

Feedback received in PTSA Workshop 3/14/2016

Note: Comment grouping were made at the workshop by the parents.

What does the school do well?

Vote count	Comment(s)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has a complete 7-year study plan from middle school to high school. A public school with private school quality.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing kids for college
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated parents that are involved
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great introduction and orientation for new students; buddy system
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gives students a high level of autonomy (vs regular middle / high school)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fosters very positive small school style learning environment
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school has a good academic support system for students.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated curriculum
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting between kids from different age/class groups
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a wide variety of activities with both teacher and parent support.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment of inclusion for all students
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather / Find families that put academic excellence as priority for their kids

What could the school do better?

Vote count	Comment(s)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce arts and Spanish for the last 2 high school years and provide more electives
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring more internships to students at junior and senior level
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide better variety of electives
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uniform grading and homework policy
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a better Spanish program Spanish learning environment needs improvement
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for international cooperation
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicating our resources to all families, staffs and new students
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous improvement of curriculum
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrich the international programs
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I still would like to see more selection of courses for the students to choose from.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create more compassionate environment
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student feedback at the end of year for each class
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balance school / life
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better communication between teachers and parents
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolving mission statement based on the future

What should the school be focused on?

Vote count	Comment(s)
10	Build student confidence
9	Fun, engaging teachers who help the kids evolve in seeing school as “learning is fun” yet still challenging
5	Improve Spanish curriculum
5	International learning / I.B.
5	Improve STEM focus
3	The whole student; Academics, emotional support, community
2	Preparing students through liberal arts curriculum to meet challenges of both college and beyond.
2	The school should focus on promoting social-emotional health for the students
1	Teaching life skills
1	School / life balance
1	Guiding students and families about “how unique” we are
0	More collaboration with other Lake Washington high schools
0	Rigorous course is makes hard to get good GPA. Need to focus on whole school.
0	Educate leaders, role models and proper learning plan
0	Best interest of student
(no count)	Producing well rounded young adults

What qualities do we need in a principal?

Vote count	Comment(s)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to open-minded in alternate / different ways of learning /teaching Focus on the whole child, social / emotional aspects Focus on the individually of child’s learning style
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open and approachable by the students, staff, and parents. Communicator
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect ICS Culture and understand the high expectations on the high quality of curriculum. Also leadership and good communicator.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very strong leadership; pragmatic leader. Build consensus and visions for school.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that ICS is a challenging school
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrity, engagement
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to work with two very different schools (ICS and CS) with very different philosophies Listen first Be involved and present for all children
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More involved and caring to student.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to drive change through agreement
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First name basis with students
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the community vision, embrace, and enhance

(count missing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment and listens to community (may have been grouped with another similar comment)
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates / disseminates in across all levels; decisive in action
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compassionate
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient

What should the principal and the PTSA work on together?

Vote count	Comment(s)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire quality teachers
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a more equitable grading system compared to other schools
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund extra clubs / curriculum activities
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embrace the school constructs Work with teachers ways to communicate better with parents Work on new ways parents can be more involved.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster teacher empathy for student stresses; A safe environment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTSA and Principal should work on revamping Spanish curriculum
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get more parents involved.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications – The principal and the PTSA need to understand each other's priorities
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure voices are heard and understood; questions / concerns

Any other thoughts?

Vote count	Comment(s)
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to resolve the issues with our Spanish program
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization of school year on one calendar for PTSA, School activities, and LWSD dates at beginning of year.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize that ICS needs to adapt to the changing global and technology face of the world. Liberal arts +++
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make less pressure on our kids with more compassionate teachers
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art for the first 5 years and last 2 should be optional, class available for college prep or ART