of each.
- Behavioral issues be addressed more serious because there are warning signs with certain students that are being ignored. If they are not addressed, bullying will become a bigger issue and even have student physically hurt.

- We need a reading curriculum!
- I cannot think of anything particular at this time.
- For all staff members to be treated equally.