

My child attends: (check one box)	A1. The school offers a challenging, rigorous curriculum.		A2. The school is focused on academic achievement, setting high expectations for students.		A3. The academic program includes a wide selection of course offerings.		A4. Teachers meet my child's needs by including a variety of teaching strategies and activities.		A5. Teachers assign high-quality homework that supports learning.		B1. The academic needs of my child are recognized by staff.		B2. My child receives additional help as needed.		B3. My child receives additional challenges as needed.		B4. Support staff, including educational technicians and literacy and math strategists, help meet the needs of students.	
Durham Community School																		
1 Strongly Agree	13	19%	17	25%	8	12%	22	33%	9	13%	19	28%	19	28%	10	15%	16	24%
2 Somewhat Agree	35	52%	32	48%	23	34%	26	39%	22	33%	29	43%	23	34%	24	36%	22	33%
3 Neutral	15	22%	11	16%	24	36%	8	12%	19	28%	9	13%	12	18%	14	21%	15	23%
4 Somewhat Disagree	4	6%	6	9%	3	4%	8	12%	12	18%	8	12%	10	15%	10	15%	8	12%
5 Strongly Disagree	0	0%	1	1%	5	7%	3	4%	5	7%	2	3%	1	1%	7	10%	1	2%
Not Applicable	0	0%	0	0%	4	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	2	3%	2	3%	4	6%
Total	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	66	100%

My child attends: (check one box)	B5. My child's emotional needs are understood and properly addressed.		B6. (For parents of students receiving Special Education services only) Special Education services meet the needs of my child.		B7. (For parents of students receiving Gifted and Talented services only) GT programming meets the needs of my child.		B8. The school provides excellent support services (guidance, nursing, mentoring, college planning, etc.).		B9. My child learns life skills such as managing time, prioritizing, meeting deadlines, responsibility, and communicating clearly.		C1. The school offers a broad range of co-curricular activities (drama, etc.).		C2. Students have access to a wide selection of sports through the school's athletic program.		D1. The atmosphere at school is positive and conducive to learning.		D2. The school encourages students to show respect for each other.		
Durham Community School																			
1 Strongly Agree	13	20%	4	8%	5	10%	16	24%	11	16%	13	19%	13	19%	25	37%	28	42%	
2 Somewhat Agree	21	32%	0	0%	6	12%	26	39%	31	46%	24	36%	23	34%	24	36%	20	30%	
3 Neutral	11	17%	3	6%	2	4%	14	21%	12	18%	22	33%	17	25%	7	10%	6	9%	
4 Somewhat Disagree	9	14%	1	2%	3	6%	3	5%	10	15%	1	1%	6	9%	7	10%	8	12%	
5 Strongly Disagree	9	14%	1	2%	0	0%	3	5%	2	3%	6	9%	6	9%	4	6%	4	6%	
Not Applicable	3	5%	40	82%	35	69%	4	6%	1	1%	1	1%	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	
Total	66	100%	49	100%	51	100%	66	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	66	100%	

My child attends: (check one box)	D3. Adults who work in the school treat students with respect.		D4. Teachers have built strong relationships with my child.		D5. I feel welcome at my child's school.		D6. Parents have opportunities to participate in school activities.		E1. Staff handles discipline fairly, consistently, and effectively.		E2. School staff have a positive impact on students' behavior.		E3. Staff proactively educates students about the impact and prevention of bullying.		E4. Teachers manage classroom behavior effectively.		E5. Behavior expectations are made clear to students.	
Durham Community School																		
1 Strongly Agree	34	51%	28	42%	44	66%	28	42%	12	18%	19	29%	18	27%	11	17%	27	41%
2 Somewhat Agree	25	37%	21	31%	15	22%	28	42%	20	30%	26	39%	19	29%	26	40%	21	32%
3 Neutral	4	6%	11	16%	5	7%	6	9%	11	16%	13	20%	12	18%	15	23%	9	14%
4 Somewhat Disagree	1	1%	5	7%	2	3%	4	6%	14	21%	5	8%	8	12%	9	14%	5	8%
5 Strongly Disagree	3	4%	2	3%	1	1%	1	1%	7	10%	3	5%	9	14%	4	6%	4	6%
Not Applicable	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	66	100%	66	100%	65	100%	66	100%

My child attends: (check one box) Durham Community School	E6. The school tells me about behavior expectations for my child.		F1. The school is safe and orderly.		F2. The school is clean and well-maintained.		F3. The school reflects the pride taken in educating our students.		F4. The school provides quality teaching/learning materials and technology equipment.		G1. Administrators and teachers communicate with parents/guardians effectively.		G2. I have opportunities to share my views about the school.		G3. Teachers and administrators are responsive to my concerns and suggestions.		G4. I feel comfortable talking with my child's teacher(s).	
1 Strongly Agree	15	22%	38	57%	57	85%	40	61%	33	49%	22	33%	20	30%	20	30%	39	59%
2 Somewhat Agree	30	45%	23	34%	8	12%	14	21%	23	34%	24	36%	25	37%	27	41%	14	21%
3 Neutral	10	15%	3	4%	2	3%	9	14%	7	10%	8	12%	8	12%	4	6%	10	15%
4 Somewhat Disagree	8	12%	3	4%	0	0%	1	2%	2	3%	10	15%	11	16%	11	17%	2	3%
5 Strongly Disagree	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	2	3%	1	1%	3	4%	3	4%	3	5%	1	2%
Not Applicable	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	66	100%	67	100%	67	100%	67	100%	66	100%	66	100%

My child attends: (check one box)	G5. Teachers respect agreements and decisions reached at parent teacher meetings, and follow-up on those suggestions.		G6. Teachers help me understand how my child's work is evaluated.		G7. When reporting about my child's progress, teachers use language I can understand.		G8. The school helps me understand how to best support my child's learning at home.	
Durham Community School								
1 Strongly Agree	25	38%	20	30%	38	58%	21	31%
2 Somewhat Agree	18	28%	28	42%	18	27%	23	34%
3 Neutral	13	20%	6	9%	6	9%	12	18%
4 Somewhat Disagree	5	8%	11	16%	1	2%	7	10%
5 Strongly Disagree	1	2%	2	3%	2	3%	4	6%
Not Applicable	3	5%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%
Total	65	100%	67	100%	66	100%	67	100%

Durham Community School - Comments

Please share with us your suggestions for improving our schools:

Lower Taxes

I would like to see grammar taught in the elementary grades and more resources allocated to GaTe.

I would like stricter behavior guidelines and stronger consequences for children who disrespect other students, teachers, authority, etc. Why doesn't the school take advantage of the RSU5 resource officer who can do so many programs with the children? I feel DCS isolates itself from some valuable resources. I would like the children to have more athletic options either after school or on weekends. Perhaps an additional PE educator to help facilitate more? Mr. Lyons does a tremendous amount and I think there are too many grades for him alone.

More bus drivers would be great. Cancelling after school activities because we can't find a driver is deplorable and totally unacceptable. Pay drivers \$5 more per hour than neighboring towns. Problem solved.

At the middle school level some teachers do not review or check homework, so students are not aware if they understand or don't the concepts until test time. Homework website is not consistently updated, making it difficult for parents and students to be sure they know the expectation. Some advisors are so lightly involved with students that parent teacher conferences are very frustrating for parents. As much as there is anti-bullying discussion, there is a lot of bullying in the school and kids are afraid to speak up. There still seems to be a separation and priority between Durham and Freeport that students feel.

There is an afterschool downhill ski program that is offered by Freeport Middle school, why is it not offered to students to Durham community school?

Too many optional programs reduce funding for core curriculum. Teach them to read and do math at proper levels before expanding to other areas.

I concerned with bullying in the older grades, I've been hearing about it on social media. My other concern is no enough sport programs for the younger kids, but boosters.

Offering more challenging 4 level learning opportunities and making sure to have scoring rubrics on each assignment. Improving the visual representation of grades and assignments in PowerSchool. What parents and students see is not clearly representing what students are scoring on individual assignments with the linked standards. Providing increased amounts of homework as students get older in all subjects, not just math. Perhaps more reading of books in ELA and having students read, analyze and discuss the books in groups. Improving communication about what's going on in the classroom, like grade span newsletters. Making sure all students in each grade throughout the district have equal opportunity to access learning and after school activities.

The focus is on teaching to the bottom third while smart kids are left to wait it out. My kids are bored silly. There is no incentive to achieve because "Everybody Wins!". They aren't allowed to work at their own pace, and often remark how the "challenged" kids get to bounce balls and eat popcorn while they have to work. Children aren't allow to run or even touch the snow at recess. I tell him it will get better when tracking begins in high school, but my son is in despair because he has years to go and learning is slow and repetitive; his days are "like moving through jello".

I think that planning teacher work shop days on days that are already scheduled off would be more effective and also make it so are kids aren't in school half way or more into June. The school I work for does early release Wednesday to do teacher planning in the afternoon or plans it for other scheduled holidays off such as presidents day MLK day and so on.

Let the teachers teach, get rid of the 1-4 grading system, stop forcing every child to be treated the same and start understanding that every kid is different and that is OK. Everyone learns differently. Get those that struggle help! Give the teachers more freedom. More attention to bullying. Some teachers are burnt out and just going through the motions. all should be evaluated for performance/feedback from parents. Freeport needs to start reaching out to Durham and Pownal more and bring the communities together

It would be nice to have more support opportunities like your soccer on Saturday program. Children in middle school need to be able to play sports at a time that will not interfere with their bedtime, rest, and school.

More discipline with those that choose to bully and harass students at school and on-line. Educate / inform parents to always check what their child is doing on their phone/ ipad.

DCS is amazing and I think the world of the teachers and most of the staff

Durham Community School - Comments

Consistency in curriculum. The first couple kids I had go through kindergarten were reading at the start of kindergarten and bringing books home. By the time our third child was in kindergarten we were told they were waiting until after Christmas to send books home. Our daughter was ready and willing to read and we were told she had to wait because the curriculum no longer handled books that early in kindergarten.

Eliminate the 1-4 grading system for middle school and high school.

I have been happy with all of the years my children have been at DCS with the exception of 5th grade. The transition from 5th grade where there is NO homework to 6th grade, which involves many hours (including weekends) of homework can be challenging. My child is thriving in 6th grade with the exciting projects and personal laptops. Fifth grade seemed more like a plateau.

Bullying Education; Incorporate more in depth spelling, grammar, and vocabulary development/education consistently across grade levels in conjunction with Teacher's College Reader's & Writer's Workshop

First, bullying is a huge problem. I had to get help outside of school, it took 2 years for guidance, principal and vp to acknowledge she was being bullied and it was brushed under the rug. Sports illegibility has been a problem and has been modified but never communicated with students or parents. Who holds the Principal and V.Principal accountable? I have to question that. I brought an internet issue to the [REDACTED] and nothing was done. Why ? Nothing ever seems to improve issues seem to be pushed under the rug. This is frustrating.

Consider implementing universal design with 6th grade curriculum and first exposure to using laptops/technology for a majority of assignments. Delve into the technology and how to use it along with content

Allow for teacher & Parent time in addition to child time during PTC. Having student centered PTC is great ! However, some topics requires privacy away from student for discussion.

A more consistant homework load for 7/8th grade in preparation for HS

There is a significant bullying issue at our school. Administrators tell kids to report. Every single time. It makes it worse for the child who reports because consequences are not severe enough or if a child reports the teacher handles it themselves it doesn't go through the leveled diagram and the bully gets away with it. If a child reports the teacher must also report EVERY SINGLE TIME for the diagram to be effective. Otherwise it reinforces the bully behavior. The bus, lunchroom, and recess are MAJOR problem areas.

More sports at dcs

Developing a more confidential environment and possitive environment when dealing with ed techs and substitutes who also have children at the school. I feel some overstep their boundaries!!!

DCS is a wonderful school, we have been very happy.

My oldest daughter has LITERALLY told her guidance counselor, teachers and fellow students about her mother being abusive and NOT ONE person has spoken to CPS. Same goes with my 3 youngest daughters.

This survey would be nice to answer based on grade level. My satisfaction for my 2nd grader is much higher then that of my 7th grader my responses would be different based on each child's needs.

I think some of the ministration and some of the teachers need to be replaced

I think the entire staff does an amazing job at DCS. We could not be any happier with Mrs. Perotta, who is my daughter Allies teacher. My only suggestion would be a school resource officer to protect the staff and students and also teach DARE classes.

A wider variety of opportunities for students with many talents and appreciation for what all students have to offer. The gifted and talented program is narrowly administered and that resource is only beneficial to a small number of students and the qualifications for how a students are accepted into the program seems to lack objectivity.

There seems to be a lot of support for students who act out, but nothing really seems to change with their behavior in class, and it is impacting the learning environment for all of the other children. I worry that we are tiptoeing around the needs of the most vociferous and ignoring the needs of the rest of the students, and their right to a peaceful and focused learning environment.

I also wish that we had more access to enrichment opportunities for all students - a strings program, exploratory foreign language, etc.

Durham Community School - Comments

The bullying is not being addressed with strong enough consequences. Most teachers are good but the administration says one thing and does another. I do not have faith in the [REDACTED]. There is not enough of a variety of alternative programs or electives offered in middle school. We need stronger consequences for bad behavior.

I think we could do a better job making the opportunities at all schools more equitable. I know the music offerings are very different from school to school in the RSU which is unfortunate. I wish the DCS students had the same opportunities as the Freeport/Pownal students.

I also have concerns about the way we are tracking young readers and our approach to teaching handwriting. Kids are highly monitored and labeled based on their performance as a young reader. I think this makes the beginning stages of reading quite stressful for conscientious students. I also wonder if not enough time is spent on handwriting skills and spelling.

I appreciate being asked how things are going although, I do feel the questions in this survey are a bit broad, especially regarding teachers. Year-to-year my child has had very different experiences. I tried to take an average of our overall experience when answering the questions, but I do not feel this gives you very useful data.

Please share with us one or more things we are doing well:

Very impressed with the reading RTI!

The school is kept well, the teachers and staff are professional and courteous and I truly know my children are safe.

Will has high standards. It shows in the condition of the school and quality of teachers. He is a good leader.

At DCS, my child has always thrived. Each year I am amazed at how the teaching staff interacts with my child and makes learning interesting and, to some degree, quite fun.

Trying to do better.

my kids love school! my kids love their teachers

Providing a learning environment with clear expected behaviors. Providing quality learning opportunities in art, music, stem, physical education, and multimedia. My son has suggested that specials should even be longer. Teachers working to meet the needs of each student and identifying student weaknesses and providing rti support when necessary.

A very friendly staff with a strong interest in promoting self esteem. The school is very clean and beautiful inside with a nice friendly feeling.

School environment is very positive and healthy. Management is very good.

Communication between the teacher, myself, and support staff to help my child integrate and improve in school.

Communication from an RSU is wonderful, but the town spirit and integration of three towns has been terrific.

Encouraging our children to come to school everyday.

Positive learning environment.

The teachers and administration are dedicated to setting up a positive, growth mindset about learning. I appreciate the expectation that students are responsible for their learning and lead the conferences with their own goals.

DCS is so much better than our elementary school my child was in in Florida!

My son is currently being evaluated for special education. The communication from Durham Community School has been above and beyond. The effort the Administration has put forth is astounding. Thus far the guidance and education my son has received at Durham Community School has more than met my expectations. I grew up and attended School in Durham myself. I couldn't be more proud to have my son attending DCS as the Next Generation. He is in first grade and I look forward to the coming years. Thank you.

Providing consistent messages and starting greater public outreach and communication

Your RTI is extraordinary !! Thank you.

Great established lines of communication from teachers to parents

Safety procedures in case of an emergency, cleanliness, middle school math/science.

Durham Community School - Comments

Love this school for my kids

Letting kids be kids. There is no need for politics or media influence in our school, parents address those issues. The school isn't responsible for everything.

Mr Pidden is amazing. Any time I've spoken to him he is receptive and responsive.

Very welcoming atmosphere!

Not sure I can do that at this point

Excellent staff and Excellent communication, we as parents could not be any happier!!

Teachers and administrators truly care about the students general and academic well being. Pride of Durham the school is central to our community.

I am very grateful for Mr. Connors and his science lessons - I hope that there is a plan for formalizing more science education, too, and not just relying on a very capable and committed volunteer!

I feel that the educators at DCS are involved and caring, and that the teachers and support staff are putting forth great effort and are very capable. I recognize that most of the "shortcomings" are a result of having to work within our budget and not always having the means to add more programming - I think that DCS teachers do great work!

The staff are friendly and caring. The school is kept beautifully. The specials teachers are great. Strong 2nd and 4th grade teachers.

I love the idea of the 'Friendly Bus' activities at DCS.

I think we are attracting strong educators to our district.

I love that parents are being surveyed for feedback.