

2016 STS Parent Satisfaction Survey

The STS Enrollment Management Committee would like to again thank everyone for their time and effort in responding to the parent satisfaction survey which was completed this past May/June. We've compiled a summary document of the responses from the survey. We recognize the importance of communicating back to the STS community by sharing the responses and communicating the proactive steps the administration is taking to address the most pressing issues.

Once again, we had a high level of participation in this year's satisfaction survey. In total we had 189 participants respond to the survey which included 11,383 answers. The survey responses allow's the school to better understand its strengths and highlights areas that are in need of improvement. This information is used to help form the school's strategic improvement plans going forward.

Overall, the responses show a high level of satisfaction amongst the STS community and another year over year improvement from the 2015 survey results. The following is a summary of each section of the survey. While there are too many responses to include every single answer, we've tried to summarize each section's strengths and weaknesses and the action item that the administration is taking in this area.

FACILITIES

Overall 88% of the community felt that our facilities were good or excellent. 12% felt that they were fair. This is up 28% over last year. 79% felt that it's a priority for us to improve the facilities.

Strengths:

100% of parents feel that safety is a priority at STS and 98% fell that STS is a safe learning environment.

Areas for Improvement:

The bathrooms, ball field, gym and front entrance were mentioned as areas that need improvement.

ACADEMICS

Strengths:

94% of the parents are satisfied with the overall education their child is receiving at STS (up 2% from previous year). 93% of parents are satisfied with the quality of their childs teacher (up 1% from previous year). 89% of parents are satisfied that their children are receiving the correct level of help they require to excel at STS (up 2% from previous year).

Areas for Improvement:

There were a number of parents that felt the homework that is assigned is “busy work” - especially at the lower grade levels. They feel it is more about “quantity” instead of “quality” homework. There were some parents that would like to see a better teacher-to-student ratio. Communication of the Advanced Academics Programs needs improvement. Many are still not aware of the advanced programs.

FAITH FORMATION**Strengths:**

99% of the respondents feel the doctrine and traditions of the Catholic Church are evident and integrated into their child/children's daily curriculum at STS. 98% of the respondents are satisfied with the level of religious education their child/children are receiving at STS. 96% of the respondents feel their child's love for God and others is growing because of the values, virtues and character building that is being taught at STS. 52% of respondents stated the the main reason they send their child/children to STS is for Faith Formation and 33% for Academic Excellence.

Areas for Improvement:

40% of the respondents do not participate in faith formation and fellowship programs that STS offers.

COMMUNICATION**Strengths:**

96% of the respondents feel their children's teachers treat them with courtesy and respect. 95% are satisfied with the level of communication from the school's administration and staff. 98% feel the Tuesday Tidbits e-newsletter provides them with valuable information. 94% feel their concerns are heard and acted upon in a timely manner.

Areas for Improvement:

43% of the respondents have not accessed the Powerschool website portal to access their child's grades. 21% feel that their child's grades aren't updated in a timely manner on the portal. There were also a number of comments that the Powerschool site was either down to often or difficult to access. 11% of the respondents are not satisfied with the level of communication from their child's teacher.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Strengths:

Over 97% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that their children are “happy and involved” at STS. Likewise, 92% responded positively that their children were “thriving” and are treated with respect, compassion, and understanding.

Areas for Improvement:

Approximately 15% of our families communicated that bullying is not addressed effectively.

We can do better on communicating what extra-curricular activities are available and when.

There is a theme around communicating when STS Traditions are scheduled (i.e. Medieval, Saints, and Move-Up Days). Perhaps a separate Calendar of Events/Traditions (during and after school hours)

Several comments around “New” family orientation and adding parent/family events throughout the school year to engage within the community more routinely to bond with one another.

TECHNOLOGY

87% of parents feel that their child has adequate access to technology and 84% felt that their children are encouraged to use it.

95% of parents feel that the school invests wisely in instructional technologies and effectively use it to communicate with the school community .

Only 58% of parents are interested in technology presentations.

Only 79% of parents feel that the PowerSchool Portal is updated accordingly.

75% of STS parents feel that technology is a priority.

95% of parents are satisfied w/ admin and office staff communication and the content on our website

STS's VALUE

Areas of strengths:

95% of the STS community felt that STS offers a good value for the cost of the tuition (up 2% from 2015). 95% of respondents also believed the school invests wisely in tools and technology (up 2% from 2015). 97% of respondents feel STS invests wisely in making STS a comfortable

and safe learning environment. 95% of STS families would recommend STS to their friends and family (unchanged from 2015).

When asked what you would invest time and money in if you had control over the school's investment choices, the majority of responses revolved around spending money on Teachers and Technology. Answers were geared towards investing on more teachers and teacher development/training and more learning technologies.

Demographics of Survey Respondents

The survey asked parents to provide some demographic information about who was responding to the survey. These demographics are specific to the parents that responded to the survey and not to the school population as a whole.

GENERAL COMMENTS

In order to give parents an opportunity to voice their opinions, the survey included a number of "comment" questions. Of the 5 "comment" questions, we had 437 responses. This is obviously too many to list here so we will try to summarize the most frequently repeated responses.

In asking what you see as STS's strongest attributes by far the most repeated answers were: The faith-filled community & caring staff; Faith Formation; School traditions and Academic excellence. The responses were very similar to the last few years responses.

In asking what areas you feel STS needs to improve the most repeated answers were: Class size; Communication between Teachers and Parents; Middle-school class management and discipline.

In asking what one change would you make immediately at STS the most repeated answers to this question were:

Smaller class sizes; Improve how children treat each other

In asking what you feel distinguishes STS from other schools the most repeated answers were: Caring staff; Catholic Identity; Traditions; Catholic Values & Formation - this has remained consistent in every survey done.

In asking how would you describe STS to your family and friends the most repeated answers were:

A home away from home; Strong Catholic Community; Excellent Education at a great value; Kind/loving environment; A safe, loving, nurturing environment; Caring and Loving Teachers - these answers have also been very consistent in every survey from year to year.