

**BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

<u>WEDNESDAY</u> 7:00 PM April 17, 2024	Walsh Intermediate School Cafeteria 185 Damascus Road Branford, CT 06405
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[Chair: Laura Troidle; Judith Barron, Adam Greenberg & Marie McNamara]

To locate agendas and to access/view meetings please go to www.branfordschools.org

Community Agreement

The Board of Education is committed to supporting the mission, vision, core values and global learning competencies of the Branford Public Schools. We are here to provide access for all students in close collaboration with the Superintendent and in partnership with the larger community.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Discussion/Action Items
 - A. Community Updates
 - B. Communication Survey Results
- IV. Adjourn

TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC COMMENTS REMOTELY PLEASE CALL:

1 (646) 558-8656

Meeting ID: 815 6405 4671

Passcode: 812124

*When participating by telephone please mute your phone when joining the meeting and unmute your phone when you are ready to speak. This can be done by pressing *6 on your phone's keypad.*

Rules Governing Public Comments:

- Three minutes will be allotted to each speaker. The Board may modify this limitation at the beginning of a meeting if the number of persons wishing to speak makes it advisable to do so. (Board Bylaw 9325)
- Conduct intended primarily to be disruptive or verbally abusive shall not be permitted at the Board of Education meeting. Any speaker who engages in such conduct will be warned and allowed to correct such conduct. If the speaker continues to engage in the disruptive conduct such will be grounds for termination of the speaker's privilege to participate in public comment and may be deemed grounds for removal from the meeting site.
- All speakers must identify themselves by name and address.

04.17.2024

Memo

To:
Board of Education
Communication Committee

CC:
Branford Board of Education

From:
Christopher J. Tranberg, Ph.D.,
Superintendent of Schools

Re:
Communication Survey

The Board of Education Communication Survey opened on March 1, 2024 and closed on April 5, 2024. There were 236 responses representing families from all district campuses. The responses from the survey are included in this correspondence.

In addition to information regarding district and school-based communication, there was a Board request to include an opportunity for open responses to capture what the district and schools are doing well and areas where the district and school can improve in the eyes of those who responded.

The open ended responses are included as well and themes from the data are summarized here:

What do you believe the district and schools are doing well?

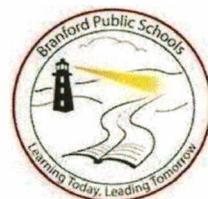
- **Communication:** Weekly newsletters, updates from administrators, and responsive staff are highlighted as positive aspects. However, there are also mentions of areas needing improvement, such as the need for clearer communication channels and reducing information overload for busy parents.
- **Safety and Security:** Parents appreciate efforts to increase safety and security measures within schools, including enhanced security procedures, increased visibility of security personnel, and efforts to address bullying and substance use.
- **Teacher Quality and Support:** Teachers are recognized as the district's greatest asset. Parents value teachers who are dedicated, caring, and supportive of students' academic and emotional needs.
- **Academic Support and Enrichment:** The district and schools are commended for

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providing additional support in areas like reading and math, as well as offering enrichment programs such as summer programs, music programs, and extracurricular activities.

- **Leadership:** There's recognition of positive leadership at both the district and school levels. Administrators who are perceived as transparent, collaborative, and committed to student success are praised. However, there are also hopes for further progress and improvement under new leadership.
- **Community Engagement:** Efforts to engage with the broader community are acknowledged as valuable, including initiatives to involve families, maintain open lines of communication, and foster a sense of pride in the schools.

What do you believe the district and schools can improve?

- **Communication Overload and Inefficiency:** Several respondents express frustration with the volume and format of communication from the district and schools. They suggest streamlining communication channels, reducing redundant messages, and improving the clarity and accessibility of information.
- **Student Discipline and Safety:** Concerns about bullying, discipline, and safety within schools are prevalent. Respondents call for stricter consequences for disruptive behavior, improved supervision in areas like bathrooms, and measures to address bullying and violence.
- **Parental Engagement and Involvement:** Several respondents highlight the need for increased parental involvement and engagement in their children's education. Suggestions include more opportunities for parents to participate in school events, clearer communication about student progress and activities, and avenues for parent-teacher interaction beyond conferences.
- **Academic Support and Enrichment:** There is a call for more academic support, enrichment programs, and opportunities for students, both during the school year and over the summer. This includes resources for students with special needs, as well as initiatives to support gifted learners.
- **Staffing and Professional Development:** Some respondents mention the need for hiring more qualified teachers, providing better support for staff, and improving professional development opportunities. This includes increasing the availability of mental health professionals and addressing issues related to staff turnover.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** There are requests for greater transparency in decision-making processes, budget allocation, and school policies. Respondents want to see clearer communication about the rationale behind decisions and more

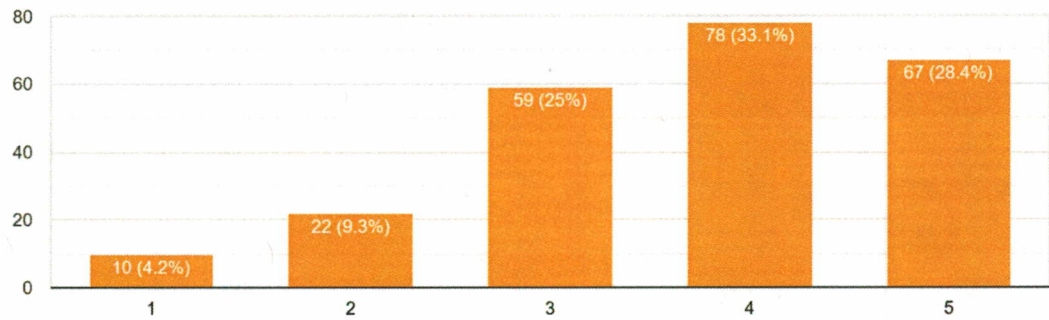
accountability from both school administrators and teachers.

- **Infrastructure and Resources:** Concerns are raised about the physical infrastructure of schools, including cleanliness, maintenance, and safety measures. Additionally, there are calls for more resources, such as updated technology, improved lunch options, and better-equipped classrooms.
- **Cultural and Social Issues:** Some respondents address broader cultural and social issues within schools, such as diversity, inclusion, and addressing racism and hate. They emphasize the importance of creating a positive and supportive school environment for all students.

District Questions:

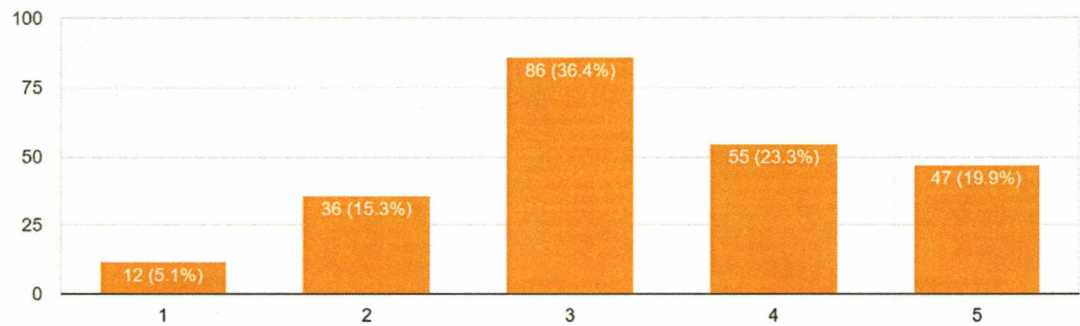
The district communicates important information in a timely manner.

236 responses



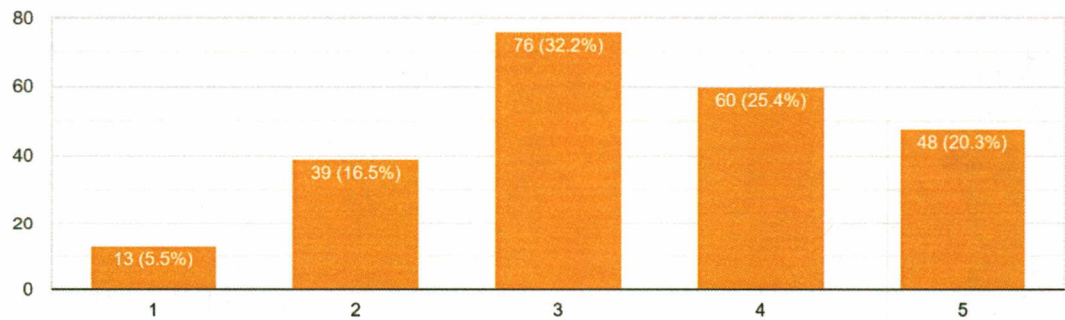
The district regularly communicates important information regarding student learning and the strategic plan.

236 responses



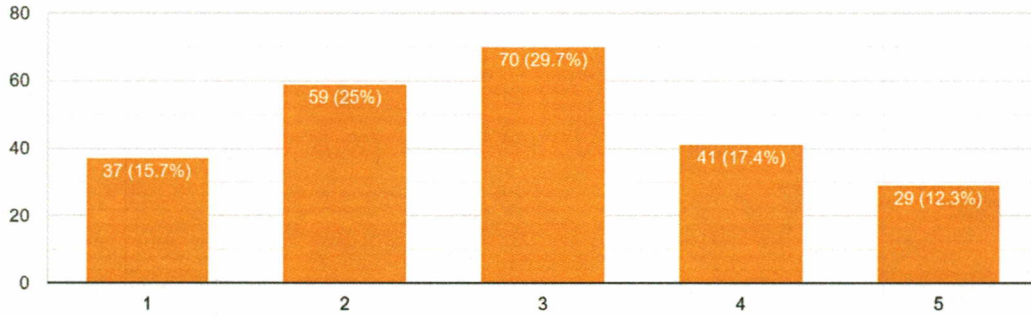
New policies that impact education and our families are communicated when needed.

236 responses



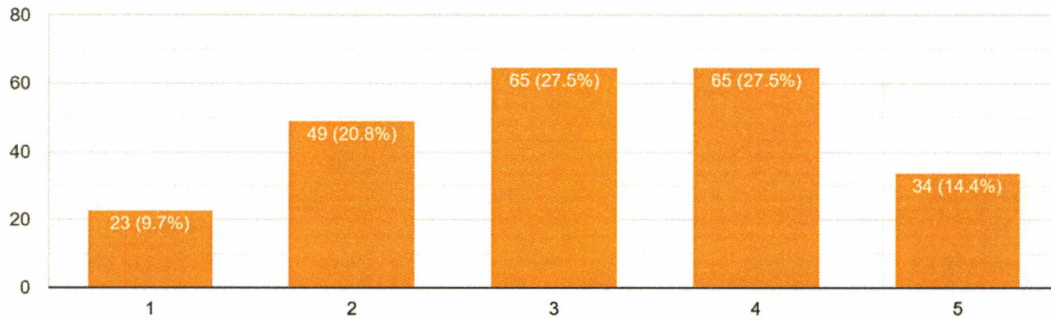
The district regularly shares news about the successes and accomplishments of the staff.

236 responses



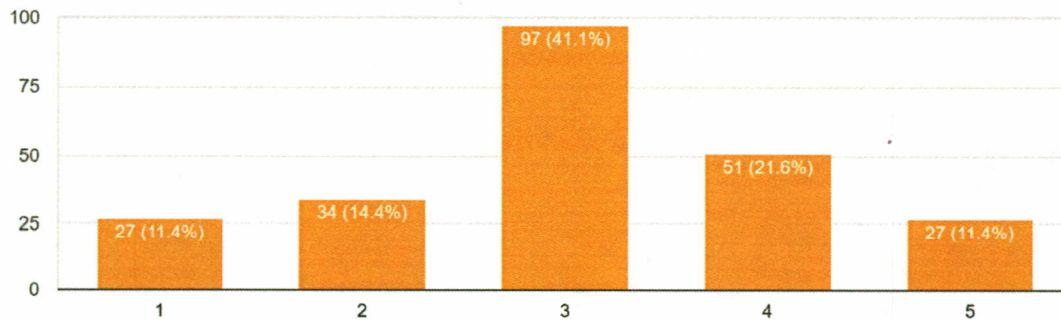
A clear communication is established so I am aware of who to reach out to with a specific question or concern.

236 responses



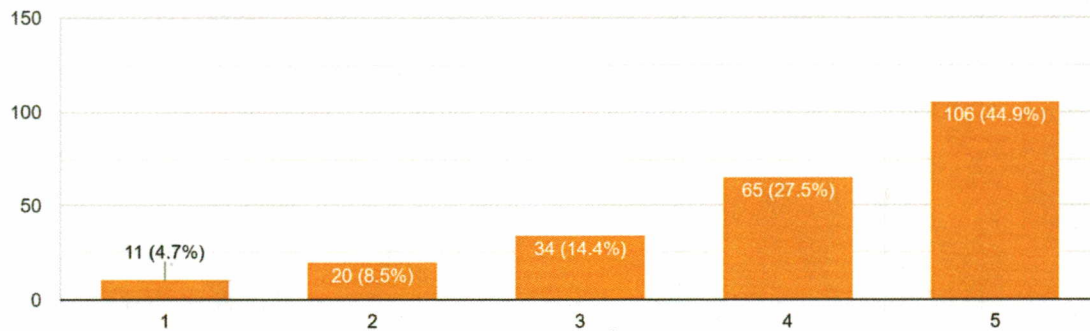
The district provides appropriate levels of information regarding the budget, capital plans and district needs to support education.

236 responses



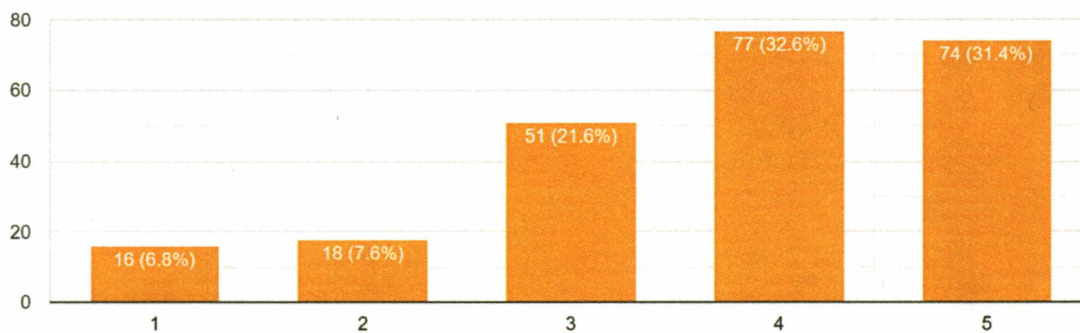
Communication regarding weather-related cancellations and delays occur in a timely manner.

236 responses



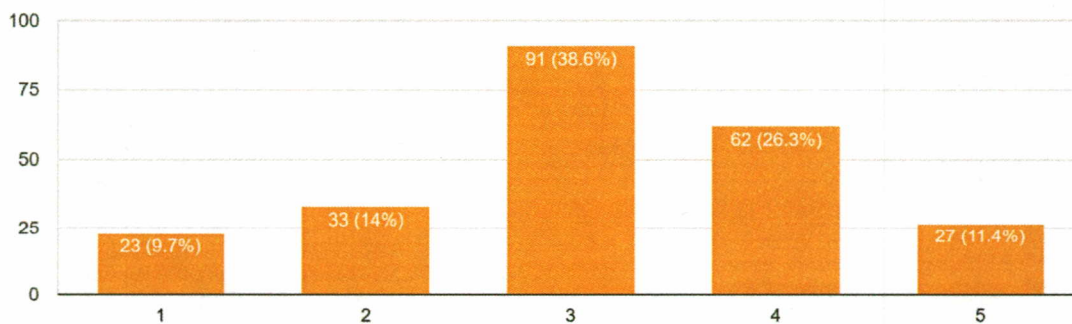
I am satisfied with the way I am currently receiving messages from the district.

236 responses



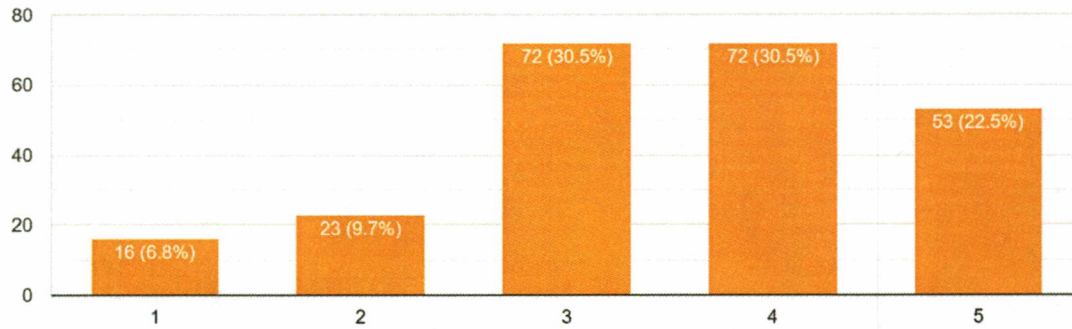
The district provides opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the administration and the Board of Education.

236 responses



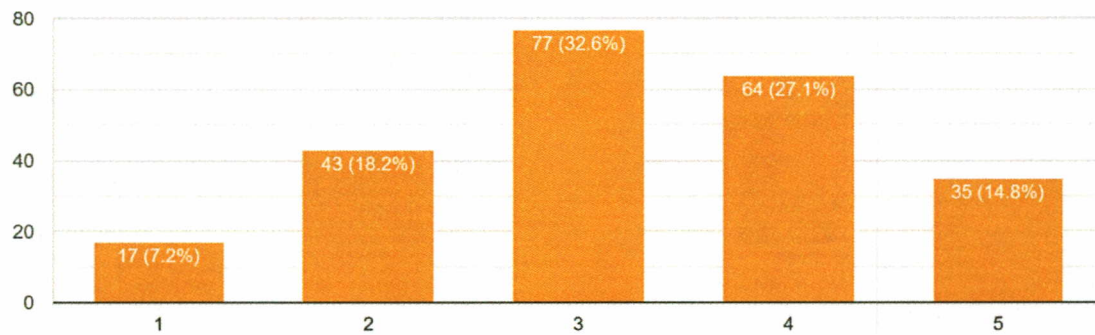
I am satisfied with the quantity of messages that I am currently receiving from the district.

236 responses



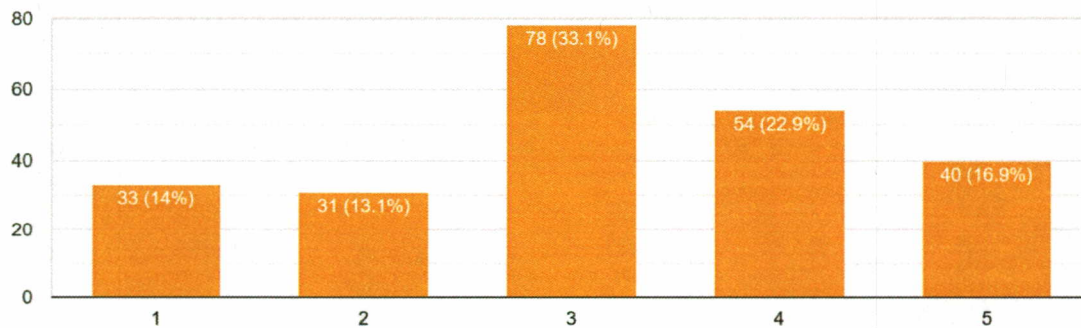
The district's website is an engaging destination that provides relevant information that is readily accessible.

236 responses



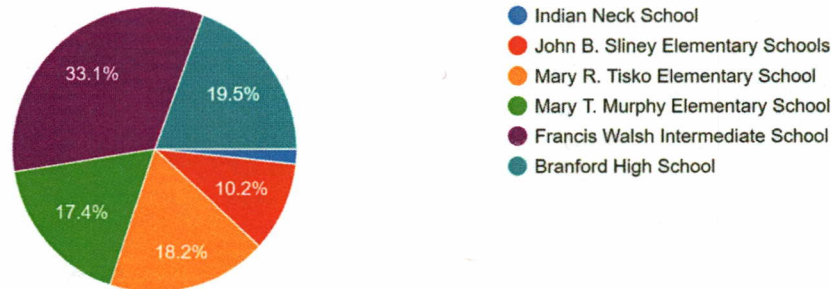
I would interact with the district more often if it increased the use of social media.

236 responses



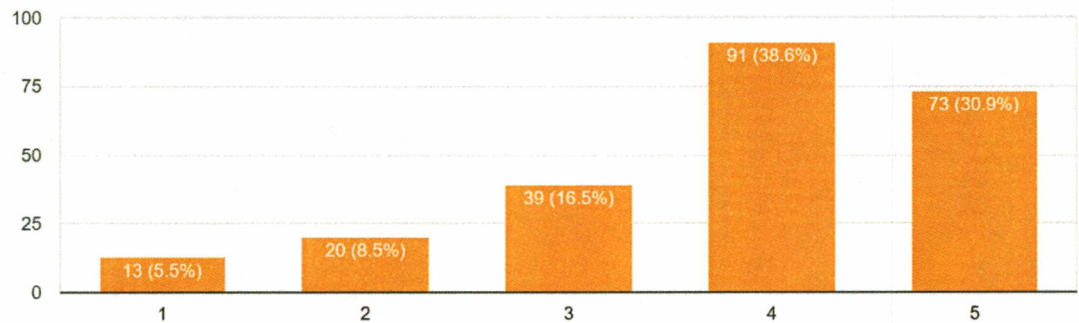
My child(ren) attend(s): Choose one school, you may complete these questions again for an additional school.

236 responses



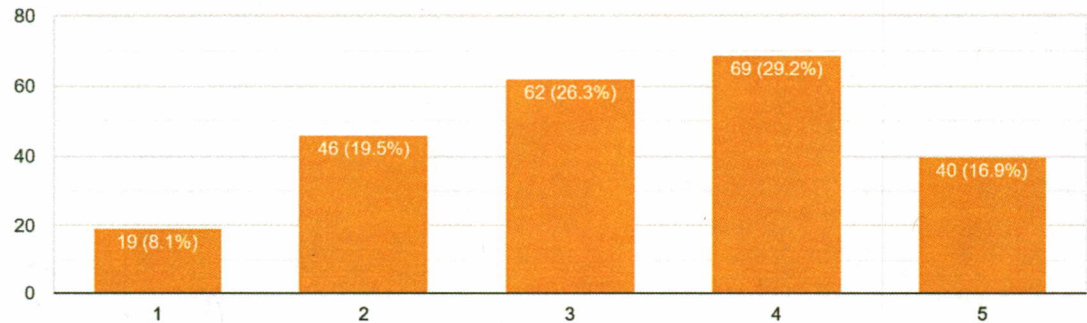
The school communicates important information in a timely manner.

236 responses



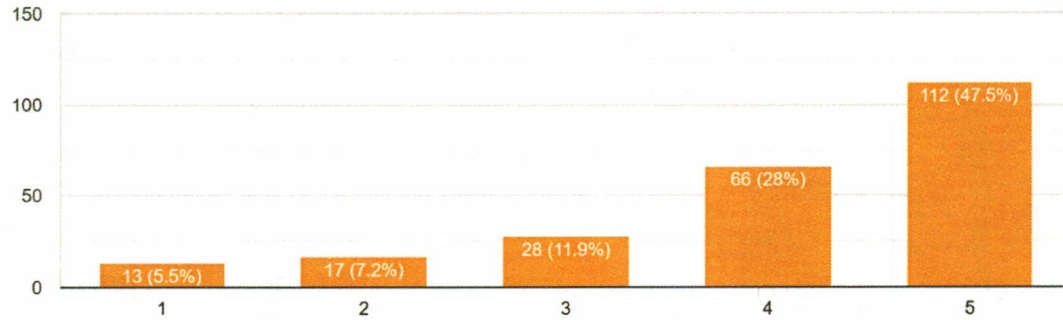
The school regularly communicates student successes, including academic achievements, athletic results and visual/performing arts accomplishments.

236 responses



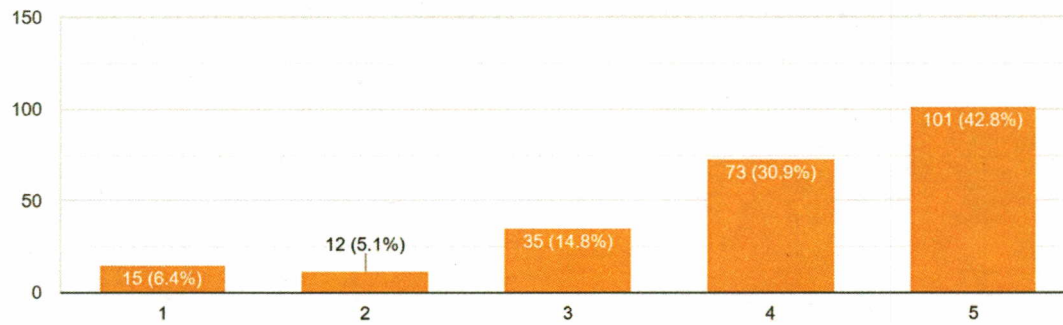
I receive messages from the school in a variety of ways - through my cell phone or mobile device, in print or on my computer.

236 responses



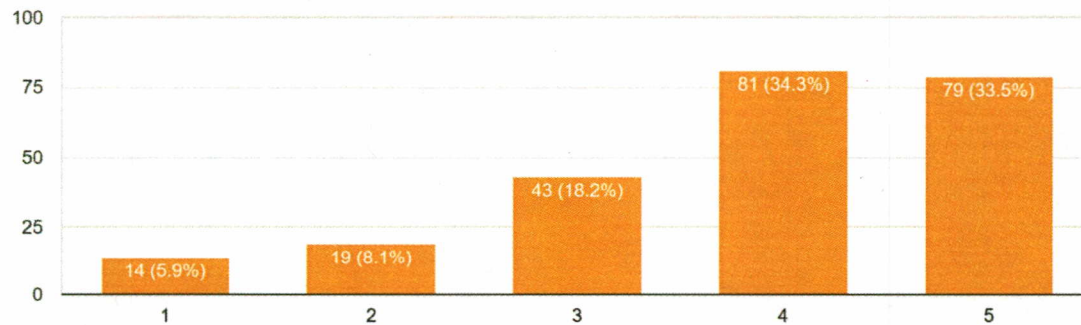
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236 responses



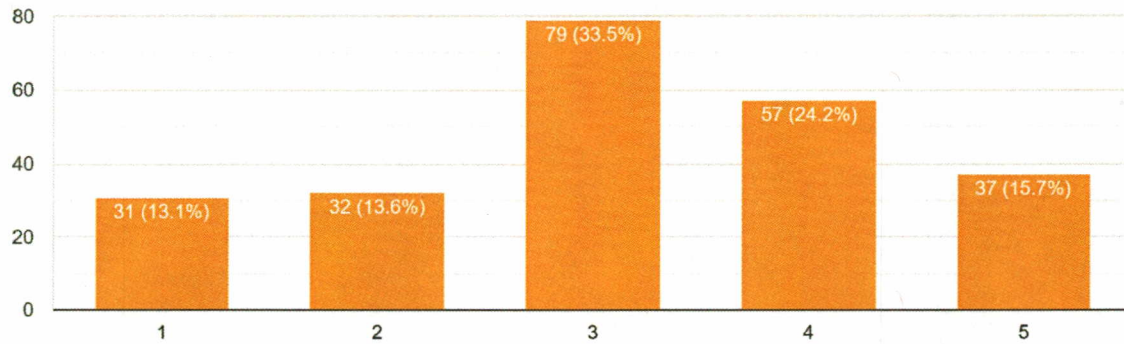
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236 responses



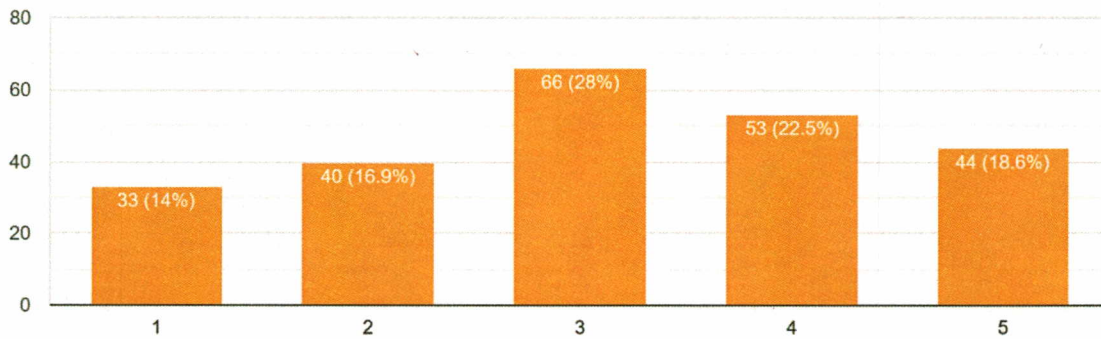
The school provides opportunities for stakeholders to engage with the building administration.

236 responses



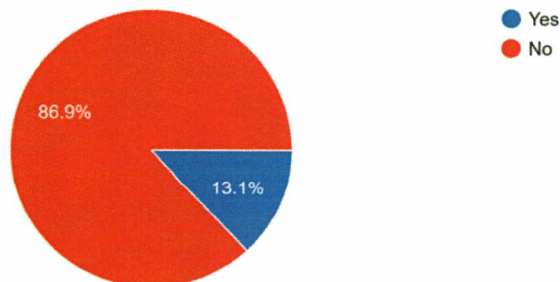
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236 responses



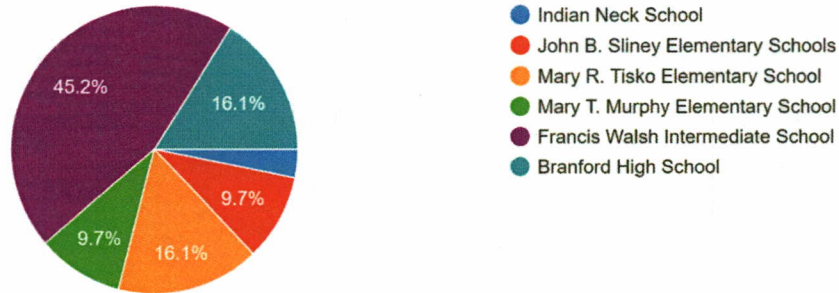
I would like to answer these questions again to represent an additional school my child(ren) attend(s).

236 responses



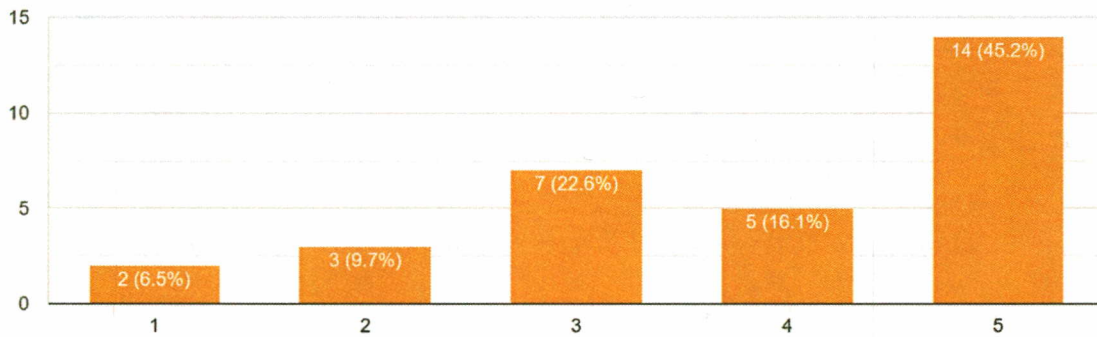
My child(ren) attend(s): Choose one school, you may complete these questions again for an additional school.

31 responses



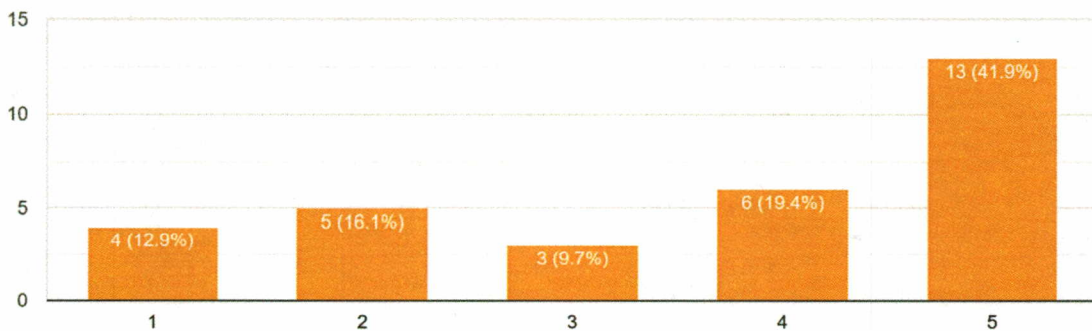
The school communicates important information in a timely manner.

31 responses



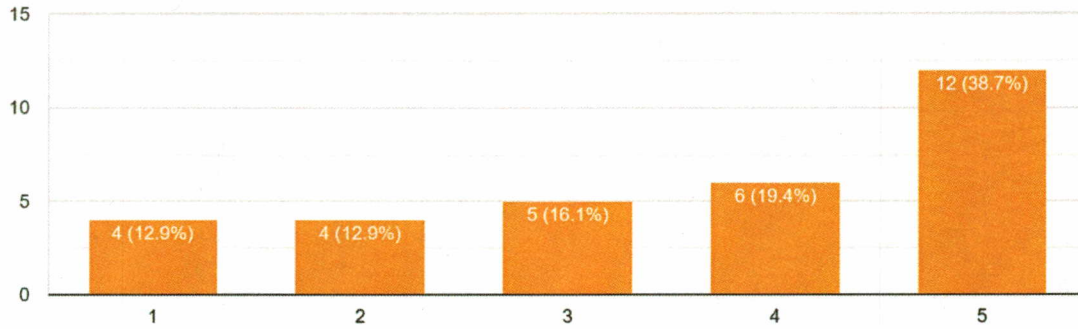
The school regularly communicates student successes, including academic achievements, athletic results and visual/performing arts accomplishments.

31 responses



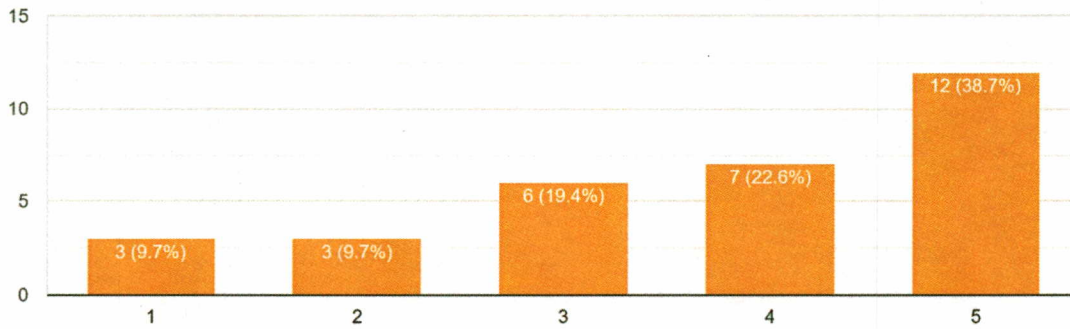
I receive messages from the school in a variety of ways - through my cell phone or mobile device, in print or on my computer.

31 responses



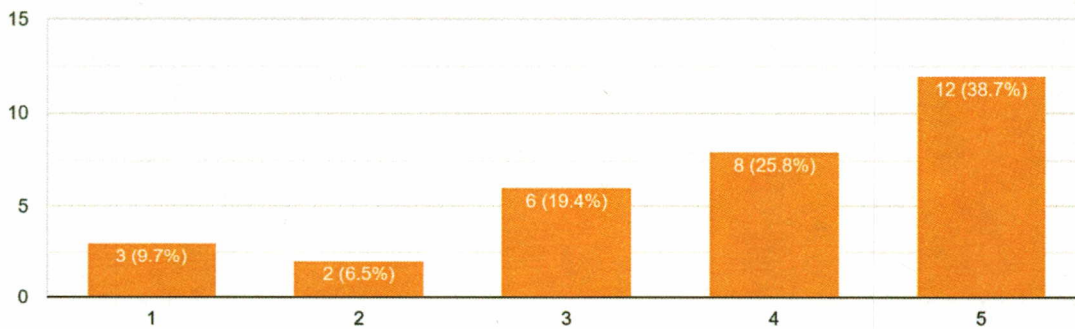
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31 responses



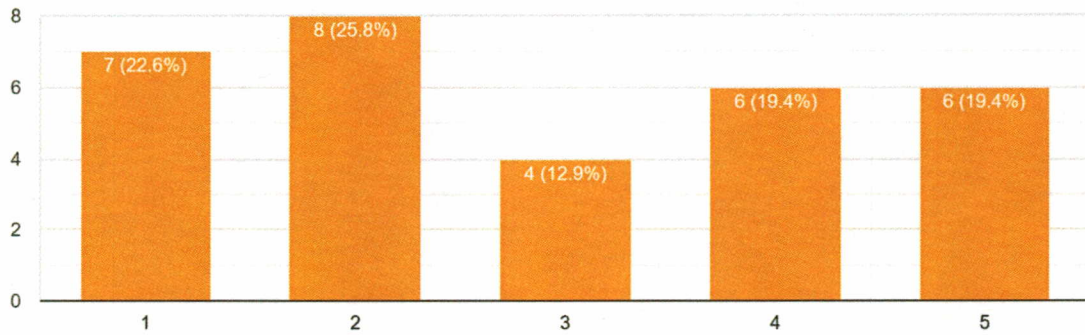
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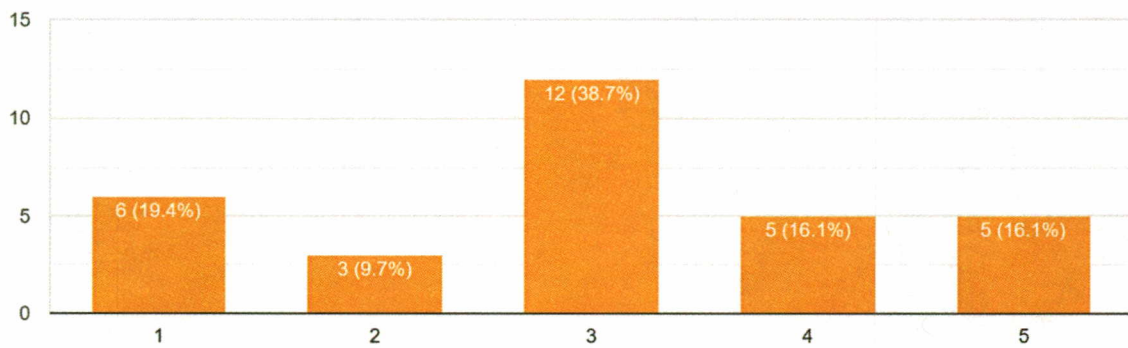
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31 responses



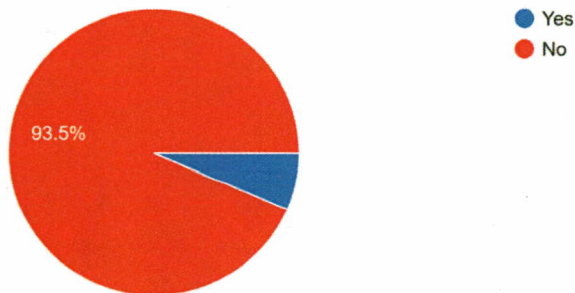
I would interact with the school more often if it increased the use of social media.

31 responses



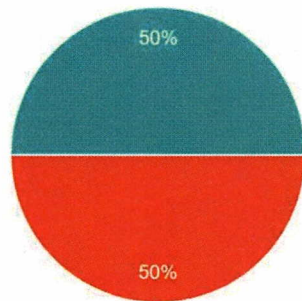
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31 responses



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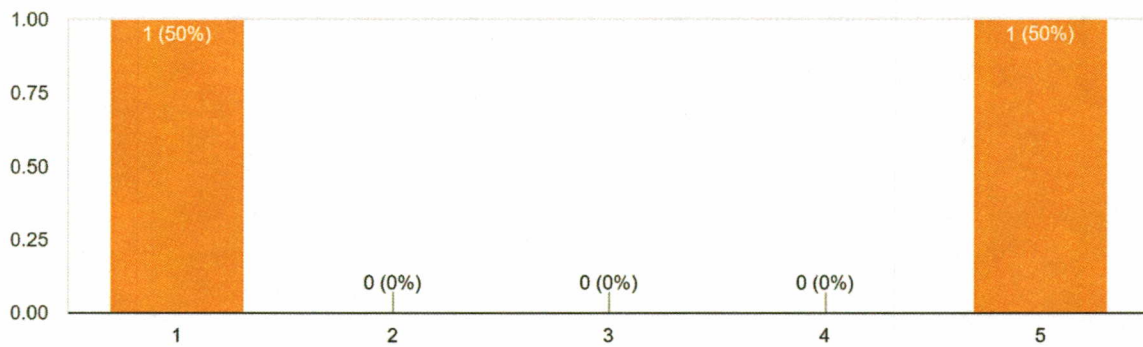
2 responses



- Indian Neck School
- John B. Sliney Elementary Schools
- Mary R. Tisko Elementary School
- Mary T. Murphy Elementary School
- Francis Walsh Intermediate School
- Branford High School

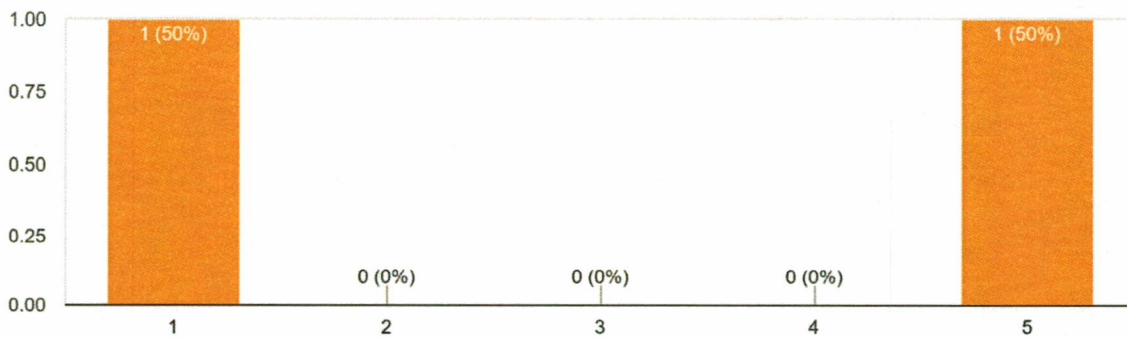
The school communicates important information in a timely manner.

2 responses



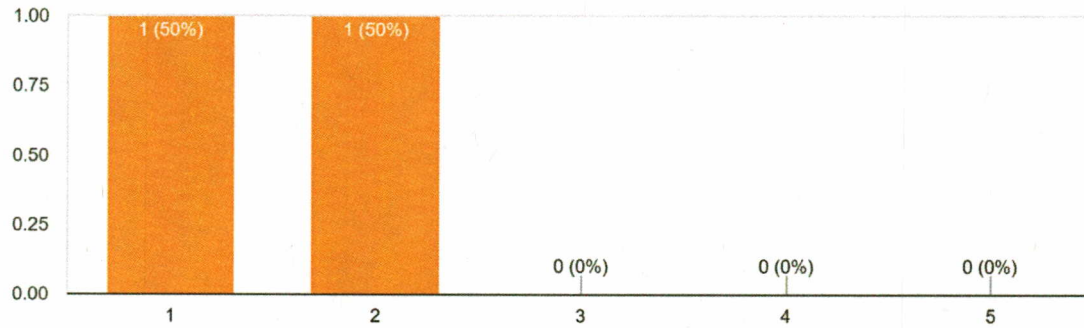
The school regularly communicates student successes, including academic achievements, athletic results and visual/performing arts accomplishments.

2 responses



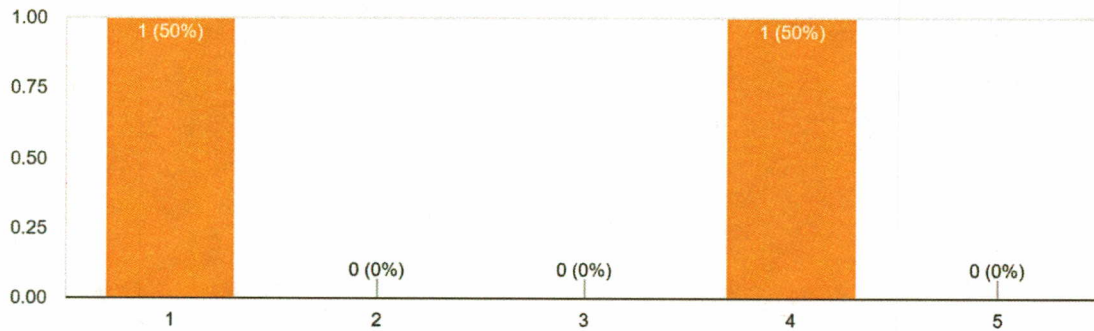
I receive messages from the school in a variety of ways - through my cell phone or mobile device, in print or on my computer.

2 responses



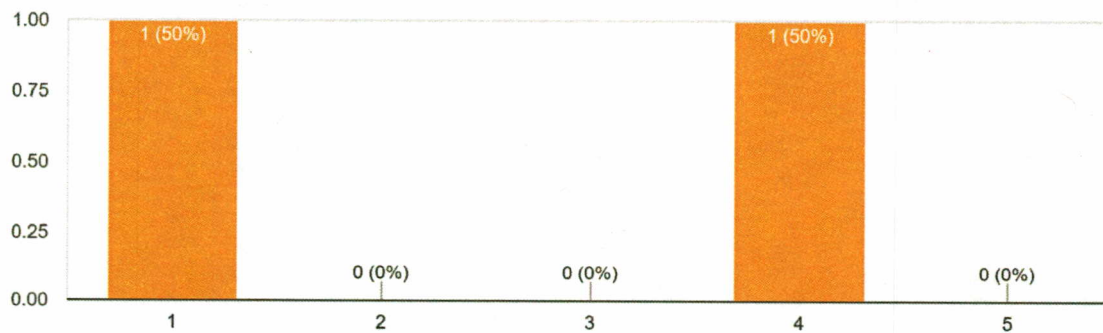
I am satisfied with the way I am currently receiving messages from the school.

2 responses



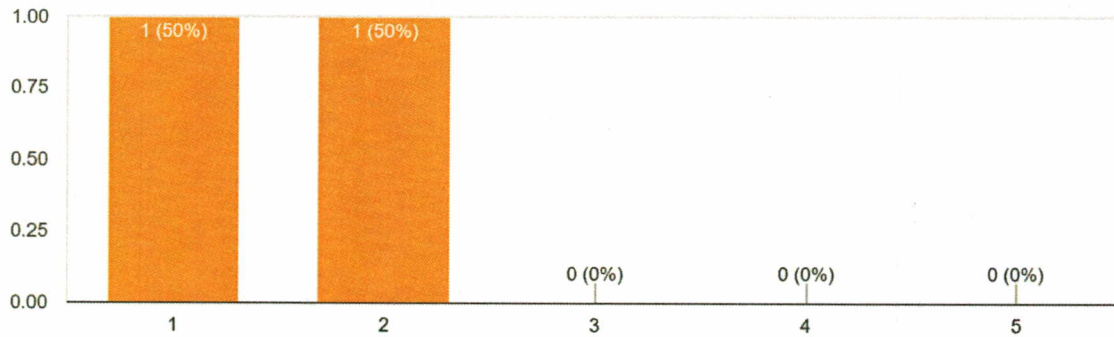
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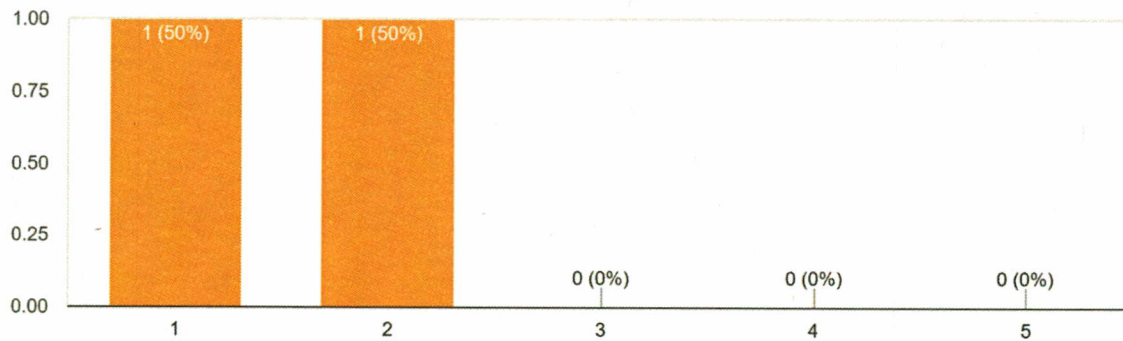
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2 responses



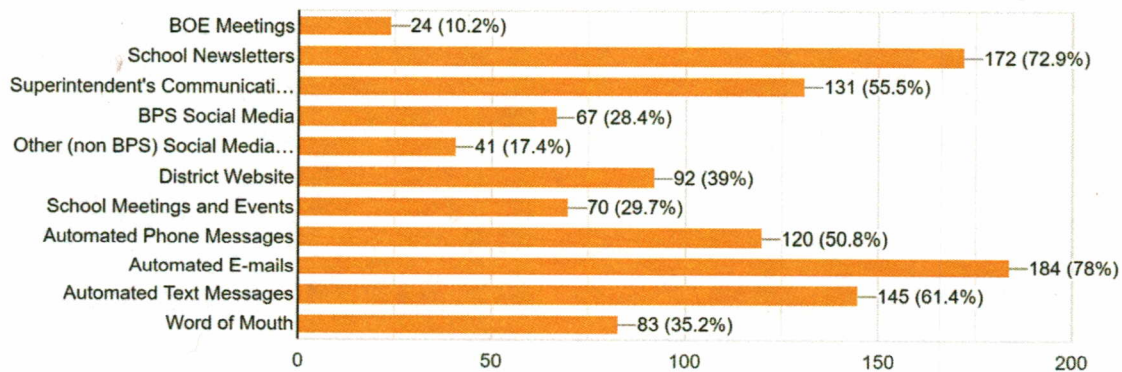
I would interact with the school more often if it increased the use of social media.

2 responses



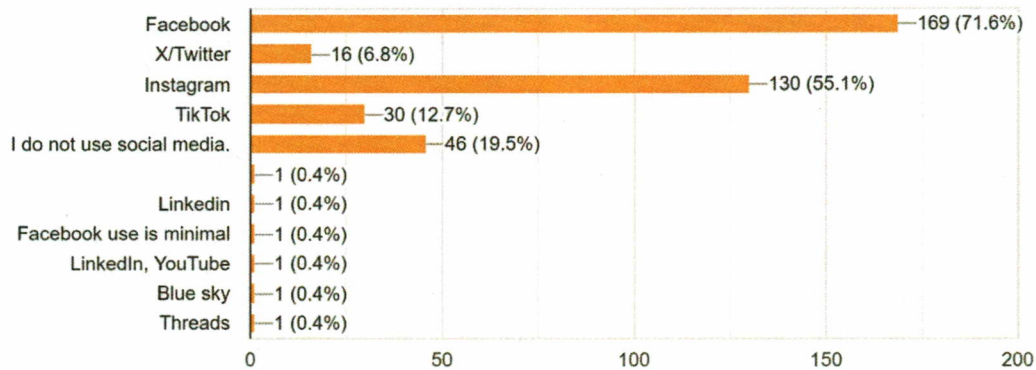
Place a check mark next to each source you regularly rely upon for communication.

236 responses



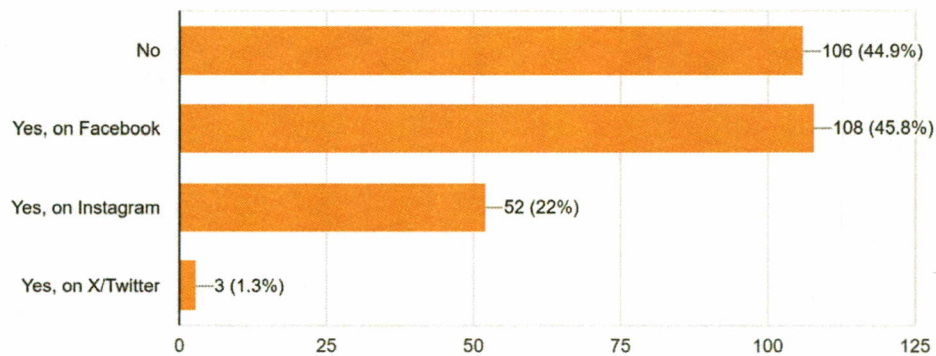
What social media platforms do you currently use? (check all that apply)

236 responses



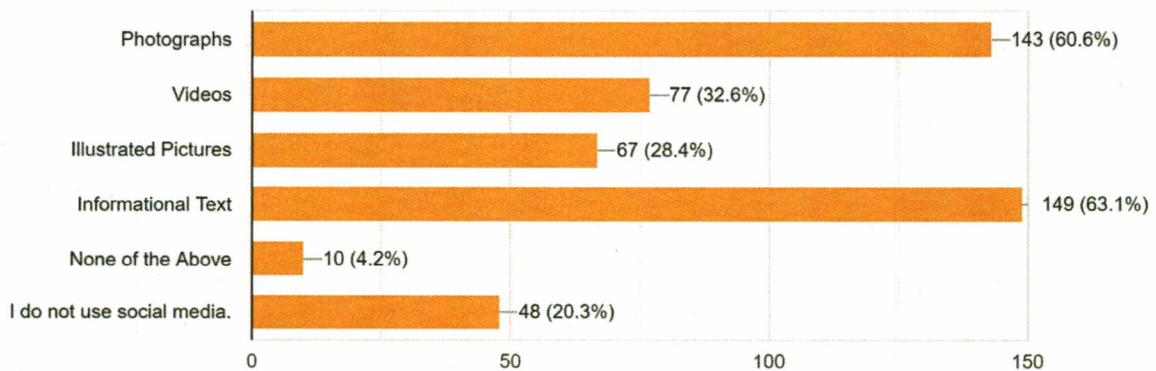
Do you currently follow BPS on social media? (If yes, check all that apply.)

236 responses



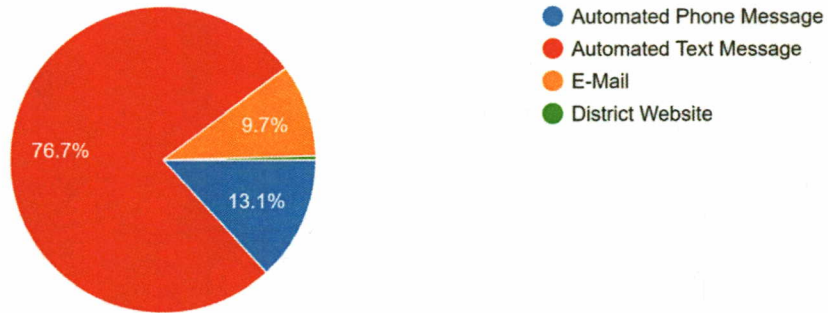
If you do use social media, do you prefer posts with:

236 responses



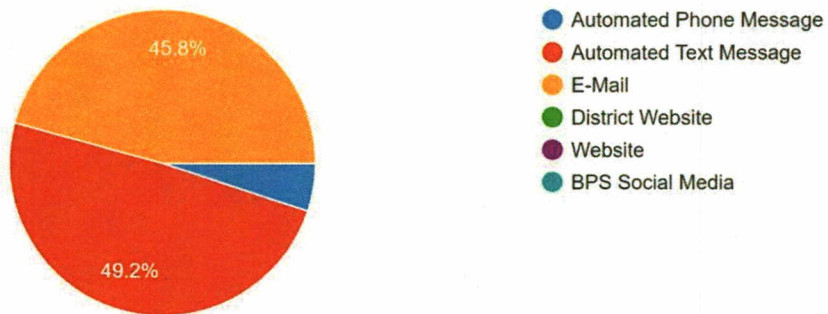
Considering the options below, what is your preference for critical communications (closings, delays, or urgent messages)?

236 responses



Considering the options below, what is your first preference for receiving general notifications?

236 responses



What do you believe the district and schools are doing well?	What do you believe the district and schools can improve?
Updates around the "happenings" at the district level, Weekly newsletters from the school	Pick one or 2 forms of communication about information and not all. I receive so many notifications through email, text, calls and social media. Less is more, sometimes
Our teachers are our greatest asset	Accountability on students who continue doing the wrong thing and are keeping the majority of our student body from learning in a safe environment.
the breakfast and lunches are a huge perk as well as the summer enrichment programs	more opportunities during summer for kids not eligible for sacc anymore to wrap around the enrichment
	providing a list of who is who in district, central office, buildings with contact info job description email etc. we have no idea who is who .
Safety	Communication from teachers
Communication	Inviting parents in and actively participating in their students education. Parent involvement has severely diminished since Covid
Improving class options	Making schools and communications more stream lined. Currently for conferences you need new logins and passwords for each school changes every 6 months. Nothing is ever easy or consistent. The little changes to make communication easier is helpful
Attempting to improve	Get the improvements fast tracked
	Discipline for out of town students, such as a 3 strikes rule, so they understand they were given an opportunity to learn in Branford, not cause problems.

<p>I love the teachers and staff. They truly care so much. I REALLY REALLY wish BOE would hire more competent TEACHERS, not entry-level paras!!</p>	<p>Hire more teachers, less paraprofessionals!</p> <p>Increase the availability of mental health professionals for students/hire more school psychologists. There is a waiting list of kids at Walsh to be seen, so much so that children with special needs, IEP's or 504 plans can't even meet with school psychologists or social workers. Mainstream children have no options for regular mental health services and must be sought out outside of BPS.</p> <p>Quality of breakfast items being served. I appreciate the concept of free breakfast, but pop tarts, pre-sweetened waffles in a bag, and sugar cereal are not healthful, nourishing options.</p>
	<p>More Academic support for regular education students. More mental health supports for all students.</p> <p>A kindness campaign. Branford has a reputation for not addressing mean and bullying behaviors.</p>
<p>Tisko is amazing at sharing with families and inviting them in. The teacher gives weekly updates of what is going on in the kinder classroom. The PTA is very involved and positive. Mr. O'C is welcoming and willing to take time for his students. My daughter has needed additional services and has been welcomed with open arms.</p>	<p>I think small class sizes need to remain a priority. I think that the summer and afterschool enrichment are very powerful tools to engage and enrich students. Having happy and healthy teacher leads to happy healthy students.</p>
<p>Schedule. Activities. Safe. Sports.</p>	<p>Shorten home room to shorten day. More honors/ap offerings for 9th and 10th.</p>
<p>Teaching staff at high school is great & they really do care!</p>	<p>Bathrooms situation, safety in bathroom. Follow other school districts with armed security in building.</p>
<p>Love Campus Custom to see my childs progress.</p>	<p>My child was involved in an incident that I did not learn about until the Branford Police let me know that he was threatened. The teacher did not notify me nor did the school. I wish I had heard from one of them, so I could be sure my son was ok. Other than that, I don't have huge complaints.</p>

<p>The teachers and support staff we've come across in BPS are some of the best around. They care and support the students, and should be appreciated by the district to ensure they are maintained.</p>	<p>There is little communication of anything positive. I appreciate the urgent communications of weather or incidents at WIS, but I'd love to see more about students who are succeeding and teams making an impact. My son won the WIS Core 4 Award in 7th grade and we found out because another child asked him about it in front of us. It's a missed opportunity to showcase positivity and build student confidence, which is needed universally. I appreciate the weekly newsletters, which are a vast improvement from previous years, but there are still many missed opportunities.</p> <p>There's also virtually no social opportunities at WIS. There are no dances, or activity evenings for the students.</p>
<p>Providing extra help in reading/math in school</p>	<p>School cancelations night before when known weather is coming and NOT at 5am. Elementary schools need more than 1 field trip 1-4 grade</p>
<p>The music program and extra curriculars (ex. Jazz band)- are amazing at Walsh. Great program and teachers!</p>	<p>Increase pay for your paraprofessionals so you have higher quality candidates that will stay longer!</p>
<p>Communication and visibility has been amazing with our new administration. A new feeling of collaboration and feeling we're all in it to best support our students is felt more than ever before.</p>	<p>I wish our 5 and 6 grades had more teacher/student/parent connection. In many towns these grades are still considered elementary school and I feel it jumps too quickly for students and parents. I feel it can be done more gradually to better prepare our students and also strengthen communication and connections.</p>
<p>Dr. Tranberg seems to be doing good things for BPS. I hope to see more progress.</p>	<p>The district and schools can improve upon their ranking and the importance of supporting gifted learners as EQUAL to the goals of the SEL learners. It is unacceptable that the final strategic plan will not have a process for identifying and supporting gifted learners until year 3 while there are actions to further support SEL learners in year 1-2. At a minimum they should run a parallel path. BPS does not place enough value on gifted learners who also struggle when their academic needs are not met. BPS could have done better as this feedback was previously provided on the prior survey.</p>
<p>Communication, most education</p>	<p>Holding students, parents/guardians accountable for their actions.</p>

Every teacher my son has had since kindergarten has been wonderful. We have always felt like each and every teacher was there for the right reasons and dedicated to their students. Therefore, it seems the district hires well. Additionally, the middle school and high school offer a good amount of clubs, activities and athletics for student involvement.	Maintenance of the buildings, structurally as well as cleanliness. Disciplinary actions/ consequences for students who do not follow school rules. Bathroom supervision at the high school. Communication at the district level.
	Lunch menu, track field across from JBS, after school programming, more athletic programming. It would be nice to have the District initiate a monthly newsletter with budget updates, outcomes of meetings, what are the new BHS updates courses, outcome of school security (for example, i did not know JBS had brand new high tech security until signing my child in late due to a doctors appointment, what does the support for the mental health and wellness needs of our students look like? Will the new teacher contract attract and retain bilingual/ multi cultural staff? When notice comes from District it contains wonderful highlights of things that will happen but an update thereafter with outcome of plan is not forthcoming . Thanks you for this forum.
Academic achievement	Family engagement and budget plans
	Orientation/ informing parents/ no school on election days

<p>Overall, yes. I continue to have concerns about certain aspects of WIS, particularly in the safety of the students from within their own community, but the excellent faculty do a lot to counterbalance that concern.</p>	<p>Most of my concerns about the school district revolve around some philosophical and cultural problems I see at WIS.</p> <p>First, I feel that students are not encouraged to take responsibility for the way their actions impact others. I and other parents have said that the only people who face consequences for negative actions at WIS are the victims of those negative actions. You can see this in the broader issues, like the bathroom limitations for all students when only a small portion of the students caused the problems/damage/inappropriate behavior. There are also many cases of individual problems where students injured or threatened by peers faced negative consequences (the injuries they suffered, a fear of returning to school, etc.). I have also heard from my child and others that --- teachers spend more time watching their phones than they do watching the students. This may well be middle school student hyperbole, but given that several students have said the same thing, it may also be a larger issue within that department...</p> <p>Second, I am frustrated by the emphasis the counselors put on applying to other schools. I love the idea of alternate paths being available to students beyond a traditional public school route. I did not love how my student was encouraged to look at every school BUT BHS, when the other schools did not fit my student's needs. The emphasis the eighth grade counselors put on applying elsewhere makes it feel as though they believe BHS isn't good enough for Branford students, and that makes me incredibly sad, given the vibrant programs BHS does offer!</p> <p>Lastly, I would love to see the high school counselors encourage students who succeeded in band at the middle school level to continue in band through the high school. I have heard that the counselors focus more on encouraging students to try new thing—which is wonderful, but serves to undermine the instrumental music program. We have wonderful middle school musicians who I would love to see encouraged to continue on with music as part of their BPS careers.</p>
<p>I will be forever be grateful for XXXX and the other Xth grade teachers who recognized that my child was pushed through the cracks and passed to the next grade for years without understanding the material.They showed her compassion and helped her become the student I always knew she could be.</p>	<p>Stop enabling bullying and trash behavior.At the very least victims shouldn't be responsible for choosing their abusers consequences.</p>
<p>Providing free meals to students</p>	<p>Handling bullying</p>

Security increase has been great all around this school year thank you!	Middle school needs more involvement, including assemblies, dances and pep rally's - Walsh is terrible for not doing these!
Health Services	Free or reduced lunch FOR ALL-some families struggle to meet grocery needs, even if they don't qualify for assistance.
Every week my daughter's teacher (Mrs. --) sends a newsletter with pictures of what the students did throughout the week and that has been extremely helpful to understand what she is learning. The PTA also sends out a lot of emails that give good information of what is happening in the school.	However, I don't feel as if the emails from her principal are consistent, so I don't know what is happening building-wide as often as I would like. In addition, I never get emails from the district about plans/budget, so that would be nice to receive more often.
It appears to me that the district is going through a period of reflection and planning action steps. I appreciate this thoughtful approach and I really appreciate actions steps that result in observable change.	Academic rigor! I'm incredibly unhappy with the lack of honors courses and interesting electives for the freshmen and sophomores at BHS. Students are leaving the district not due to "vaping in bathrooms" but because others schools are providing coursework and academic challenges. Families are noticing that our freshmen and sophomores are leaps and bounds behind peers who go to other high schools. I would transfer out my own children if I could afford it.
WIS is great about their regularly scheduled Friday newsletters.	I understand waiting to cancel school due to weather to be sure it's the right decision, but we need to know before the kids start waking up, before 6am.
My child is getting an excellent education at BHS	college counseling
Communication, transparency, student learning driven, security	
Communication from the schools is great. The weekly newsletter is helpful	Getting families and stakeholders more involved; especially at the high school level. I rely on my kids to tell me what's happening. It would be nice for parent voices to be heard when making decisions and/or to provide feedback.

<p>Dr. Tranberg has been a breath of fresh air. His thorough communication is so appreciated, as well as his genuine and sincere commitment to the school district's success. It makes me so happy to see, and also relieved that under this new administration, maybe I won't need to consider private school for my children's high school education. Notably, I've also been so impressed by our new principal, Mrs. Jones, at Mary T Murphy. She also brings a welcome new perspective and her willingness to introduce new things into the school community have just been wonderful to experience! She is dedicated to working together with the other elementary school administration in a way that I feel can truly unify our students 5 years earlier than the town has been able to do for decades. Hats off, from a proud Branford mom!</p>	<p>I am already impressed with the improvements thus far, and look so forward to seeing them continue on this trajectory to greatness!</p>
<p>Communication is getting better.</p>	<p>A shared calender with events. Centralized place to see all that is going on in the district.</p>
	<p>Same accountability of certain teachers and they expect of students.</p>
<p>The staff who inclusively and truly care about all students, are amazing! There needs to be more of them.</p>	<p>Bullying in the schools continue to be a serious issue. The victims continue to suffer while nothing seems to happens to the offenders who continue to cause harm. There needs to be more training for staff (who are also sometimes the offenders) to deal with bullies and help victims in a meaningful way that creates positive change. There needs to be social-emotional, growth mindset programs for students beginning in PreK that go all the way through 12th grade graduation that help children grow to be empathetic, non-biased, and kind people. There needs to be accountability for the offending bullies, schools, and the district. Things do not seem to get better. Kids who are victims either suffer throughout their entire middle and high school experiences (and sometimes even at the elementary level) in town until they graduate or their parents pull them out of the district. Neither schenario is acceptable, but it is the reality. This must improve.</p>

I believe that the district does an excellent job of connecting with the greater Branford community. I believe that Tisko school is a warm, welcoming place for students and families.	I feel very disconnected to my daughter's educational experience (first grade). Other schools provide weekly communication about what students are learning, special upcoming events like assemblies, photos, etc. and I hope that we can see more of this in the future for our daughter and her peers.
high quality education for students	
Mostly	I think they can improve and safety, especially in the areas of the Branford high school and Mary T Murphy the school is not clearly marked. There are no bright, neon, yellow signs, warning, traffic of an approaching school zone. Children crossing there should be a crosswalk installed across the street from Murphy's driveways to the other side of the street. There are people who live across the street who can't safely cross as well as Veterans Memorial park that's not marked either there should be speed limit sign posted for school zone 25 miles an hour park 25 miles an hour there should be rumble strips or something to slow the cars down. You have cars going 4550 miles an hour past that school
Yes!	
Communicating succinctly and promptly	
Wasting tax dollars	Holding accountability to faculty and staff on bullying and breaking rules. And protecting the individuals that follow the rules.
many things, very pleased with tisko	more technology, 21st century classrooms,
Taking steps to adress mental health	Taking further steps (adding additional personnel like Melissa and Lisa) to further support mental health
Fundraisers, awareness of different cultures and student teacher ratio	Communication regarding field trips and nurse visits.

Not much at all if I'm honest. My oldest graduated pre Covid , and the experience was positive. I currently have a student in the high school and the experience has been quite poor. Students are pushed at to fast a pace to meet state requirements those who can not keep the pace and ask for extra help are ignored and do not receive the help the need. There for they stop asking and fall even farther behind. All while bulling is at an all time high with vaping and marajuana usage in the bathroom is rampid and from my understanding the very little is done to correct this situation. My student won't drink water during the day so not to have to use the bathroom. And have to deal with the vaping bullies who I am also told tho I find it difficulty to believe that these same bullies are uirinating in the soap dispensers , making it impossible to wash ones hands.	Simply put do the jobs you signed up for. See that struggling student receive the help they are asking for. Put something in place to control the bulling and vapeing on campus so our students can feel safe to use the rest room. We chose to raise our family in Branford based on the schools which currently are a disappointment. I am aware of how difficult a job running a school and educating children is. Frankly its not a job I could do. That why I did not sign up for it. You folks signed on to cash the pay checks. It time to do the work.
Parent conferences	Branford sports need more attention specifically the coaching. No coaches should be kept beyond 10 years.
Community engagement and communication.	Diversification.
	Summer camps more programs for kids not and make summer learning a longer day not just at 1
	More various summer and after school programs to be offered in equity for all types of students(lower and/or higher level than average). WIS needs to have more well-funded academic after school clubs.
	Hiring teachers that want to be there and help my children
Putting actual education as top priority. I am told some other towns do not have education as the top priority which amazes me because that is the main reason the kids are in school. So I thank you for that.	Kids to learn Financial wellness, just the basics, saving, balancing a checkbook. credit card use, interest. Many kids go to college with no sense of how a credit card works, and get in dept before they even get a job.
	Disciplining students who are a distraction to education and prevent a safe environment
Tisko is a happy, encouraging, safe place. Kuddos to Mr. OConnor and all the teachers who come to school with a smile.	

Teaching children	School lunches
I believe our teachers are doing an amazing job working with our students in todays volatile climate.	The district can improve by enforcing a no phone policy at school and supporting teachers by creating protocols and addressing student behavioral issues. The majority of parents want teachers and administrators to hold their children accountable for their behavior. We will support you!
	We have the practical information, but nothing regarding bigger planning
Communicating	N/a
Tisko leadership. WIS foreign language. WIS sports & coaches.	Accelerated math and science before 7th grade. Teachers with industry experience. More teachers that coach sports and activities, both in district and in the broader community.
	Communication as a whole isn't great. School provides great feedback from office. Not all teachers do.
Use of several modes of communication. Weekly Newsletters are helpful & informative	Pick 1 mode of comm for reg emails/news. Perhaps a highlight of board meeting notes in an email.
School buses	Academics, communication, parents and district interactions.
	The bullying, racism, and other hate continue to be a huge problem in the middle and high school. Holding the offenders accountable instead of sweeping the incidents under the rug is critical to creating a positive change in getting to the root of the problems instead of continuing to harm the victims in multiple ways.
Superintendents newsletter is very informative	The highschool needs more support for students (dean of students) position. They implemented new rules and consequences that are communicated or enforced fairly for all students

	Weather cancelations
Support staff are amazing .	Superintendent does not communicate with parents.
The principal's weekly news letter at best	Recognizing successful students
SLINEY HAS EXCEEDED ALL OF MY EXPECTATIONS. WONDERFUL TEACHERS AND PRINCIPAL. THEY GET THINGS DONE. Everyone responds quickly to concerns and care deeply about students. I wish they was more homework though but it's a wonderful school.	More academic programming for afterschool, more sports, track would be nice across from sliney. Lunch meal variety can be improved. More staff diversity.
PTA communication, teacher communication	Reminders about upcoming school breaks and events
I think they're doing the best they can in the current climate and challenges.	My child needed help with anxiety for 2.5 years and no one would help us. Come to find out there was help in place all along. I shouldn't have had to fight as hard as I did to get access to that help. I'm sure there are many other children struggling that have no idea there is a plan for children with debilitating anxiety. That knowledge should be more readily available.
I get weekly emails from the high school principal and I read them! Great source of information. Cancellations are better than they have been - quicker call - as are communications about any incidents in school.	I wish the school sang the praises of their athletes and performers in plays more. I see more of that from personally run pages by either Booster Clubs or even students than the school itself. I think more support in that area would go a long way to build culture.
My child is very happy and loves school. She is doing well academically, feels safe with her peers and teachers and enjoys being social. I think the school is doing great for us. :-)	
Making great progress	Discipline more consistently. Stop letting a few bad apples adversely affect the majority.

I feel that communication has been improving this school year, and look forward to its continued improvement.	I would appreciate parent events led by the different subject coaches/teachers to go over curriculum. I do not mean this as a way to police teachers, I simply would like to better understand what they are learning, so I can better assist with studying or if my kids are struggling with homework. :) I realize there are probably many who would not care to attend, but I personally would love to be a more informed part of helping our students achieve greater success.
	Cancel school earlier when snow is in forecast- Many schools are cancelled hours before Branford.
Changing	Attendance notification
Teach our kids the right way to behave	Perhaps less bullying allowed
Superintendent communication	School level communication
I love the security procedure in place for school visitors. Many in-school events.	Encourage teachers to use a communication app with parents.
Students that need extra support are given a lot of help and that is appreciated	I understand that paper isn't ideal after elementary school but honestly tangible information on paper is missed. Consequences for behaviors need to start in elementary school that would then carry over to upper grades.
Teachers and admin do an amazing job.	Lunch menu options, Summer learning opportunities.
	Sometimes I receive texts and calls very early in the morning notifying of half days, etc. There have been times where I've received multiple text ,multiple calls and emails within one day . I think the 5 AM call is just too early unless there is a cancellation of school.
	The PDFs attached to emails are annoying. Just put the message in the body of the email.
	Communication

N/A	Na
No u rnot	Not well
	There communication this is a big problem they say they will call you with an update but fail to do so. They say they are going to provide a student with something but don't follow through with what was discussed. Favoritism is another big issue in this school. The language that comes out of some of the what is supposed to be professional staff is unbelievable I have heard para-professionals swear at students who are special needs and that is totally unacceptable and inappropriate.
They are instilling school pride. This is important because people from surrounding towns like to put down BPS.	More communication on what the students are studying and learning so that parents can provide enrichment. I feel like I am in the dark as to what my son has been learning. He has not been given enough homework assignments.
Weather updates	Website is antiquated...and only 1 student athlete was covered..Cole snider. That hurt moral of all teammates
I'm very happy to see	I suggest we have to give like more. education and more and more people and teachers 🙏
Communication	Cafeteria food options. My child is picky.
Very little	Waaaaay more transparency
I have been very impressed with the cancellation/delays.....timely and smartly executed! Also the availability of the superintendent has been impressive.... Thank you	Communication about what is going on in our schools. The GOOD, Tbe BAD, and The REAL BAD. Strict consequences for children that do not follow the rules. Consequences that are not based on "who" we are in town! Also making the schools more accessible for students after school for sports
	Better and more frequent communication

Notifications and reminders for school closings/early dismissals etc. checking in/Asking for parent input. Great teachers/staff.	Communicate any important info parents should know throughout the year directly via email or text to check website etc. Update playgrounds (inclusive playgrounds would be ideal).
They are trying very hard to keep open lines of communication and keeping parents up to date about "surface" information.	The website is ATROCIOUS. It needs a mobile phone application, it is hard to find information, and it needs to be kept updated. Several links are completely non-functional when you try to access them. And although I am very happy to learn about events, themes, and staff/student accolades, what I really need to know about is why my son has had 3 different gym teachers (none of which have a profile on the website) this year. Or why there have been no enrichment programs this year. Or what changes there will be to each grades' curriculum next year. I need to know these things without having to go digging through hours of BOE meetings or by vague, seemingly evasive emails when I've asked a direct questions. It would be helpful to know this kind of information at the beginning of the school year. I'm not asking to be spoon fed information, but as first time elementary school parent, I don't know what I don't know and it's exhausting finding out these things after the fact.
Getting more feedback from parents	
	increase Quality support staff for teachers and offer them a respectable pay. I also believe that teachers should touch base with parents on a more regular and individual basis. Example: send a quick message for each student with a strength and or area of concern once a month. Maybe a different designated teacher, science, math etc. could send an email and take turns doing it.
Inclusive, wrap around student services, support	Utilizing different measures for assessments vs. standardized testing
	More academic and mental health support. The level of violence and mean behavior at BHS is extremely concerning. Students do t feel safe or supported.

The school does communicate fairly well but it would be nice to know who to contact for things such as schedule and clubs.	More in school activities to raise school spirit and community. You do this well in elementary but it sorely lacks in high school. Get kids excited about school.
monthly school updates via email letter	send a reminder if a school event is coming up.
Effectively communicating	Nothing as of now
Providing a safe environment for my children to attend school in.	Curriculum updates across subject areas. Allowing more play or choice time in Kindergarten and first grade. Improving SEL curriculum.
A lot	A couple of things such as providing parents ways to be better informed - ex. About breakfast and lunches- ex. Kid's achievements or needs- everything seems to be "partially meets"- or to talk to someone besides teacher and admins... perhaps a once in a while meeting with parents in each school to have open forums ... that would welcome communications from people like immigrants... I hear a lot outside the school... can see the frustration and sometimes honestly my own. Thanks
The academic instruction and engagement with the students is going well.	There are WAYYY too many communications being made - from the superintendent and BPS, the school itself, and the PTA. It seems like every week we get a dozen emails about school from these sources and it highly diminishes the effectiveness of the message. There is communication fatigue. Please reduce the amount of messages being sent so that we can concentrate on the important ones. This would be greatly appreciated, thank you!
Reminders of school closures	
Destroying lives of disabled children w/ abusive ABA. Ignoring parents concerns & students needs	Treatment, programming & communication for school age disabled students who are sent out of district.

I am very pleased with Branford's decision to allow Pre - K students [who will not be 5 by September 1st] to attend a second year of Pre - K. Thank you!	I appreciate the information that is provided via email I just find it hard to read. I feel that it is formatted strangely.
I appreciate the monthly newsletters and information about schools closings is usually sent in a timely fashion through text or email.	I would like for there to be more communication from both the district but especially from Murphy. I would love to hear from my son's teacher on a more regular basis just about what's going on in the class (not only twice a year at conferences). I also wish there were more opportunities to go to the school for events. I am a teacher and at my school the principal sends out weekly messages about what's going on and I communicate with my families at least once a week if not more either in a message to the whole class about things going on or individually to parents about their child. We also have lots of events that parents can attend throughout the year. It would also be nice to get pictures so we can see what's going on at school.
No	
communication of events occurring during the week/month	updating families more regularly on student progress/performance, rather than waiting until parent/teacher conferences
Yes	Yes
Tisko has done an amazing job with their social media presents and getting info out early. I feel WIS puts out info last minute. Especially for parents like myself who need to plan in advance with my work schedule.	WIS can put out emails and notifications regarding issues at the school with more haste. I don't want to know that there was a threat 2 days ago, I want to know when it happens in real time.

I believe they gave some amazing teachers	<p>Communication! So many questions and never the same answers, things changing but no one telling you until you did something that you're no longer allowed to do. We have a horrible PTA board that feels they are "god" and pick who they are friends with and everyone else is ousted. I feel more communication from the teachers telling parents what they are working on in class and what parents can do to help would be amazing. More parent involvement, let parents come in to read to the class or do educational crafts, they say to contact the PTA for volunteer opportunities but PTA in our school is only about the board members and makes it extremely difficult to work with. On multiple occasions they didn't even respond to my emails and I'm not the only one other parents have said the same thing. If the school would tell parents more then it wouldn't matter that the PTA didn't communicate.</p>
	Communication
I like having the Infinite Campus that has his grades on it. The weekly newsletter is great for extracurricular activities and school spirit days and sports programs.	<p>I wish there was more information about after-school clubs and organizations. We signed my son up for one and he never went and we had no idea. I didn't even know when it met to remind him to go or ask if he did so. I wish we had more info about what our kids are studying too, though I'm sure the teacher teams are overwhelmed.</p>
Infinite campus	More diversity
communicating, in the past parents and teachers felt left in the dark about many things, so I think the increase in communication helps. However, quality over quantity helps busy parents receiving too many email already, to engage with the information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families seem to be on grade specific email lists at Sliney, which means if you have more than one child, you receive multiples of every email, sometimes up to 10 a day. - I do not think we need so many reminders about early release days, sometimes the PTA sends out an email blast too, times the number of students you have could be 6 emails about the same thing in an hour's span. This overload of emails saturated parents' inboxes and makes it more likely that important emails be overlooked. - how can communication be less words and more efficient?

Keeping our kids safe and healthy and learning	Communication regarding meetings, how to get involved, etc. PTA meetings are not communicated regularly. There was a 1 day lead time for this months meeting from the day the email went out. Regularly scheduled meetings that are communicated to parents would be helpful.
Slaney is amazing with communication.	
	Giving more notice on field trips. Communicating more about what the children are doing in class.
Principal and staff are wonderful	Communication with what's going on in the building and in the classroom, and if more activities can be put into place for our children
	The district doesn't retain the most effective employees and they hold on to admins who are severely ineffective. Employees who have left the district should be interviewed and asked why they left or had to leave.
Murphy is great with communication and making parents aware of what is going on.	The High school and the BOE need to be more actively involved in informing parents of what is going on. The BOE need to make a better effort in actually responding to any and all emails they receive from parents.
	Stop going Woke!
communication	providing more resources and programs to outstanding students