

QUESTION-BASED SUMMARY

The following are the themes, by question, from the community feedback that were shared with the greatest frequency. For the sake of brevity, only the most frequently mentioned themes are included. For high school, middle school, and elementary school, this represents the most frequently shared 60% of comments; for what to continue, start, and stop, this represents the items that surpassed 3%. As a means of providing context, each theme is accompanied by a few examples of the feedback that was coded to that theme.

- High School: What do you think is the most important thing that high school students should know and be able to do? If you could add one more thing, what would it be?
 - Financial literacy (15.8%)
 - Basic financial and business skills (earning, saving, money management, organization, etc.)
 - Basic financial literacy, how credit cards really work. Basic financial terms
 - Budgeting and saving
 - Life skills (15.2%)
 - Practical things such as taxes knowing what to do and how to do them. everyday life adult things
 - Prepare for the real world. Independent decision making.
 - Preparing for life beyond school (career, balancing a checkbook, drivers ed)
 - Career/college readiness & career education (14.4%)
 - Be college and career ready, have multiple opportunities to accomplish goals, have a work ethic
 - Career education - more focus on how specific training leads to jobs
 - Pre college math, English and Biology.
 - Critical thinking (9%)
 - Read. Think for themselves instead of regurgitating opinions of teachers
 - Critical thinking skills
 - Think logically, present projects orally
 - Literacy (8.3%)
 - Read and write at high school level.
 - Read critically with comprehending
 - Read, assess, analyze, and strategize a way to approach any problem
- Middle School: In your opinion, what is the most important thing that middle school students should know and be able to do? If you could add one more thing to their education, what would it be?
 - Literacy (20.8%)
 - Reading is the most important. Learning to resolve conflict would be the additional thing.
 - Reading and writing. Better communication skills.
 - Reading and writing on grade level
 - Math (6.7%)
 - Algebraic thinking/solving
 - Be able to have a good number sense and be mathematically literate
 - Everyday Tools - Math (tips, percentages, counting change)
 - Basic academics (6.6%)
 - English and math
 - Middle school students need to be learning the fundamentals of reading and math.
 - Our experience has been that they are pushed into above grade level material and foundational skills are missed.
 - Critical thinking (5.9%)

- Think and justify a claim based on evidence
 - Logic based classes to learn how to "think"
 - They should also continue to develop critical thinking skills and understand the power of collaboration.
 - Character (5.7%)
 - Respect themselves and others
 - Responsibility
 - Learn to be kind to each other and no bullying
 - Life skills (5.5%)
 - Basic home and life skills
 - The most important thing for middle school students to know and be able to do is to develop strong practical life skills
 - Basic life skills; conflict resolution as well as washing clothes, cooking, cleaning. Begin building good moral character and understanding how to organize and prioritize work
 - Financial literacy (5.1%)
 - Financial Planning and Budgeting so they can be prepared for the real world
 - Financial literacy.. what is money and how you properly spend and save
 - Financial literacy, life skills Financial literacy to include credit and credit scores
- Elementary School: What do you think is the most important thing that elementary school students should know and be able to do? If you had to choose one additional thing, what would it be?
 - Literacy (43.3%)
 - Read for understanding of all curricular materials.
 - Learning to read is the most important job of children in elementary school.
 - Reading, writing, spelling
 - Basic academics (6.6%)
 - The three R's, Science, and History
 - Reading, writing, and arithmetic are of highest importance!
 - Fundamentals of basic academic subjects.
 - Character (5.1%)
 - To be kind to others & no bullying
 - Besides the normal curriculum, moral, learn to be able resolve problems.
 - Respect and love for themselves and for others.
- Continue: In terms of student support, what are some things that our school district is currently doing well that you believe we should keep doing?
 - Communication (8.3%)
 - Keeping parents informed and included.
 - Access to teacher emails and communication weekly from teachers
 - Friday updates about upcoming events and reminders
 - Support staff effectiveness (5.2%)
 - Teacher Assistants
 - Increasing the number of student support specialists in schools.
 - Keep increasing the number of counselors, social workers, and psychologists
 - School safety/security (5.0%)
 - Keeping the students and school safe
 - Keeping people safe.
 - Continuar con la seguridad en las escuelas
 - Social/emotional supports (4.8%)

- Provide emotional support to kids who struggle
 - Letting students know that people care about them.
 - Counselors & SEL classes are great
 - Teacher effectiveness (3.5%)
 - Teachers are the backbone of student support and most are fantastic
 - My sons teacher was very willing to partner with me in terms of support, that made such an amazing impact on how he finished the school year. I'm hoping that I can establish that same connection with his new teacher.
 - You have a lot of kind and smart teachers. Keep them
 - Extracurricular (3.4%)
 - After school programs in person
 - Clubs and exposure to various sports
 - Supporting extra-curricular activities.
- Start: Is there anything that we are not doing yet for students that you think we should start doing?
 - School safety/security (4.2%)
 - Providing school resources officers at every level; more counselors, BMT's when requested
 - Providing qualified nurses at every school, have qualified counselors on campus to deal with emotion, social issues separate from academic counselors.
 - Monitor the bathrooms to prevent vaping and drug use.
 - Teacher effectiveness (3.6%)
 - Give teachers autonomy in how they present the curriculum
 - Ensure that every school has enough TA's, tutors, etc. to support small group learning
 - As much as possible, retaining teachers. Having continuity through the school year with stable staffing is critical.
 - Basic academics (3.6%)
 - Providing greater access to resources students needs to excel academically
 - Provide more educational support for students who need it
 - More supplemental academic support for educational loss during Covid.
 - Instructional pedagogy (3.2%)
 - Differentiated teaching, pushing all kids to do better, even at the highest levels
 - Teach all the way to the end of the year and not stop after the EOGs
 - More hands on education and experience.
 - Behavior (3.0%)
 - Synthesize consequences across all schools; punishment to match the "crime"
 - Supporting student discipline and holding students and parents accountable for student behavior. It's so disruptive that it's effecting the educational environment. And it's occurring in every single school.
 - Well behaved kids are expected to tolerate other students impeding their education through misbehavior constantly.
- Stop: When you think about how our school district educates students, is there anything that you think we should stop doing?
 - Testing/assessment (12.2%)
 - Curriculum (8.8%)
 - Stop restricting what courses students can take, if a course is not able to be filled at the school, they should be able to take it online. No courses should be restricted to students.

- We should stop mandating curricula across the entire district. There is an incredible diverse population in CMS and it is not possible to find a curriculum that fits the needs of all schools. There should be options so that schools can choose what is appropriate for their population.
 - Stop changing curriculums to the "latest thing". The ABCs and basic math skills have not changed in centuries.
- Equity (5.5%)
 - Stop people who minimize the contributions and sacrifices of underrepresented communities from imposing their will on the curriculum for all children.
 - Anything promoting "equity", because that's a soft way of telling minorities they aren't as smart as Whites.
 - Stop the inequality of resources within the school district. Zoning schools in such a way that makes poorer schools more poor and richer, white schools richer and whiter
 - Using the word equity to hold high achieving students down. For example, removing opportunities for high achieving students in the name of equity because not every school can provide what one school can.
- Basic academics (4.2%)
 - We need to stop giving so many catch up opportunities for high schoolers just because we want them to graduate on time. We need to prioritize them gaining the knowledge and skills from the classes they still need, in order to graduate regardless of how long it takes them to actually pass the class.
 - Stop with the media curriculum that has taken away their time to explore and check out books in the library. Going to the library at school is my kids' least favorite special now.
 - If the kids don't pass their grade level they should be retained otherwise they get lost in their next grade.
- Teacher effectiveness (3.2%)
 - Stop hiring guest teachers
 - Teachers should be rewarded, compensated more so they are not working multiple jobs.
 - Teachers, principals and administrators need to be mindful not to interject their opinions and beliefs onto students.
- Positive feedback (3.6%)
 - So far I'm happy I have been very pleased with CMS and the opportunities it has afforded my children.
 - I think you are doing a great job
 - From our experience (in elementary school only) there is nothing we think should stop.
- Instructional pedagogy (3.9%)
 - Education is not a one size fits all; stop stressing students and teachers when research shows students progress
 - Virtual teachers. Students need someone in front of them to ask questions and know them
 - Reading to 5th graders as they follow along or read to the students when they do not even have the book.