

Winthrop Middle School



School Improvement Plan 2017-2018

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School Site Council Memberships

<p><u>Parent Representatives</u> Debbie Chavis Leslie Lawton Christine Snow</p> <p><u>Community Representatives</u> Karin Chavis Coni Moore</p>	<p><u>Teacher Representatives</u> Chris Beckvold Teresa Dankner Brynn Durkee Daniela Foley Stephanie Pietal</p> <p><u>Principal</u> Brian Curley</p>
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Mission Statement

The Mission of the Winthrop Public Schools is to promote and support student-learning PreK-12 by teaching students in a challenging yet nurturing learning environment. We will prepare our students to be productive citizens who will contribute to their community and to the global community of the 21st century.

Summary of 2017-2018 Goals

1. To effectively and efficiently transition to the new Massachusetts Science Frameworks.
2. To enhance Mathematics Instruction.
3. To use technology to increase student engagement and enhance instruction.
4. To improve the social/emotional learning experiences for all students.

Enrollment & Demographic Data

2016-17 Enrollment Data and Projected 2017-18

	Total June 2017	Projected 2017-18
Grade 6	146	158
Grade 7	157	146
Grade 8	166	157
School Totals	469	461

Winthrop Middle School Mobility Data 2016-2017

	New Students	Withdrawn Students	Net Total
Grade 6	8	4	+4
Grade 7	17	14	+3
Grade 8	7	8	-1
School Totals	32	26	+6

Winthrop Middle School Populations Profile

Populations	2016-2017 Percentage
Students with Disabilities	17.8%
Low Income	38.4%
English Language Learner	4.3%
First Language Not English	17.6%

Winthrop Middle School Demographic Information

Populations	2016-17 Percentage
African-American	.4%
Asian	.6%
Hispanic	10.0%
Multi-race, Non-Hispanic	3.0%
White	86.0%

School Improvement Implementation

2016-17

Due to the construction of the brand new Winthrop Middle/School, WMS has not existed for two years. Grades 6 & 7 became a part of the Arthur T. Cummings Elementary School and grade 8 became a part of Winthrop High School. During the two year transition period, our grade 6-8 teachers were able to take advantage of this opportunity and effectively learn from each other in a variety of areas such as curriculum, planning, assessment, instruction, student engagement, parent/family engagement, and professional culture.

Winthrop Middle School did not have a Grades 6-8 specific formal School Improvement Plan in place since the school, as an independent entity, did not exist during the last school year. Through the 2016-2017 academic year, WMS transitioned into its traditional middle school role while simultaneously pursuing improvements in a number of areas.

Technology

Students and staff at Winthrop Middle School are very fortunate to be housed in a brand new, state-of-the-art school where technology is at a premium. WMS is equipped with 500 student Chromebooks for 475 students. Each classroom includes a 70-inch Clear Touch interactive, touch screen monitor which serves as a vital instructional tool to enhance student engagement and instructional capacity. Teachers have been trained in the use of Clear Touch technology as well as Google apps in order to maximize instructional capability.

Assessment

During the two-year transition period, Winthrop Middle School was able to observe and use many of the progress-monitoring assessment tools utilized by the Arthur T. Cummings School and Winthrop High School. Winthrop Middle School continued the use of Scholastic's SRI and SMI assessments for progress-monitoring as well as Lexia Learning and TenMarks for independent student practice. WMS has been able to expand student licenses, guaranteeing that all teachers and students have access to these assessment tools. These assessment tools are used to inform instruction by providing timely progress monitoring and data collection and is additionally used to screen students for interventions and enrichment opportunities. By using such tools, Winthrop Middle School is able to use this data to further differentiate but also to enhance instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Core Values

The Core Values Committee created a vision called "Stand Up As One." This vision outlines a number of core values that we, as a school, consider essential to the overall culture of the building: being respectful, kind, courageous, positive, and open-minded. The goal is to improve the overall culture of the school and continue to provide a positive learning environment. In addition, the core values committee has implemented the bullying prevention program Olweus, which is a powerful tool that will improve the social emotional learning experience for all students.

Professional Development

Winthrop Middle School will continue to endeavor to offer professional development for the staff in the following areas:

Google Apps for Education (GAPE) : WMS partnered with Teaching Forward to implement Google Apps For Education. All staff were trained prior to the school year with some of the basic applications such as Google Drive and Docs. Consultants from Teaching Forward, throughout the year, trained staff members who, in turn, trained other members of the staff. As a result, our in-house trainers drive the sharing of all Google Apps has to offer, including valuable extensions, apps, and tools which will improve 21st century teaching and learning.

Guided Math Model: WMS partnered with Looney Math Consultants to implement a guided math model in all mathematics classes. Guided Math is a structure for teaching whereby a teacher supports each child's development of mathematical proficiency at increasing levels of difficulty, within the context of a small group.

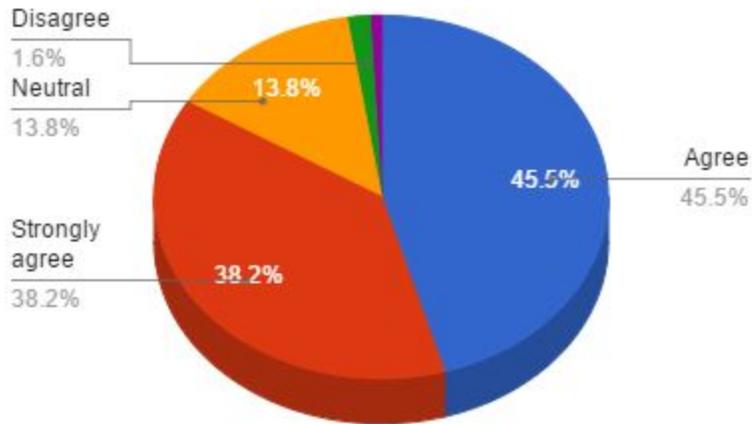
Differentiating within an Inclusive/Co-Taught Classroom: Many of our special education & regular education teachers who teach in co-taught settings attended the high quality professional development by Dr. Lisa Dieker. The focus of the professional development was on co-teaching/inclusive teaching practices to close the achievement gap and differentiating in inclusive classrooms using universal design for learning, technology, and other instructional strategies.

WMS Teacher Driven Workshops: During the two year transition period, staff and administration from WMS were able to see first-hand how powerful teacher driven workshops can be. Research shows that teachers are often more engaged in professional development opportunities where they have a variety of workshops to choose from. Additionally, more engagement occurs when the presentation is from an expert in their own school/district. WMS used this model on two professional development days. Teachers had the opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops.

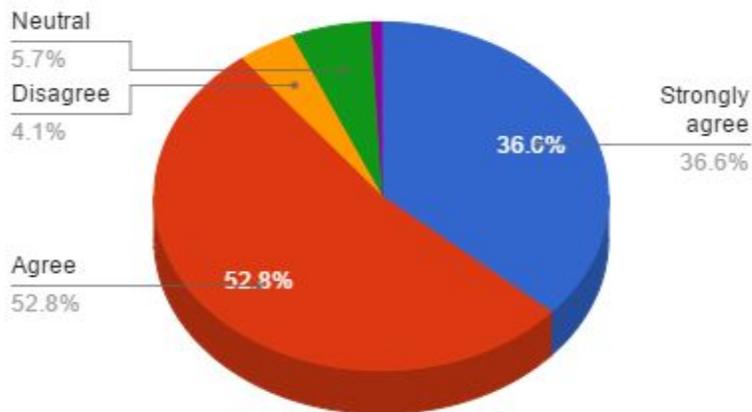
Survey Data

The School Site Council created an annual assessment survey to help all members of the school community (students, parents, and the adults who work at the school) understand how everyone feels about their children's experiences in school.

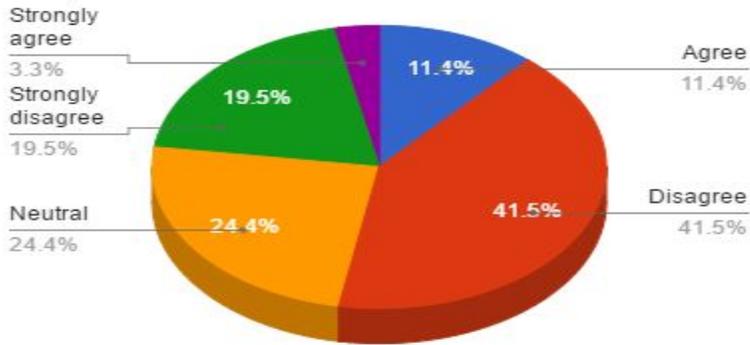
My child feels his/her team of teachers really care about him/her.



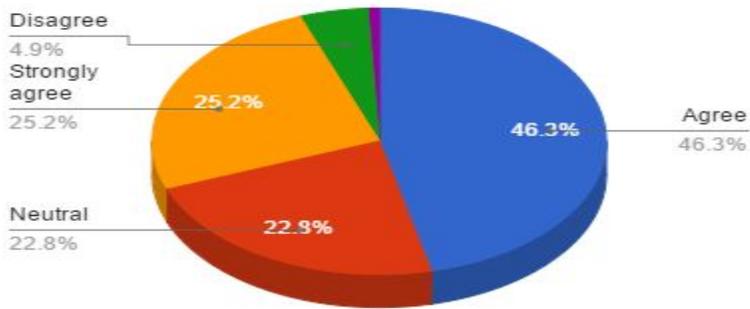
This school is a supportive and inviting place for students.



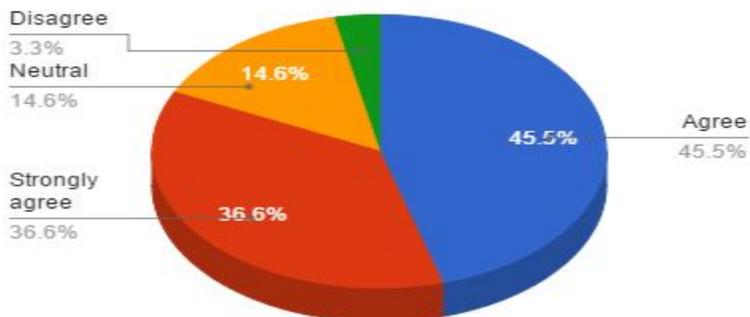
I am concerned about my child's safety outside the classroom (e.g., school grounds, on the bus).



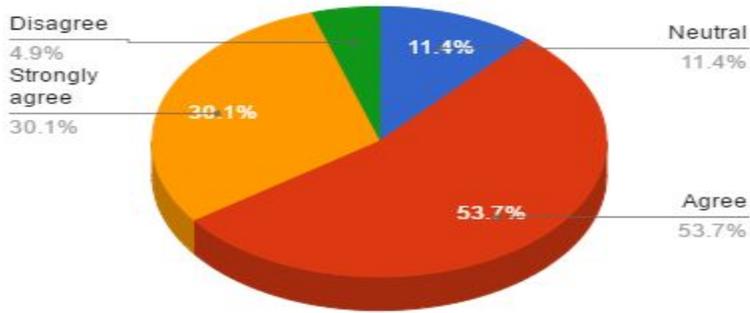
My child feels comfortable talking to at least one of his/her core team of teachers about problems he/she may be having.



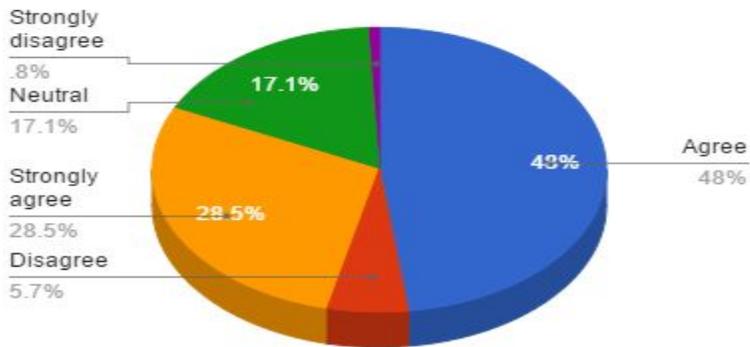
I am happy my child goes to this school.



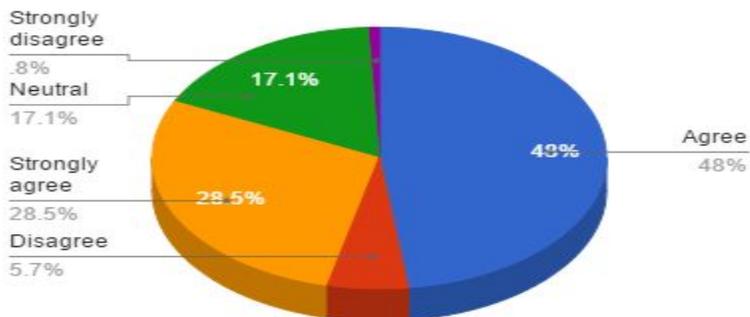
I feel welcome at this school.



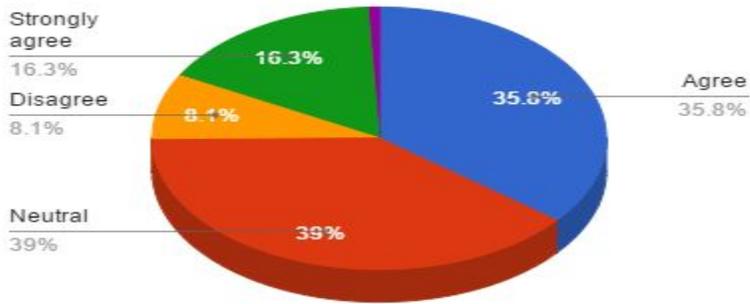
I have enough communication with my child's team of teachers.



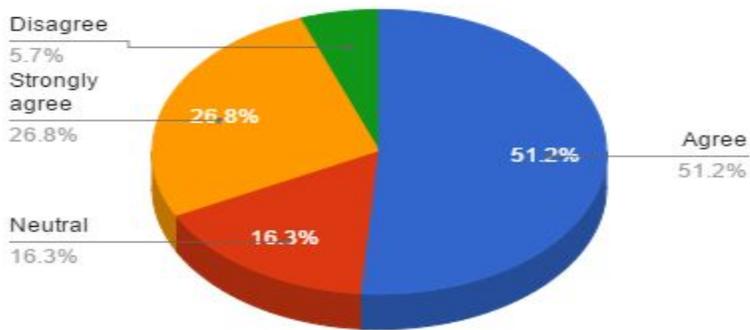
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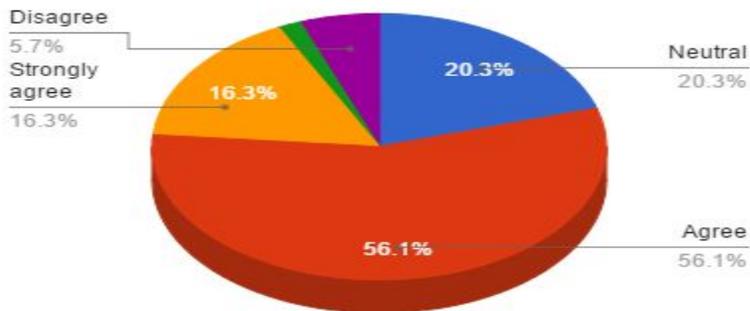
Parent/guardian feedback is considered in the school's decision-making.



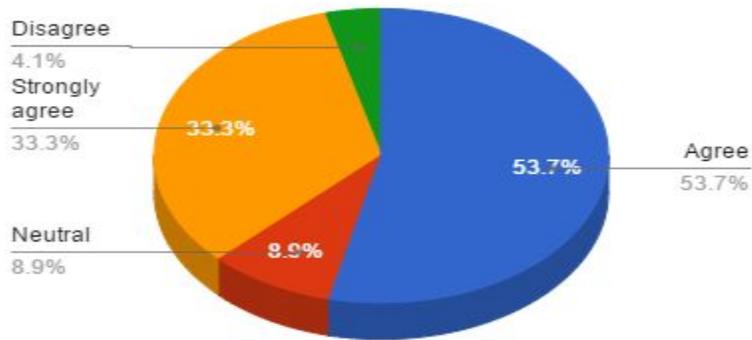
My child is getting a good education at this school.



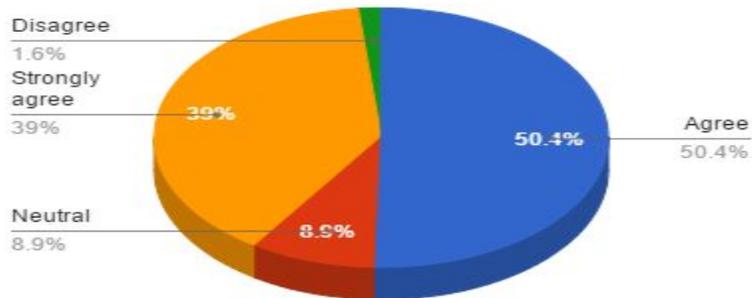
There are many opportunities for me to participate in activities at this school.



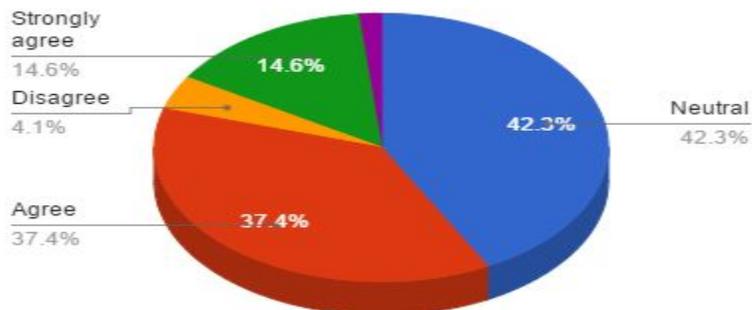
My child's team of teachers treats him/her fairly.



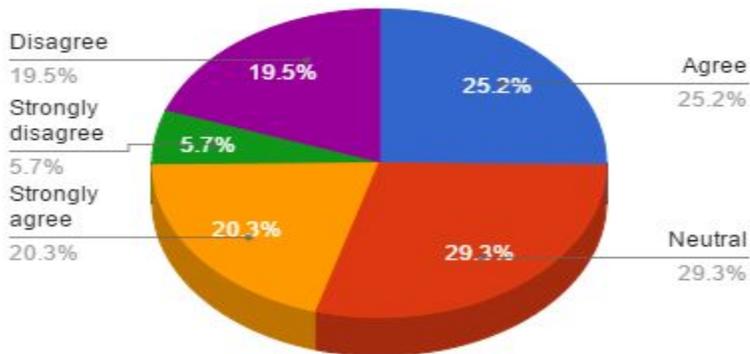
My child likes his/her team of teachers.



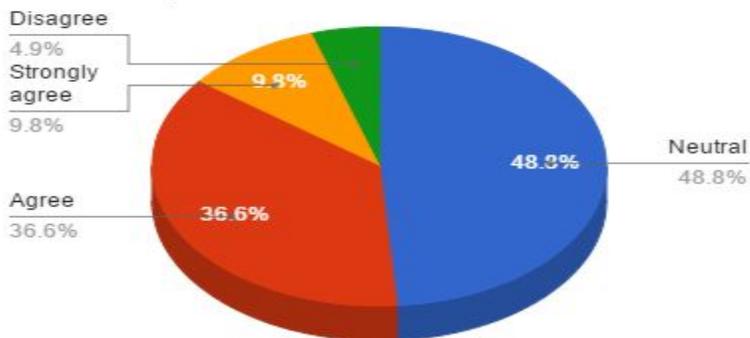
At this school, there are good supports for children who are having learning difficulties.



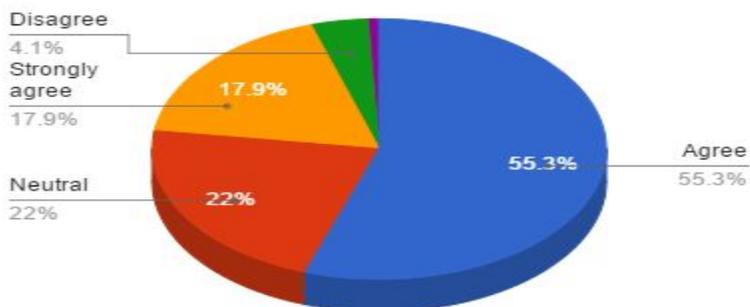
The behavior of some students in my child's classes makes it hard for him/her to focus on schoolwork.



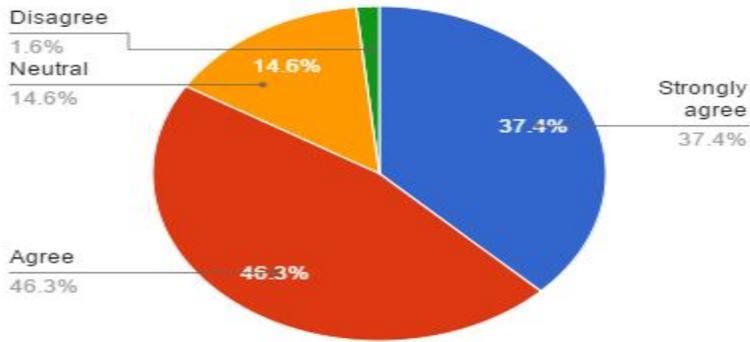
At this school, there are good supports for children who are having other personal difficulties, either at home or at school.



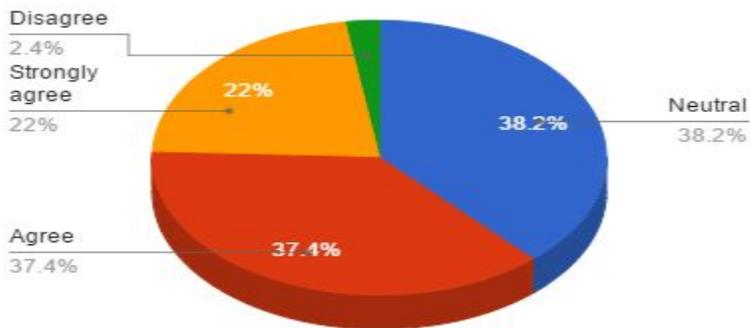
This school is a supportive and inviting place for parents/guardians.



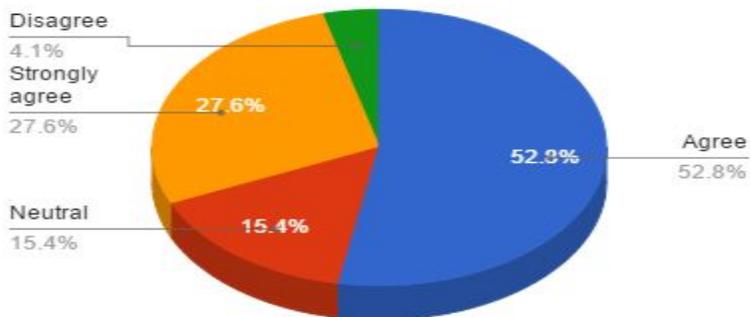
Adults at this school believe that my child can be a success.



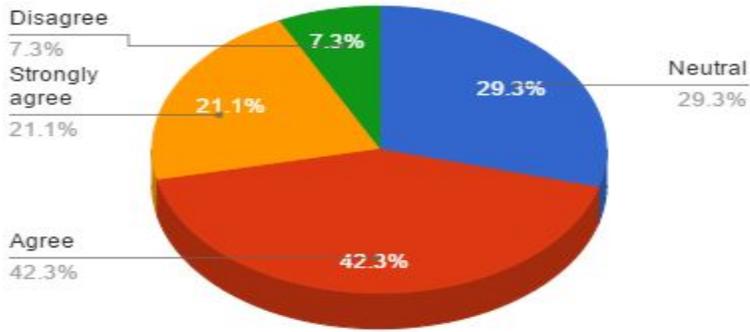
Adults at the school treat students from different cultures fairly.



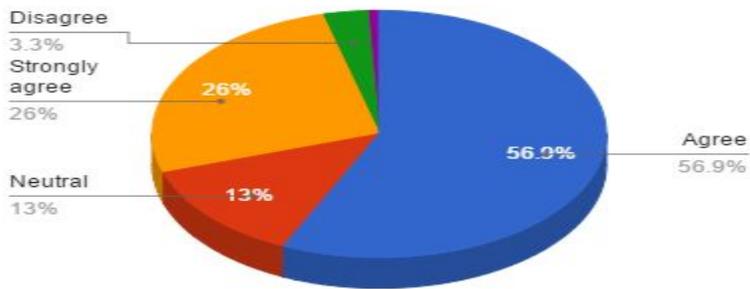
My child's team of teachers listen to what he/she has to say.



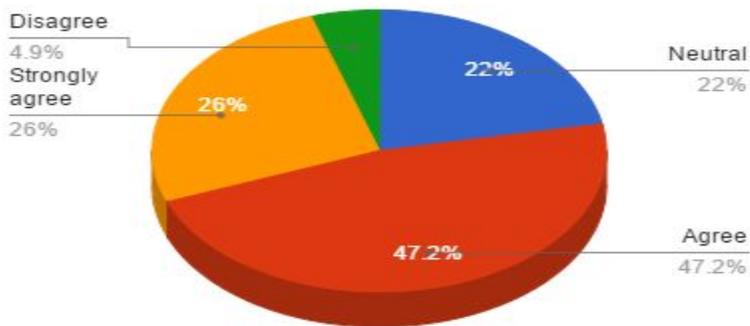
This school actively encourages parent/guardian involvement in children's social and emotional development.



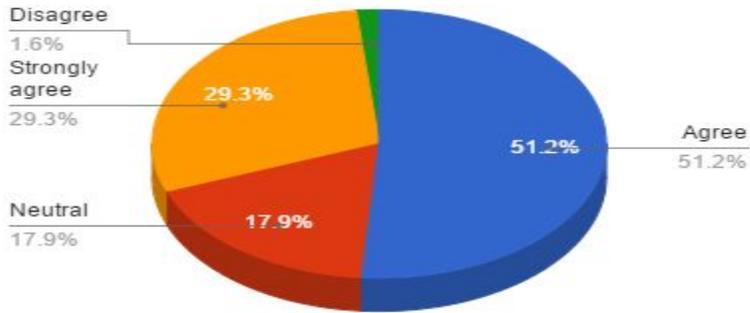
This school works to promote my child's academic development.



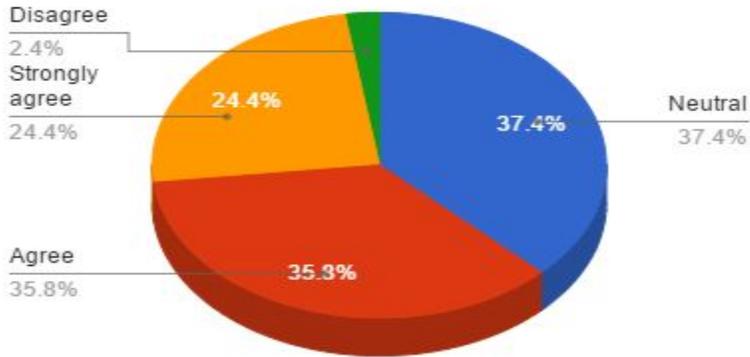
My child feels cared for by the adults at school.



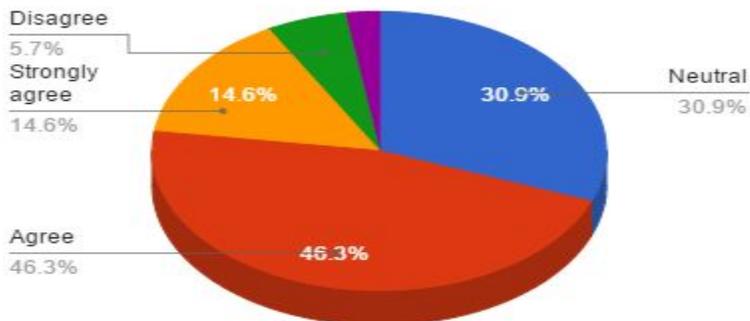
My child's team of teachers are welcoming and interested in what I have to say.



Adults in this school treat families from different cultures respectfully.



I feel other families in this school are welcoming to me.



School Improvement Goals 2017-18

Goal #1: To effectively and efficiently transition to the new Massachusetts Science Frameworks.		
Objectives:	Actions:	Evidence:
SEPUP curriculum will be implemented by grades 6-8 science teachers.	<p>Using the 2016 MA STE curriculum frameworks as a guide, distribute kits and texts to the best-matched grade.</p> <p>The Technology/Engineering Standards will be taught during STEM for grades 6-8.</p>	<p>Middle School Science SEPUP Unit Overview This document lists the units each grade will use.</p> <p>All 6-8 science and STEM teachers will have access to curriculum maps that outline the intended pacing and corresponding state standards for each unit. They are shared through Google Drive.</p>
WMS science teachers will be competent in implementing the new curriculum.	Teachers will receive professional development on the new curriculum.	Science teachers will reflect in common planning times on the effectiveness of professional development and new curriculum.
Students will access new material using inquiry-based learning through the SEPUP curriculum.	<p>There will be a significant increase in the number of hands-on investigations that students perform.</p> <p>Students will keep notebooks to track each activity within a unit, including important vocabulary, observations, and analyses.</p>	Class activities will be shared with the community through teacher updates and the principal's newsletters.
WMS science teachers will have ample opportunity to reflect and collaborate with each other.	The science department will meet once a month to reflect on progress and discuss strategies for improvement.	Monthly meeting agendas and notes are shared via Google Drive.

Goal #2: To enhance Mathematics Instruction		
Objectives:	Actions:	Evidence:
WMS math teachers will receive high quality professional development by Looney Consultants in the area of a guided math model.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources provided will be shared. 1 to 1 observations will be setup with the teacher and Looney Consulting representative. Implementation of guided math model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources shared on google drive for department to use. Feedback from Looney Consultants. Classroom observations in TeachPoint.
WMS math teachers will use peer-observations with colleagues as an opportunity to improve math instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To observe strategies and techniques of math teachers using a guided math model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peer observation forms
Differentiation for ELL's and all learners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers will use SEI strategies to increase comprehension for ELLs (and all students) during instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom observations and by administration in TeachPoint Post observation reflection with administration ACCESS scores and reports
Use of technology to enhance math instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using SMI to measure math proficiency for all students. Use of TenMarks and other online math programs/tools to further differentiate in order to meet the needs of all students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly math assessments Summarized Reports from assessment tools Classroom observations by administration

Goal #3: Use technology to increase student engagement and enhance instruction.

Objectives:	Actions:	Evidence:
<p>WMS teachers will use Chromebooks and other technology during instruction time in order to increase teacher preparation and instruction time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teaching Forward LLC will be hired to provide professional development regarding the Google Suite. ● Teachers with advanced knowledge of technology and the Google Suite will share their knowledge with their departments and grade levels. ● Teachers and students will increase communication about assignments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will submit notes about the professional development to a shared folder on Google Drive. ● Time will be scheduled (i.e. Meetings or teacher-led PD) to share the knowledge. ● The technology department will provide students with school-supervised email accounts.
<p>The school will increase the accessibility of technology for teachers beyond the help provided by the technology department.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers with advanced knowledge will provide technology assistance. ● Teachers with advanced knowledge will research and develop new applications for technology and techniques that are useable in the their respective department and grade level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Point people will be assigned to each grade level/ department. ● A help ticket system will be created (i.e. Google Forms) for teachers to send to the technology point-people. ● New applications for technology and techniques will be shared on Google Drive and during scheduled meetings.
<p>WMS teachers will create a collection of common content and assessments using an online platform.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will convert their content and assessments to a digital format. ● Teachers will create any future content and assessments digitally. ● Departments will determine what will serve as common assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will create and upload their digitized content onto Google Drive. ● Departments will schedule meetings to discuss prospective common assessments. ● Departments will create online folders that contain common content and assessments.

<p>The school will work to improve overall communication and engagement of ELL parents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will encourage the progress of EL students' academically, linguistically, and socially. ● The school will provide translated material. ● The school will announce important information to EL households. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School-related materials will be made available in multiple languages using reliable software. ● School announcements on the website will be translated via reliable software. ● EL students will bring home important information to their EL parents. ● The school will make all-calls in the languages that are prevalent in the area.
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Goal #4: Improve the social/emotional learning experiences for all students

Objectives:	Actions:	Evidence:
<p>WMS Core Values' committee will implement a bullying prevention program (Olweus) to improve the overall climate in the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will participate in a survey to evaluate culture. ● Committee will create core values that correlates to the bullying prevention program. ● Students will be provided lessons based on school wide survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Results from the survey will be shared with site council, core values committee, & faculty. ● Committee will discuss at monthly meetings as scheduled per agendas. Minutes will be taken. ● Lessons provided during ICE block with student/staff feedback.
<p>Provide school wide activities & events to foster a positive learning environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schedule school wide events (ex. Holiday Fair, Talent Show). ● Collaborate with PTO & Student Council to assist in creating school wide events (ex. Full Court Frenzy, Trick or Trot Race, Fun Fridays, Dances/Socials). ● Create an intramurals sports program that includes a variety of sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monthly newsletters, weekly emails to parents, & morning/afternoon announcements. ● Parent survey for feedback.
<p>Create & implement a school wide system of identifying students at-risk and apply proper supports to enhance their learning experiences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creating support teams (ex. teacher support teams, emotional support teams). ● Designing a system to track student supports and progress. ● Create a network of supports inside and outside of school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper-based or online form to track student progress. ● Lists of support teams along with meeting dates. ● Staff survey to measure effectiveness.