

Better World Day 2023!

On May 5th, GCCS-Flour City Campus took part in an EL network-wide event called Better World Day! This an annual, national event where EL Education encourages students to take action to contribute to a better world. Hundreds of EL schools across the nation took part in it and shared their stories on social media.

The Flour City students had a special assembly to learn about what other EL schools were doing for the event, and then learned about our school-wide activities that were planned for the day to kick off our first ever Better World Day event. Students learned about one of our “neighbors” at the Colgate-Divinity Complex, Hope Lodge. Students learned that Hope Lodge provides a free home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers who are seeking care in Rochester but live more than 40 miles away from the city. Then students went back to their classrooms to spend time making cards for the patients that stay at the Lodge. After that, each class collaborated to plant flower pots that will help beautify the entrance of Hope Lodge. It was certainly a heart-warming day at Flour City!!

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www.GCCSchool.org
 @GeneseeCharter
 Genesee Community Charter School
 585-417-7020

Director's Message



Dear Flour City Campus Community,

I'd like to begin by apologizing for how late this newsletter is. As a new leader of a brand new school I'm learning how to balance my new responsibilities with my personal responsibilities. I appreciate your patience as I learn to navigate this new professional life.

With that said, no matter what role I have played in my career in education, the end of a school year naturally leads me to reflect on my performance, capacity, and goals. This year is no different. I recognize many areas in which I need to improve as a leader, and I am committed to growing as a leader of Flour City. As an EL Education school, and a part of the GCCS growing network, there are many tools we have in place to evaluate not only my performance, but also the quality of the education we are providing your children. I'd like to share some results/feedback that we've received thus far from these sources.

All EL Education schools go through a mid-year and end of year implementation review. Teachers and leaders complete extensive surveys to gather information about *Curriculum, Instruction, Culture & Climate, Student-Engaged Assessment*, and *Leadership* and how we align in these areas with EL Education principles. After the survey responses are compiled, EL provides us with a score with some feedback. As a first year EL school we require a score of 47, and our score for year one was 74. Some feedback we received indicated that we could improve in lesson delivery, student-engaged assessment (students evaluating themselves), and building a culture of crew (sense of community in the classroom). We are committed to growing in these areas as we look ahead to next year.

We also had our first year visit from SUNY (our authorizers) on May 26th. They spent the entire day here and had a lot of positive feedback to share! They made it clear that our school does not look like a first year charter school and instead seems well-established. Some other strengths they pointed out was our ability to meet SEL needs of students and families, creating a positive staff culture focused on improvement, and creating an authentic space for the entire school community. This was great to hear, and I know the staff was looking forward to the visit so we could share the school we are so proud of!

These evaluations, in conjunction with student results from iReady and other benchmark assessments, family surveys, and student focus groups will help guide our decisions about professional development next school year! So, we appreciate any feedback you can provide in the surveys we send. And please know, we are committed to growing as professionals and a school community!

In partnership,



Christine Farrell, School Director

Get Involved in the GCCS Family Association!

The purpose of the Family Association (FA) is to promote community and connections among the GCCS families and to provide support and assistance to the school and School Director. All caregivers of children currently enrolled in either GCCS school are members of the FA. The FA Officers work closely with the school to meet these goals and recruit additional caregivers to assist in important roles like room helpers, event planning, and fundraising.

Family Association Directory

GCCS Board of Trustees Representatives

- ❖ GCCS Family Representatives
 - Jessica Wanner (970-379-6045, jessiewinterhalt@hotmail.com)
 - Charlie Johnson (sarchar.johnson@gmail.com)
 - Colin Orr (colindorr@gmail.com)

- ❖ Alumni Family Representatives
 - Tasha Stevens (tashaystevens@gmail.com)
 - Michele Hannagan (michele.hannagan@gmail.com)

Family Association Officers

- ❖ **Co-Chairs:** Rose Fletcher (rose.fletcher.ny@gmail.com); Christina Foster (CNBfoster@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Secretary:** Soumyaroop Bhattacharya (Sbhattacharya78@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Treasurer:** Stephanie Gallant (stephanie.a.gallant@gmail.com)

GCCS Logogear: <https://gccs-fa.square.site>

To Contact the GCCS Family Association,
Email: GCCS_FA@GCCSchool.org

Calendar of Events

June 8th - Family conferences-
11:45 dismissal for students

June 11th: Family Association Picnic

June 13th-15th - Exhibition Nights
-13th will be kindergarten
-14th will be 1st grade
-15th will be 2nd grade

June 19th - **No school - Juneteenth**

June 28th - Passage Ceremony at The Theater
at Innovation Square - 10:00am -
11:00am (details to follow)

August 30, 2023* - First day of school for the
2023-2024 school year!
Students will be dismissed at 12:45!

August 31, 2023* - First day of school for the
2023-2024 school year!
Students will be dismissed at 12:45!

September 1, 2023* - First day of school for the
2023-2024 school year!
Students will be dismissed at 12:45!

***There will be no transportation provided by
home districts on these days!**

September 4th - **No School - Labor Day**

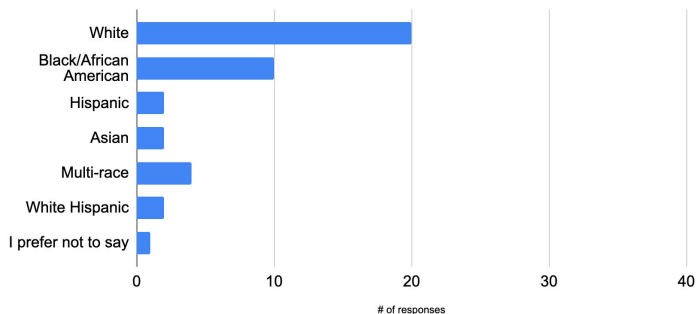


Family Culture & Climate Survey Results

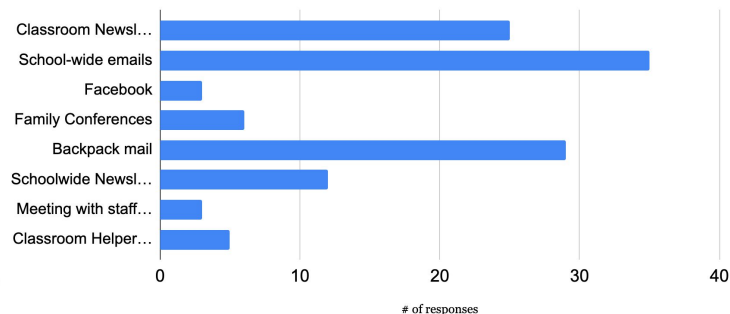
Back in February we shared a survey with families during Student-led Conferences and via email. We asked you all to reflect on our culture and climate at GCCS-Flour City thus far. Surveys like this are imperative as we make decisions and revisions moving forward so that we are meeting family and student needs to the best of our abilities.

In total we received 40 responses to the surveys. Here is how families responded:

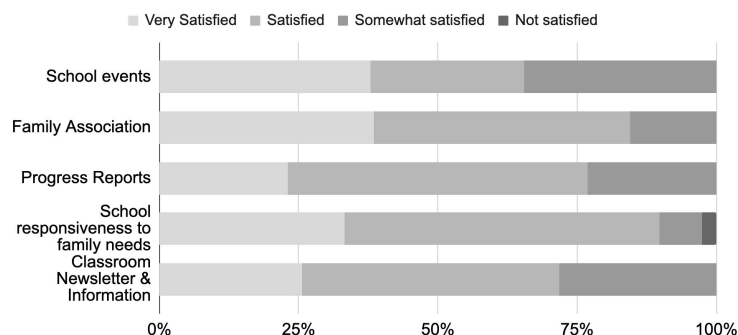
Please check 1-2 that best apply to your family's identified race and/or ethnicity:



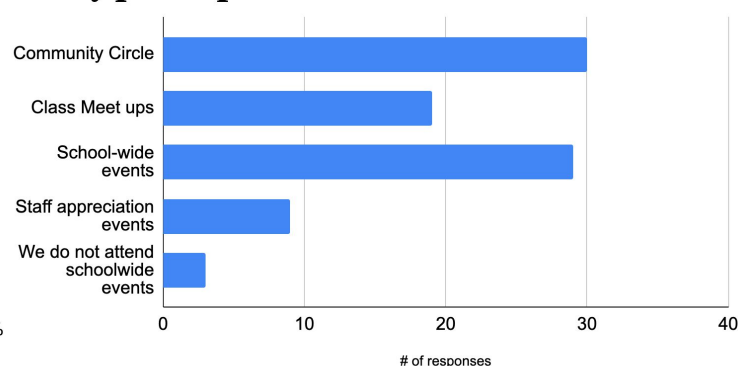
The Top 3 Most Effective Ways You Receive Information



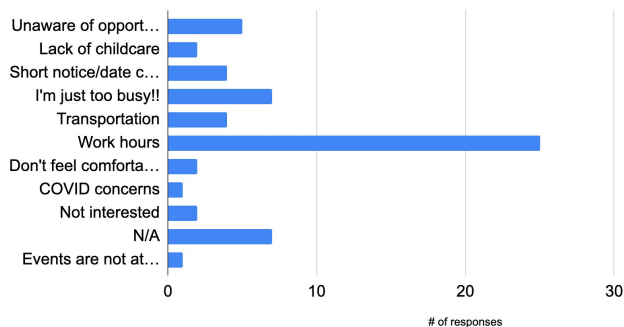
How satisfied are you with the following forms of communication?



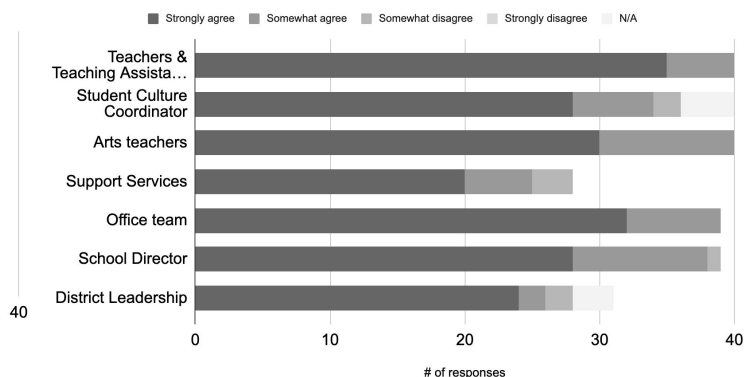
Please check all school-wide events your family participates in



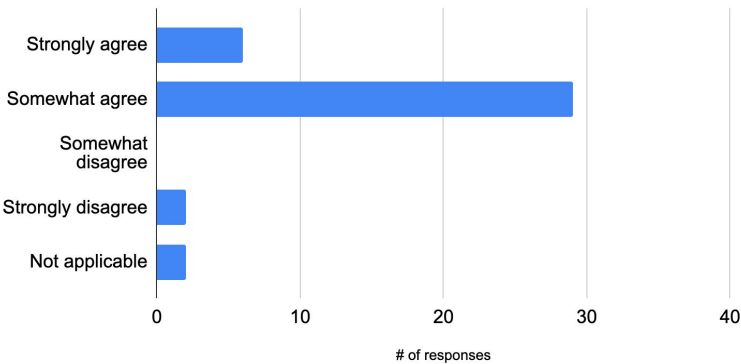
What are some barriers to you getting more involved or attending school-wide events?



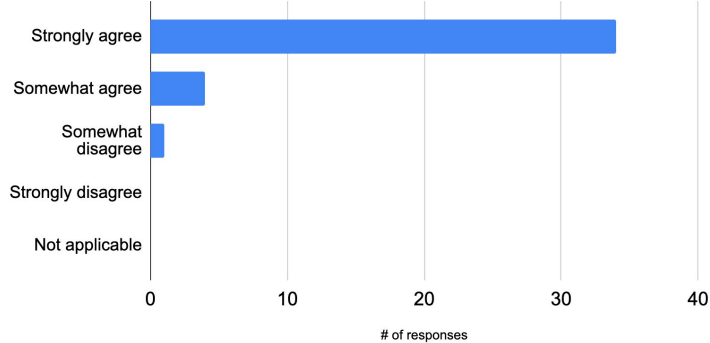
I feel comfortable communicating with...



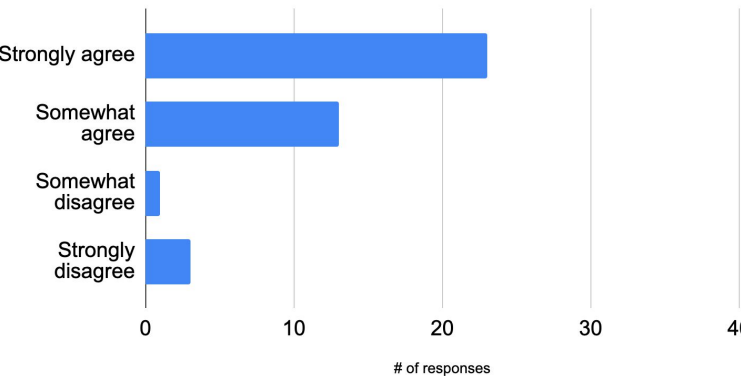
The school values my opinion and my child's needs



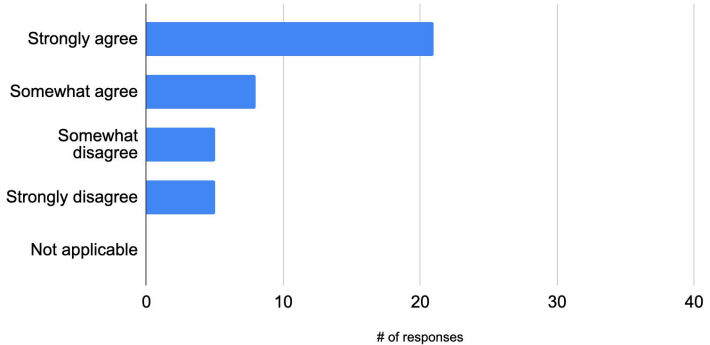
My child's race/ethnicity/background is valued at GCCS-Flour City



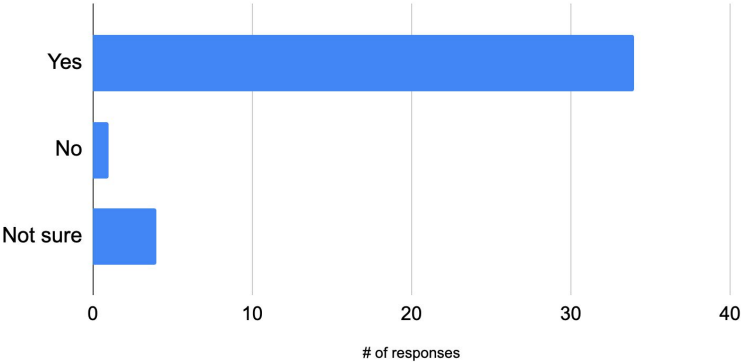
This school sets high standards for academic success for all students.



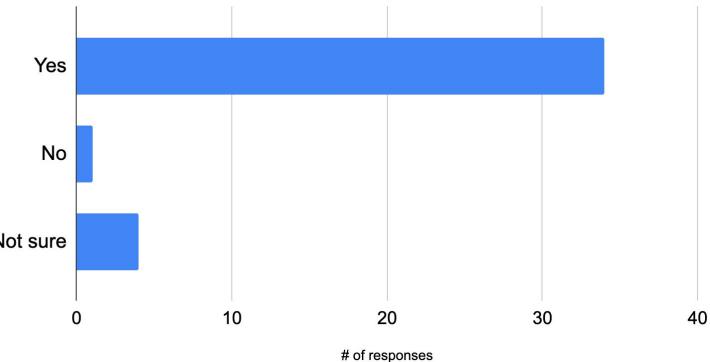
I have other families I am connected to in the school community.



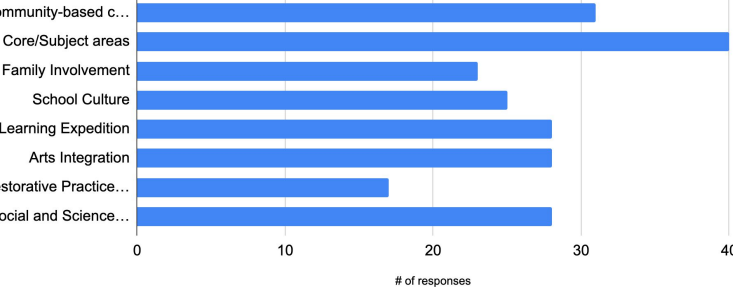
When I have a school-related question or need, I know who I can ask to get a helpful answer.



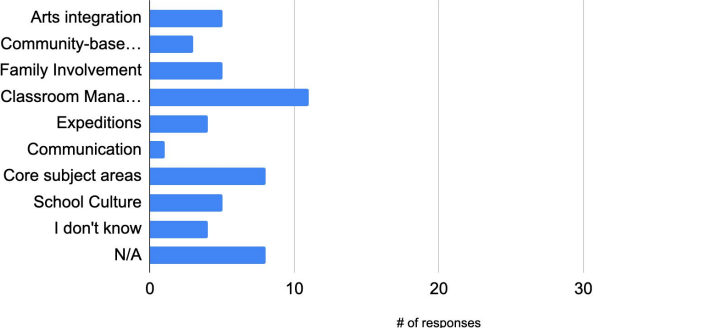
When I have concerns about my child's social-emotional or academic needs, I know who to reach out to.



Check elements of GCCS you believe are a strength for our school.



Check elements of GCCS you believe are a challenge for our school.



Passage Ceremony - June 28th at 10:00am

Our very first Passage Ceremony will be on June 28th at 10:00am. This is a long-standing annual tradition at GCCS and we plan to carry on that tradition at Flour City! Each class will be performing for the school community so students have been hard at work practicing and rehearsing their songs and dances in their arts classes!

On this day, students will be dismissed at 11:45. Therefore, after passage ceremony you are welcome to take your child home with you. Any students that travel back to the school with us will be dismissed to busses or caregivers shortly after we arrive back at school. We will be sending out a survey about 2 weeks before passage to determine how many students will need transportation on these days so that we can communicate our needs with the transportation departments.

This event is free to anyone attending and has ample seating for family members. It is imperative that your child attend this significant, culminating and celebratory event, so if there are any barriers to you and/or your child attending please let us know so that we might problem-solve with you to ensure your child can be there!

