

SOAR 3 Community Research



HUDSONVILLE
Public Schools
A Great Place to Learn!

October 2016 Focus Groups with Parents, Staff and Students

11 groups with 149 participants

- **Parents: 5** groups with **43** current parents
- **Staff: 2** groups with **36** teachers and other staff
- **Students: 3** groups ... **22** Baldwin and **28** Riley 6th-graders, **12** Freshman Campus 9th-graders
- **Community: 1** group with **8** business, civic and church representatives

Theme #1: Relationships and connections

**Relationships and connections
are at the heart of the culture
and shared values within
Hudsonville Public Schools**

Appreciation expressed for:

- **Caring teachers**
- **Involved parents**
- **Emphasis for everyone to be encouraging, positive and supportive**

**Theme #2:
Classroom sizes
too large**

**Parents and staff concerned
that classrooms with 30 or
more students are too large
for teachers to know,
understand and reach
individual students**

- **More challenges for high-achieving students**
- **More individual attention and resources for students struggling academically**

“The gap is getting bigger between those who can do the work and those who cannot and also don’t have the support at home.”

**Theme #3:
Helping parents
support their
children's learning**

Alternative to own Google searches: District curated directory of instructional resources

- **Hudsonville teacher videos**
- **YouTube videos (Kahn)**
- **Links to relevant websites**
- **Educational apps**

- *“We want to know which ones the curriculum supports.”*
- *“It would be nice to know which ones are approved, because we don’t know which ones are credible.”*

**Theme #4:
Growing enrollment
and extracurricular
opportunities**

Misperception: Large and growing enrollment enables only a few to compete on high school teams

- *“Opportunities are becoming an issue, we have hundreds of kids showing up for a few spots.”*

Misperception: Participation limited to only those who play on a travel team

- *“There’s a culture out there that says you don’t have a shot if you’re not playing on a travel team.”*

**Many parents and even staff
surprised to learn that
extracurricular participation
rate for Hudsonville High
School students is 86%
(2014 SOAR Student Survey)**

**Strong interest from both
parents and staff for
intramurals or Community
Ed sports opportunities for
*“middle school and high
school kids who want to play
but cannot make a team.”***

**Hudsonville business
representative suggests:**

***“Businesses can sponsor
intramural basketball for
high school kids, we would
sponsor a team with
jerseys, etc.”***

**Theme #5:
Transitions to
middle school and
high school**

Help students feel more comfortable as they transition to the next school level

- **Many mingle organically, but slowly, with new classmates from the other schools**

**Accelerate organic mingling via
team-building community service
projects late in Spring trimester
or early in Fall trimester**

- **Parents want experiential
learning opportunities associated
with community citizenship,
servant leadership and diversity**

**Hudsonville Public Schools thanks
its parents, staff and students for
sharing their thoughts to help
guide our district's planning**