

2014 What We've Heard from Parents

1 –

What school does your child attend?



School	Number of Responses	School	Number of Responses
Acme	33	Prairie Christian Academy	33
Brentwood	108	Rockyford	11
Carbon	13	Standard	36
Carseland	14	Strathmore High	104
Central Bow Valley	2	Strathmore StoreFront	0
Crowther Memorial Junior High	122	Three Hills	60
Dr. Elliott	26	Trinity Christian Academy	29
Drumheller Valley Secondary	48	Trochu Valley	48
Drumheller Outreach	0	Trochu Outreach	3
Greentree	66	Golden Hills Learning Academy	6
Hussar	12	Westmount	79
NorthStar Christian Academy	27	Wheatland	93
Total Responses	808		

2 –

Grade of Children – Choose all that apply



Grades	Number of Responses
Kindergarten	131
Grade 1	103
Grade 2	117
Grade 3	149
Grade 4	118
Grade 5	122
Grade 6	115
Grade 7	100
Grade 8	91
Grade 9	98
Grade 10	98
Grade 11	102
Grade 12	68
Total Respondents	812

3

What are the programs and/or experiences for students that you see are the most effective? (a particular class or course, a subject area, extra-curricular programs, work placements, arts, language classes, etc.)



Positive experiences with:

- Core Subjects: Reading, Lang Arts, Fine Arts, Early Literacy, Counselling, PE, Sciences, work experience
- Extra-Curricular – swimming, Sports, field trips, Leadership
- Hands-on Learning
- Teachers supporting students

Would like more support with

- Math &
- More programs for advanced students (Gifted Program)

4 –

What supports have been most beneficial for your children? (counselling, learning supports, Early Literacy, PUF, numeracy or literacy support, creative timetables, business partnerships(anything that you see as a strong benefit for your children)



Although many students did not need these supports the ones who did had positive experiences with:

- Early Literacy
- Counselling
- Learning supports for speech, PUF
- Regular classroom teachers who give extra time and support to their children

#5 –

Are there programs, learning opportunities, skills or other areas we need to work on or add?



The range of feedback varied significantly from school. Most of the comments were specific to an individual school. Some parents commented on the following:

- Provide more anti-bullying programs in some schools
- Provide more life-skills programs for students
- Communication was mentioned to be very good in some schools and needing improvement in some others
- Would like to see more Fine Arts offered in some schools and the opposite and less focus on Fine Arts in other schools
- Some parents would like to see more Language Programs offered
- Math program is proving to be a challenge at all grade levels with many parents commenting they are unable to help their children at home.

6 –

What do you think about technology in the classroom and BYOD (bring your own device like laptops, tablets, smartphones to be used in class)?



- The majority of parents indicated that technology is great in schools
- Many parents liked the idea of BYOD however indicated concern with the cost of the devices, loss of devices and internet on-line safety and how it might work with their children in lower elementary grades
- A few parents are concerned that current technology is not being used as much as they think it should be
- Many concerned about the equality of some children not being able to afford devices and those that would have the best...equity for all students - Can everyone afford a laptop or tablet?

#7 –

Assessment is changing. How are we doing with the new report cards? What do you like? What do we need to work on?



- In some schools, parents are happy with the report cards, but this is not consistent everywhere. Elsewhere, some parents are struggling with the new report card format and find it a challenge to get enough information
- Many parents very appreciative of the other forms of communication and relationship they have with the teacher that helps with additional information to keep them up to date with their child's progress
- Many parents appreciate the simplicity of the letter grade (A,B, or C) system
- Some parents had questions about the "no zero" policy and how it is applied in different classrooms