

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This report offers a snapshot of what parents said about your school and the district in our first annual survey, which was conducted last June. The Board of Education hopes this information will contribute to a dialogue among all members of the school community, and will become one of the important resources we can use to make the school the best it can be.

Thank you to all the parents who completed the survey last June. We look forward to your feedback, as we endeavor to make this process of reflection a regular activity among the Ridgewood Public Schools.

Ridgewood Board of Education  
Michele Lenhard, President  
Robert Hutton, Vice President  
Sheila Brogan  
Laurie Goodman  
Charles Reilly

### **How to read this report.**

The data in this report reflects survey results for your school only. For each survey question, results are displayed as bar graphs. At the end of the report you will find summaries of the comments that were received for each section.

Please note that not all parents participated in the survey. Your school's participation rate is noted below, along with the overall District participation rate.

### **How was the survey conducted?**

The survey was conducted via email during the week of June 10-17, 2010. Email invitations with private links were sent to all parent/guardian email addresses on file with the District. Survey respondents participated on a secure survey website, and only one response was allowed for each email address.

Numerical survey data was compiled, and charts were created, by members of the District IT Department. A committee of parents, administrators and school board members reviewed the data and summarized the comments for this report. The Board's Communications

Committee presented the report to the full Board of Education on December 20, 2010.

### **What were the results for the District as a whole?**

A total of 2573 parents or guardians filled out a survey, representing a 38% participation rate. [Click here](#) for a District summary of the survey data.

### **How many parents participated in your school's survey?**

	# Students	# Emails Available	# Participants	Participation Rate 09-10
Ridge	477	536	199	37%
District	5618	6697	2573	44%

### **How can you use these survey results?**

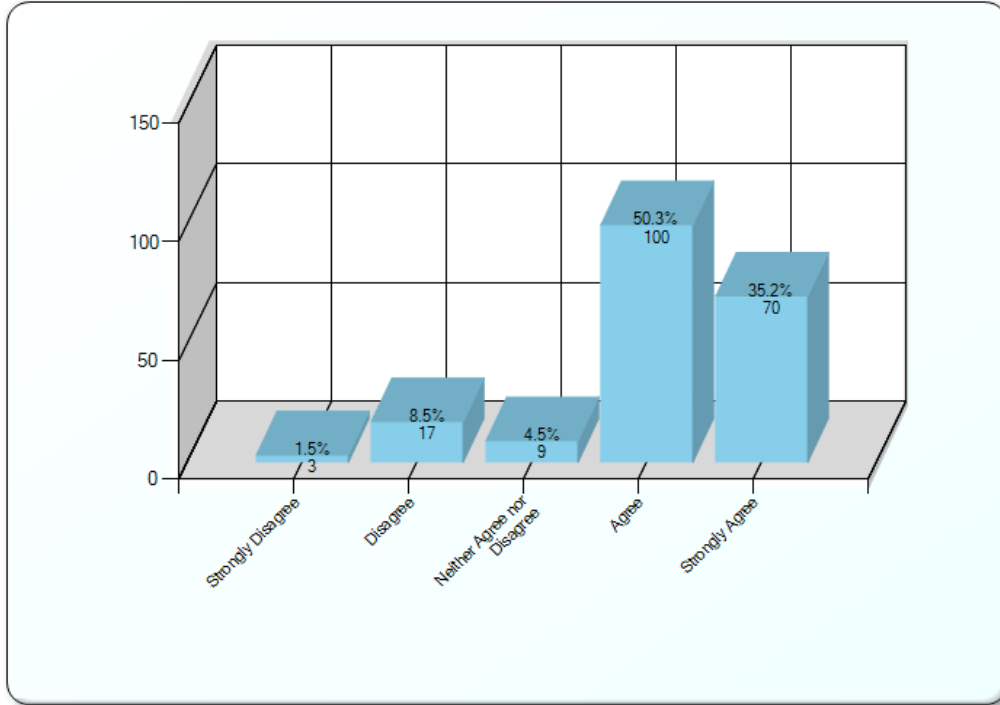
You and your school community can use the results of this survey to start conversations about your school, especially in terms of teaching and instruction, extracurricular activities, facilities, communications, parent engagement, administration and more. Parents are encouraged to talk with each other, your child's teacher(s), school administrators and/or your Home & School Association regarding any specific issues, ideas or suggestions that arise from the survey results.

Complete survey results have been provided to your school's principal, as well as central administration at the Ed Center and members of the Board of Education.

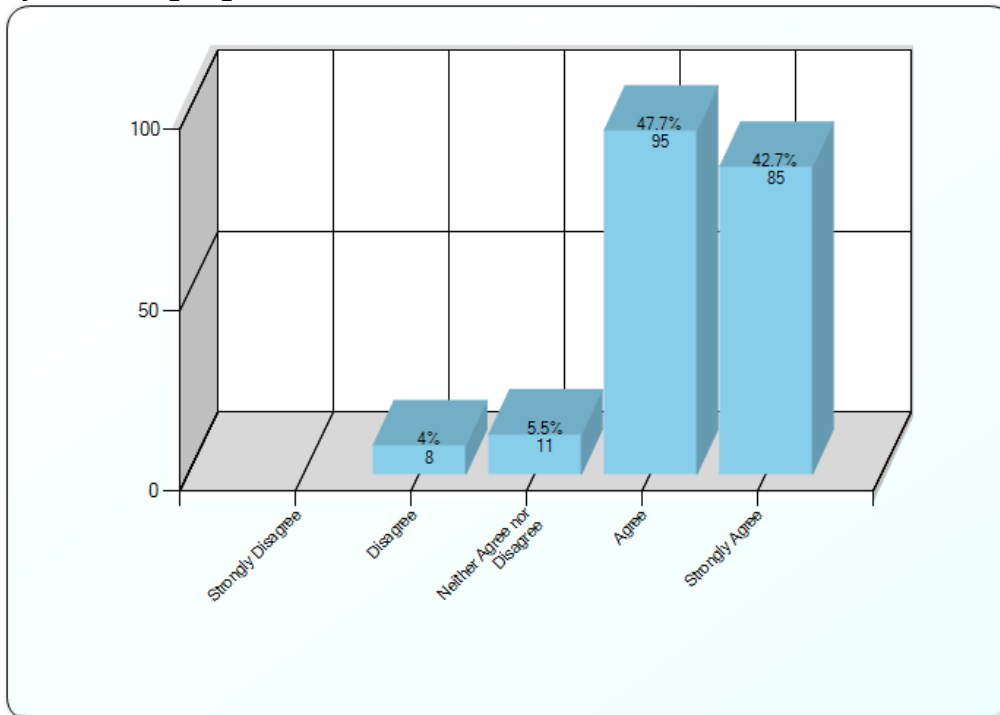
**RIDGE SCHOOL**  
**Results: Parent Opinion Survey 2009 – 2010**

**GENERAL: OVERALL SATISFACTION AND CLIMATE**

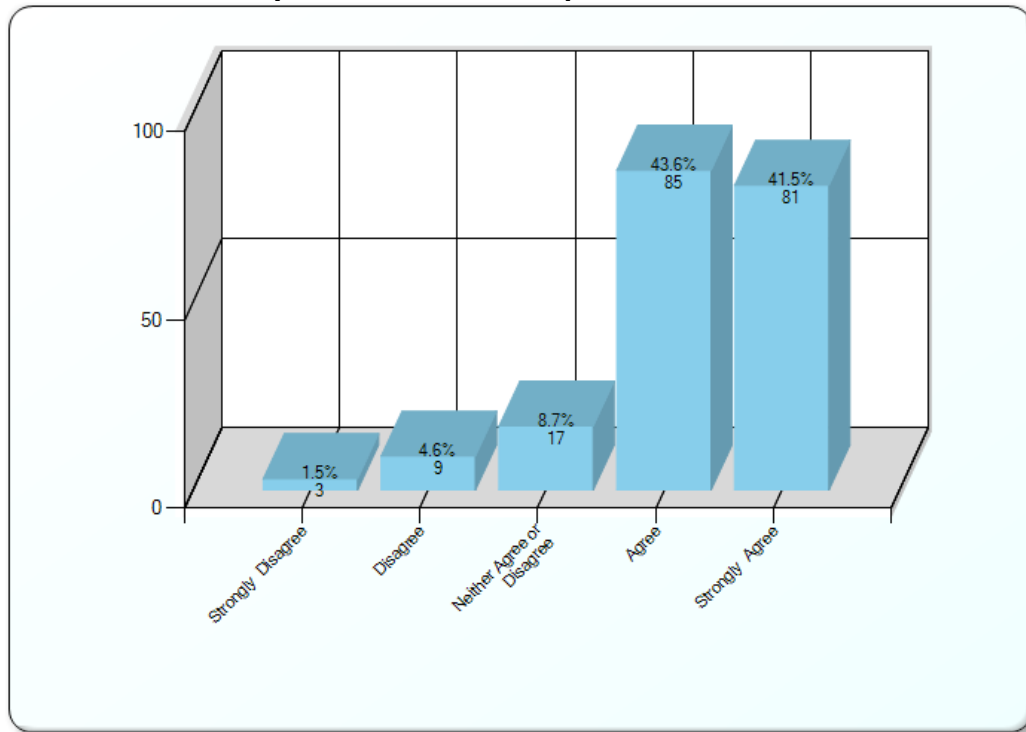
**1. I am satisfied with the overall quality of my child's education.**



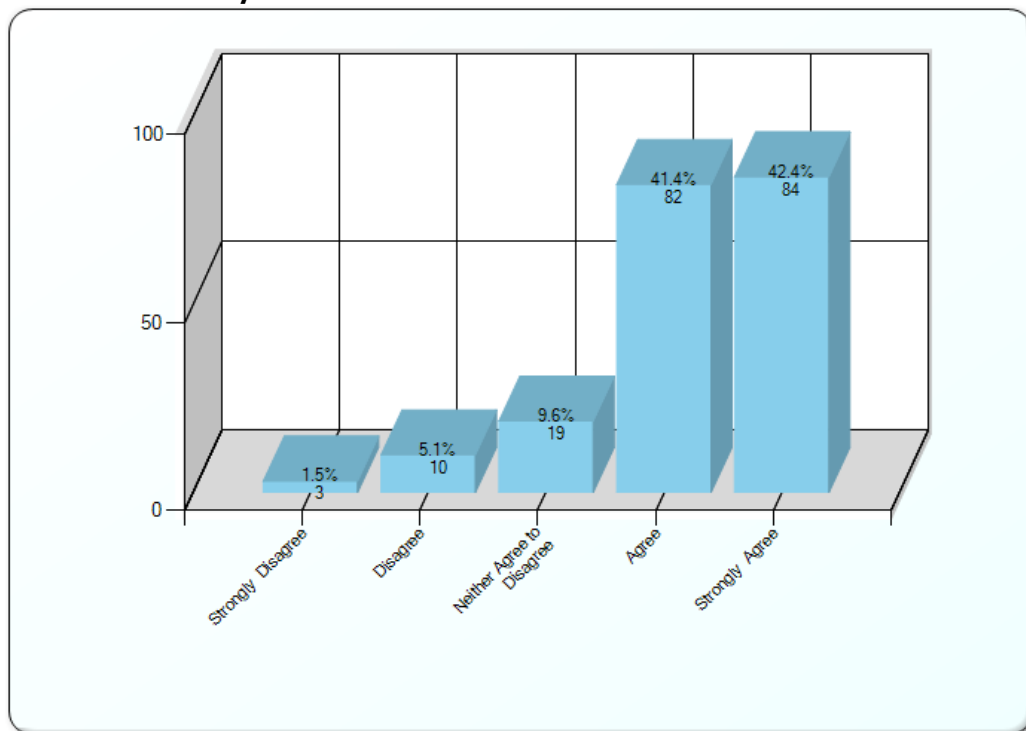
**2. My child likes going to school.**



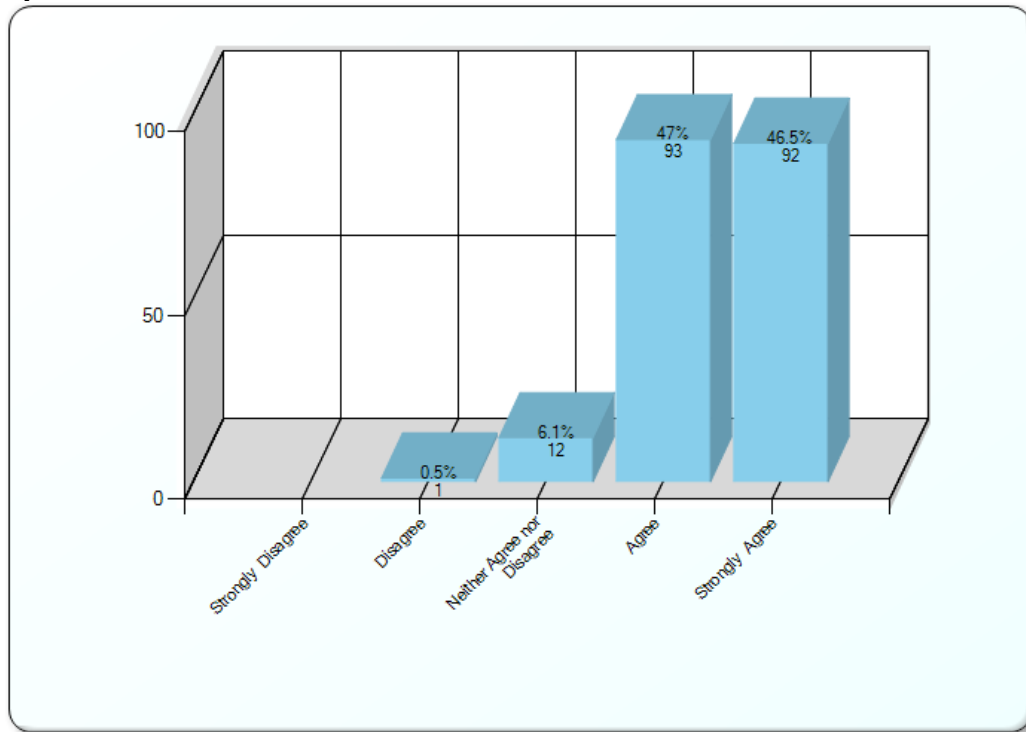
**3. I would recommend my child's school to other parents.**



**4. I feel welcome in my child's school.**

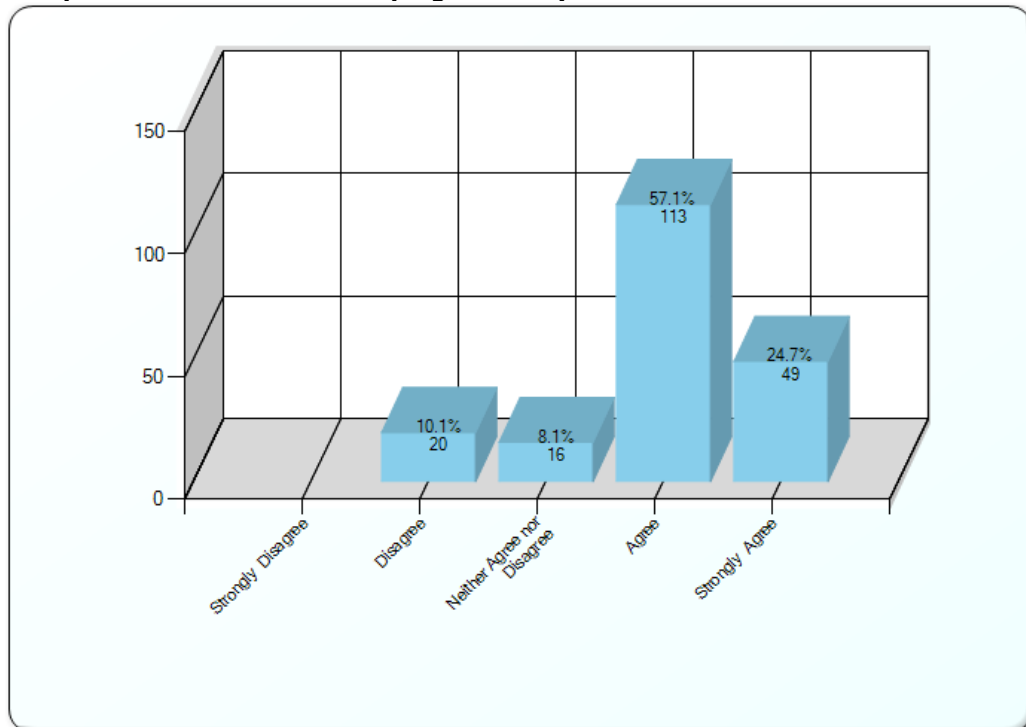


**5. My child is safe at school.**

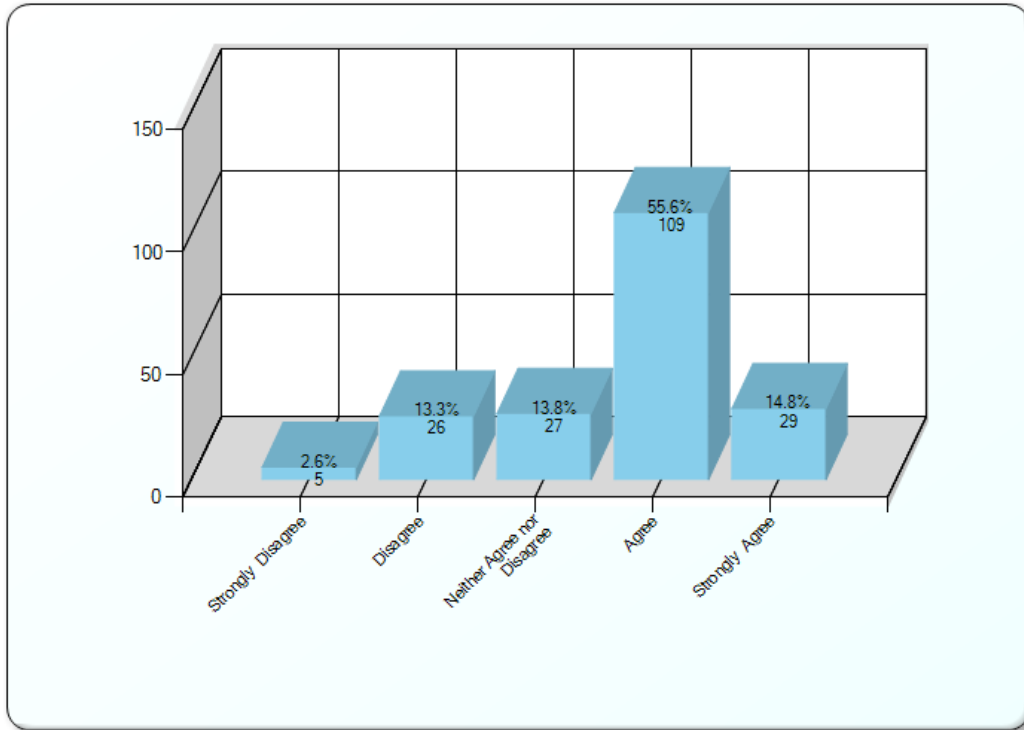


**ACADEMICS / CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION**

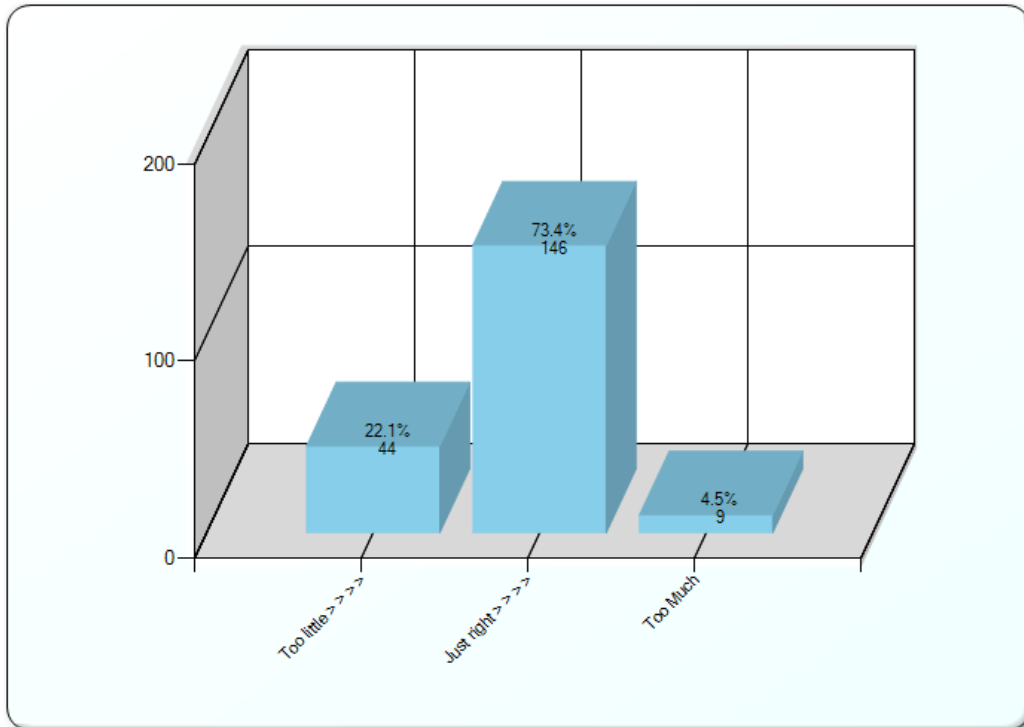
**6. I am pleased with the academic progress of my child.**



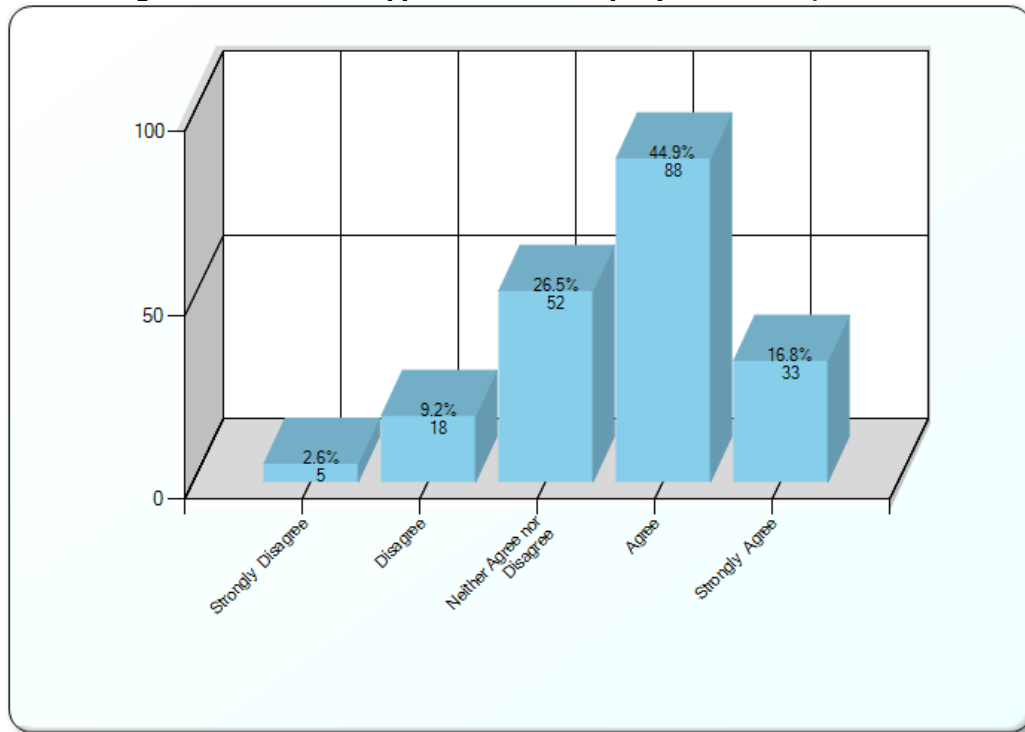
**7. My child is challenged academically.**



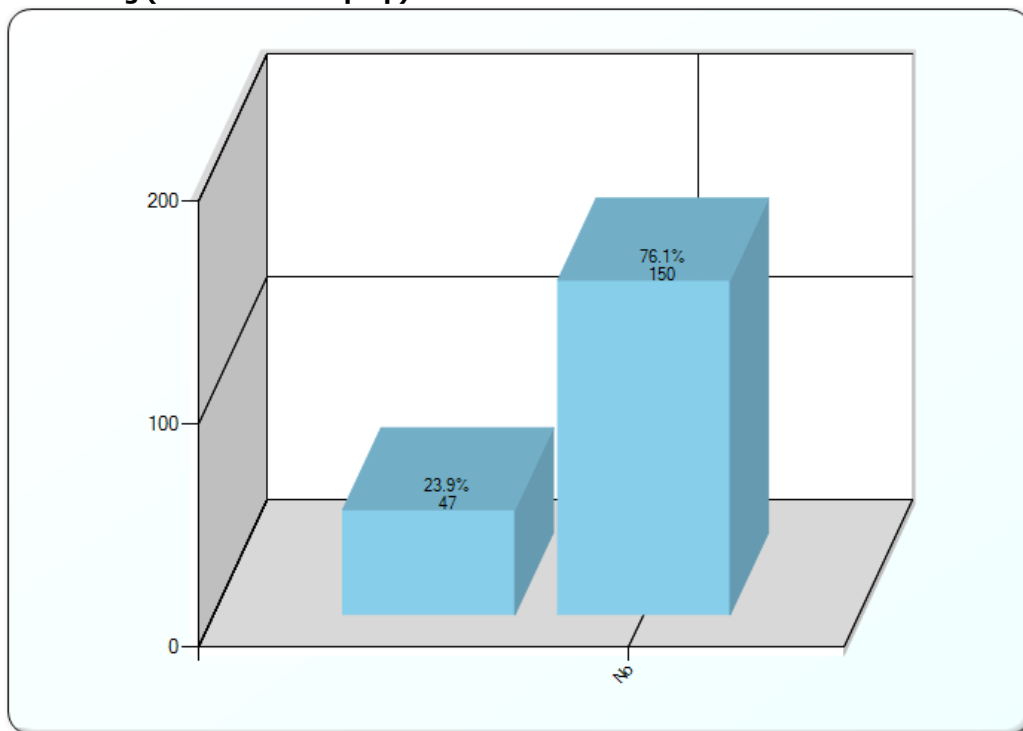
**8. The amount of homework my child receives is:**



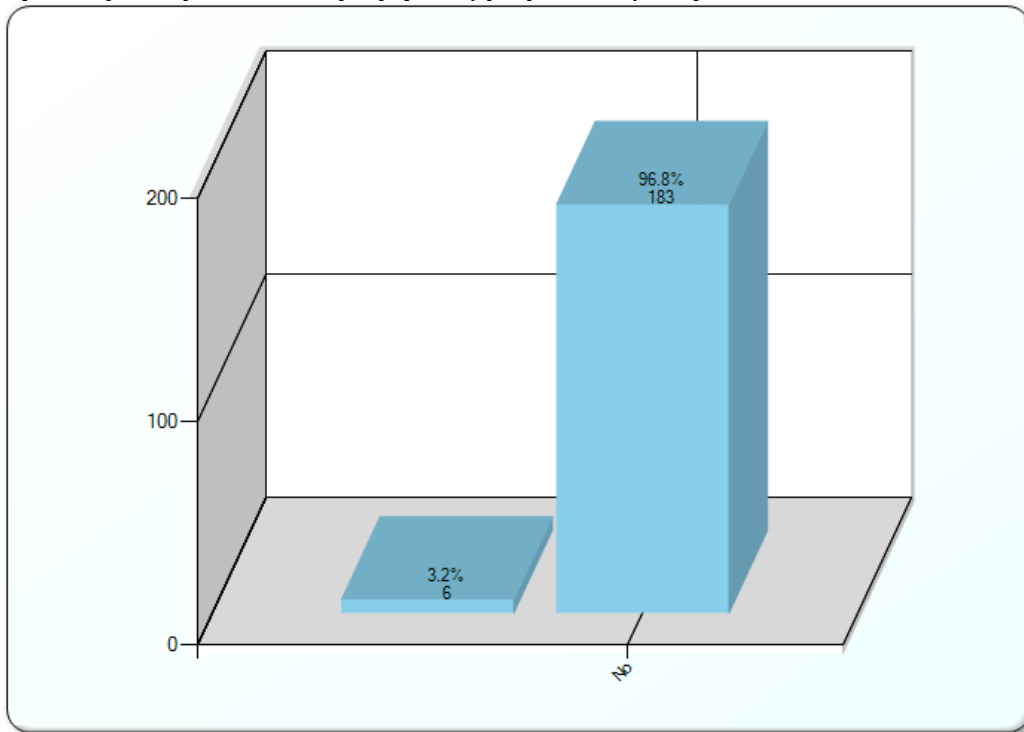
**9. The school gives me ideas and opportunities to help my child do his/her best.**



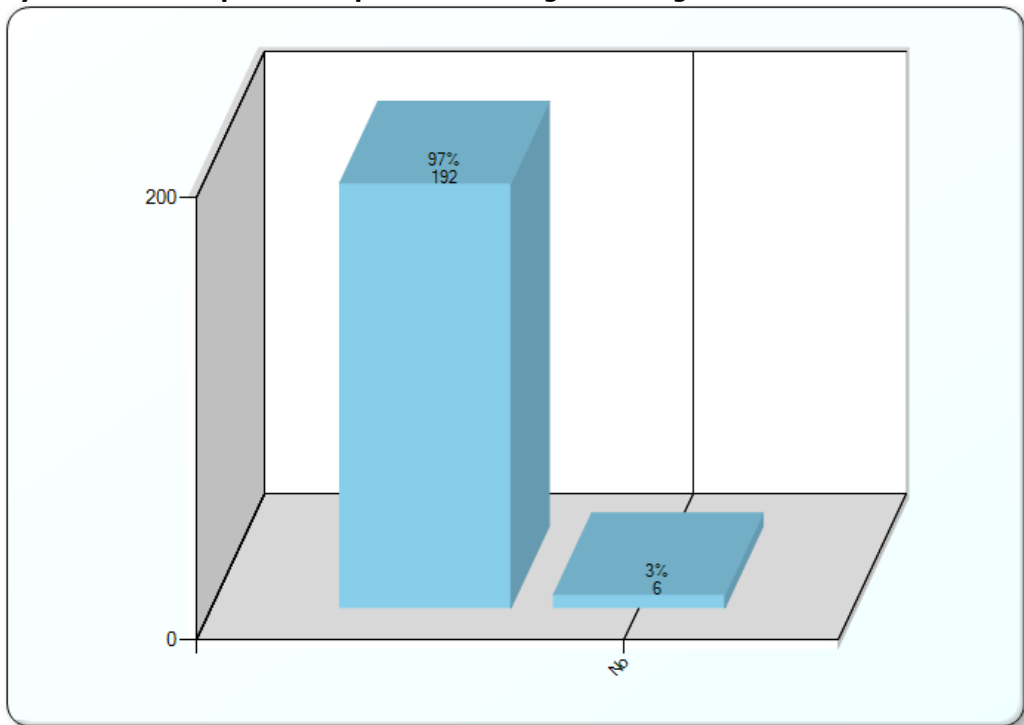
**10. I supplement my child's education with professional tutoring in core subjects such as math or reading (other than SAT prep).**



**11. My child participates in SAT prep (tutor, prep classes, etc.)**

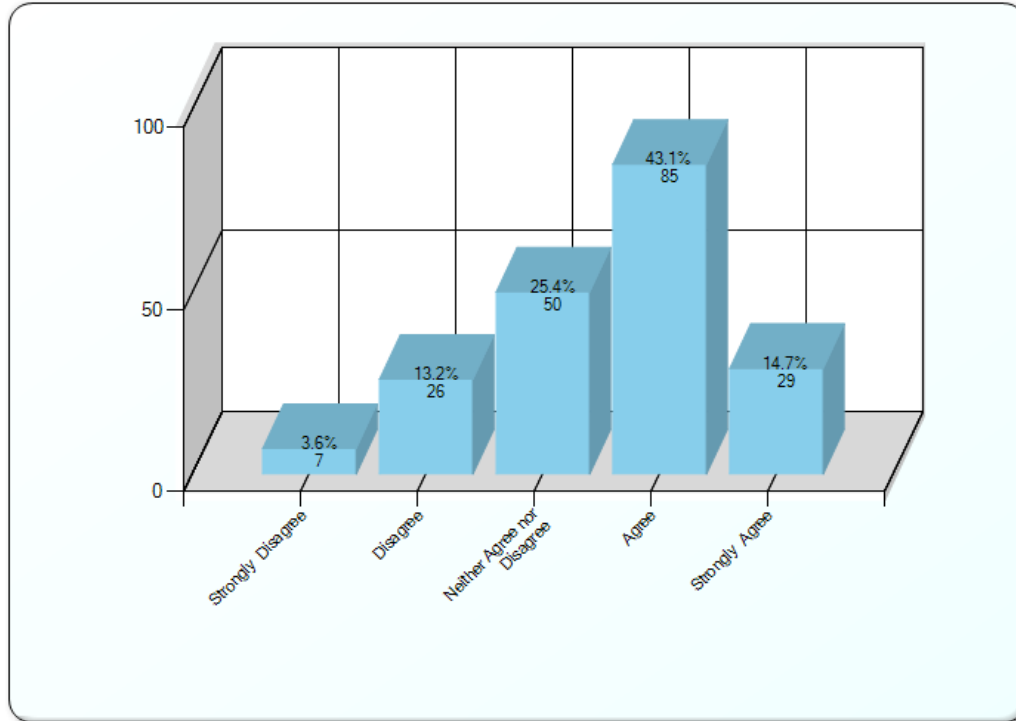


**12. My child attended pre-school prior to enrolling in kindergarten.**

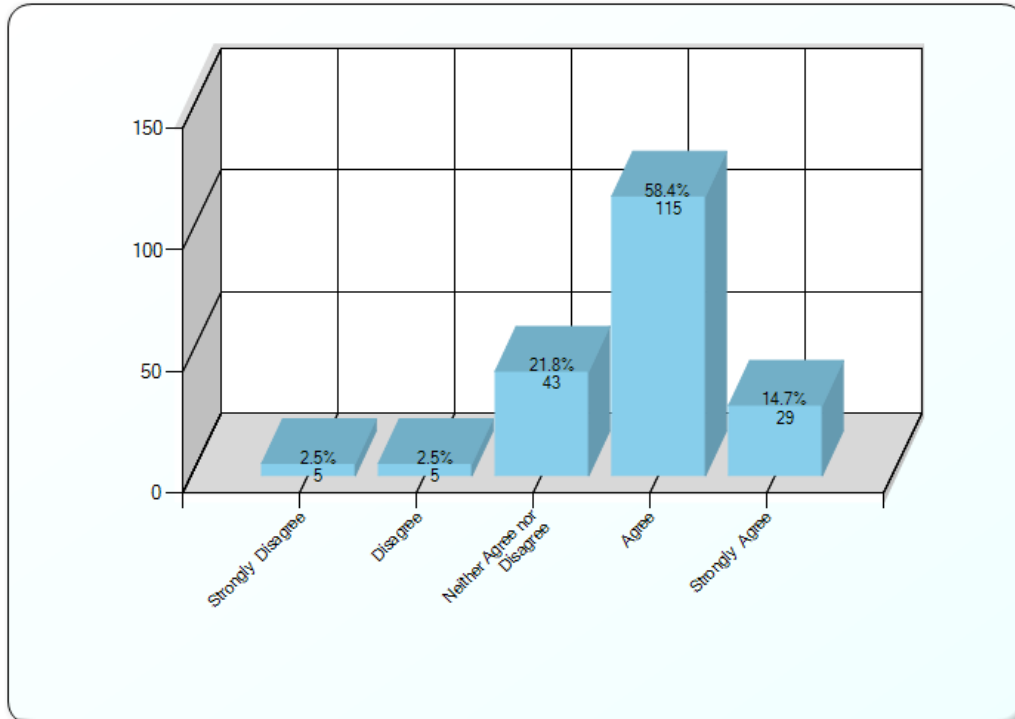


## EXTRACURRICULARS

13. I am satisfied with the non-sports extracurricular opportunities (music, drama, art, etc.) in school.

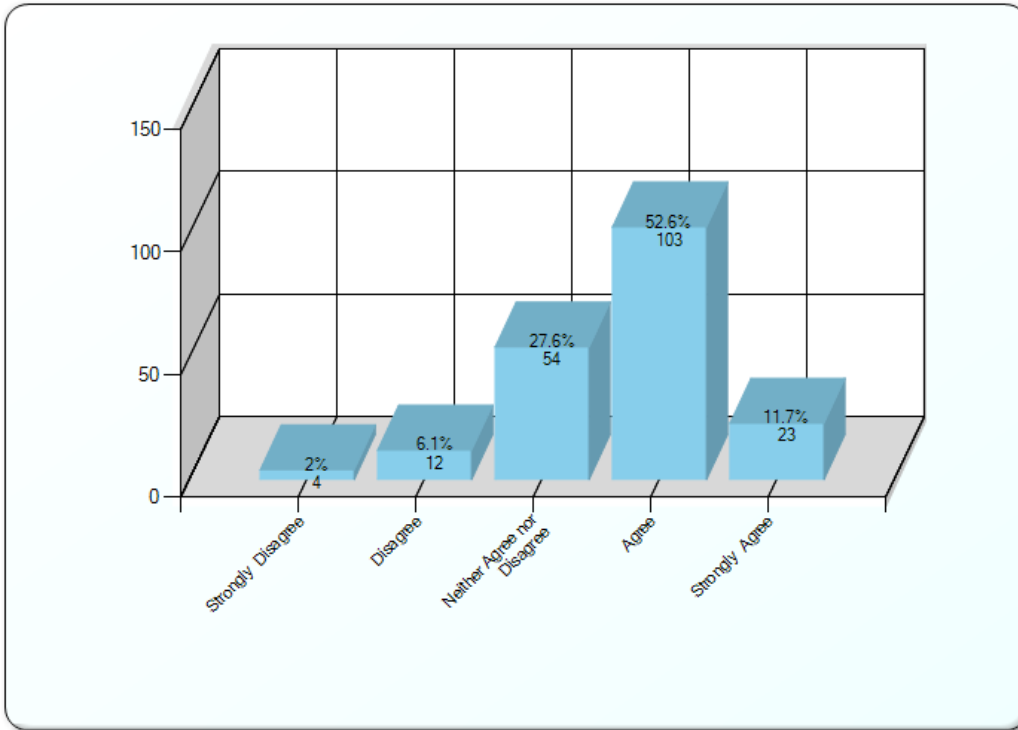


14. I am satisfied with the health/wellness/fitness/sports offerings at school.



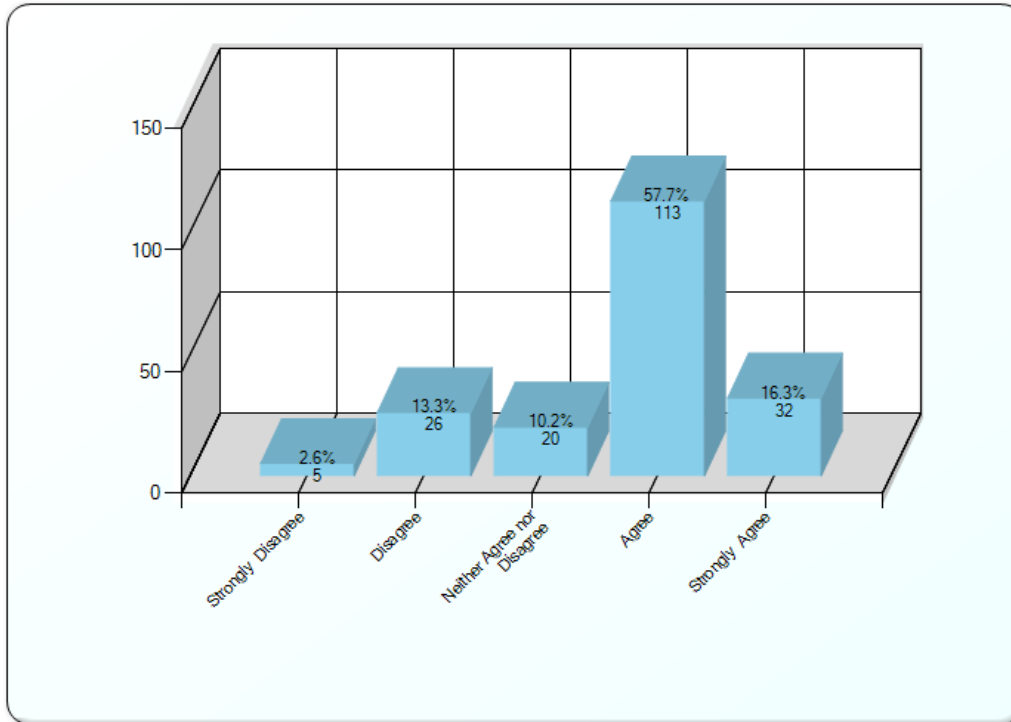


**15. My child is encouraged to try new things at school.**

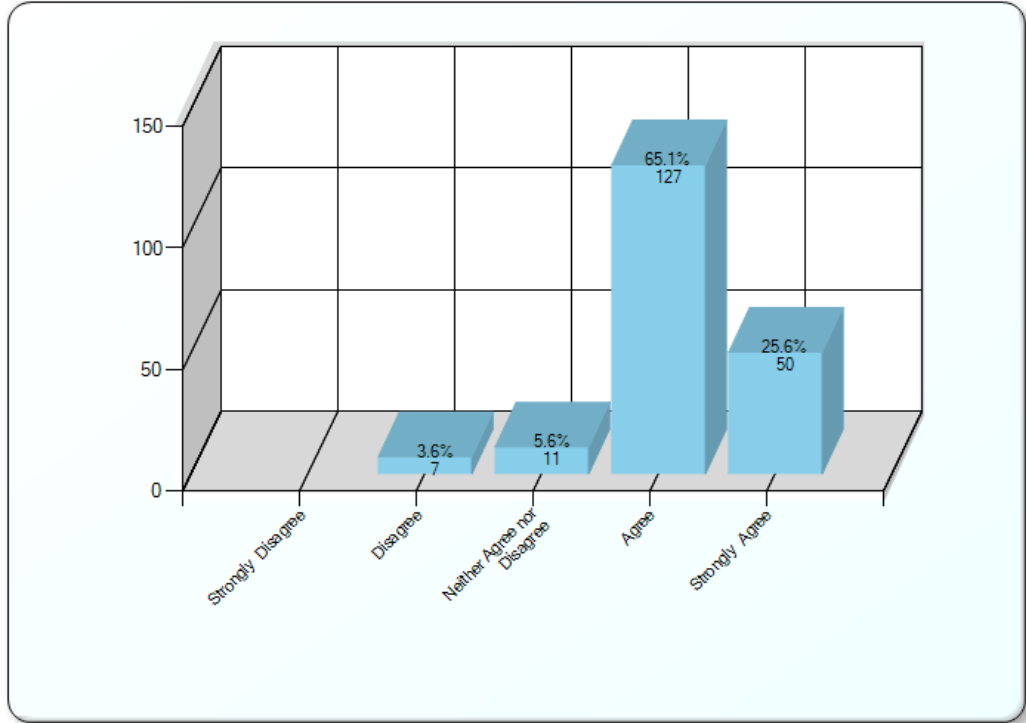


**FACILITIES**

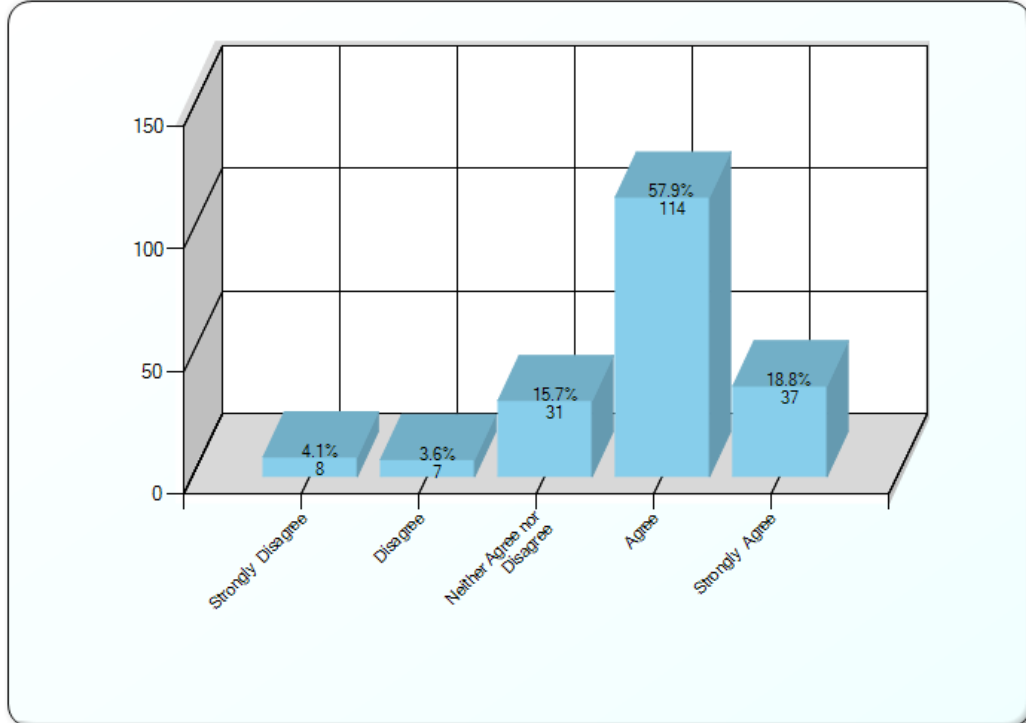
**16. I am satisfied with the quality of the physical spaces at my child's school.**



**17. My child's school is clean and well-maintained.**

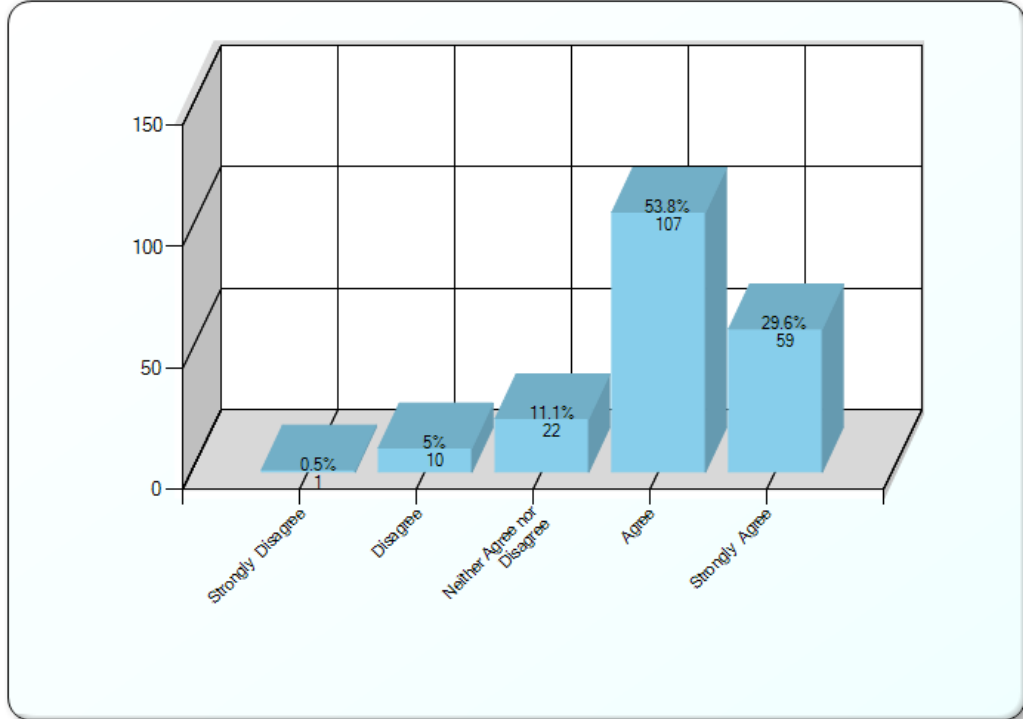


**18. The condition/quality of our school athletic facilities is acceptable.**

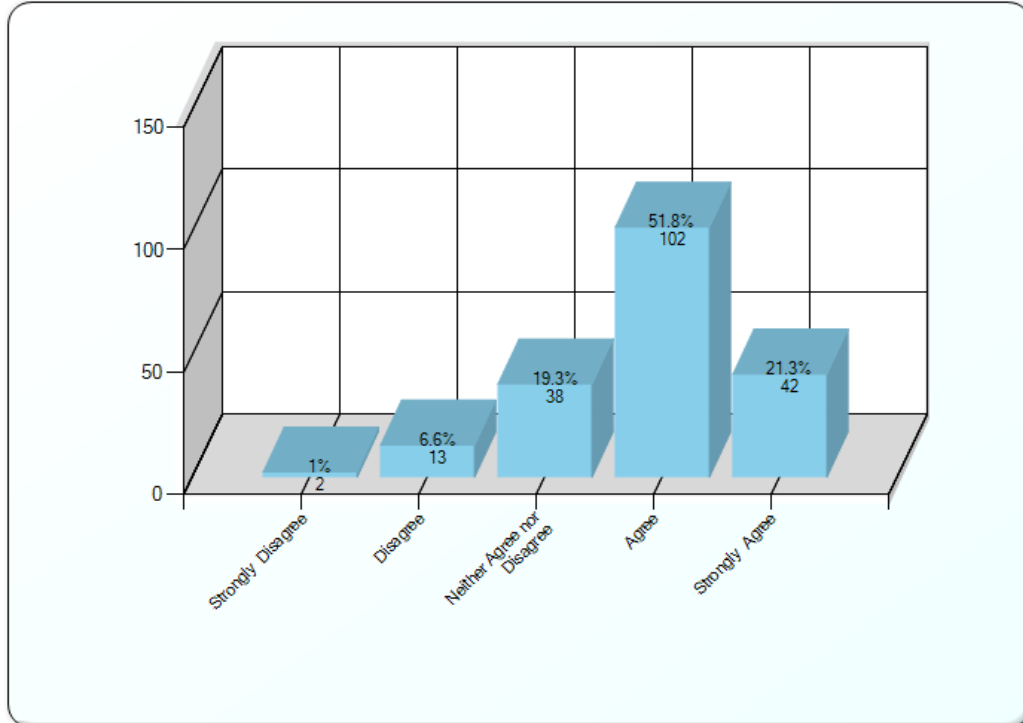


## COMMUNICATIONS

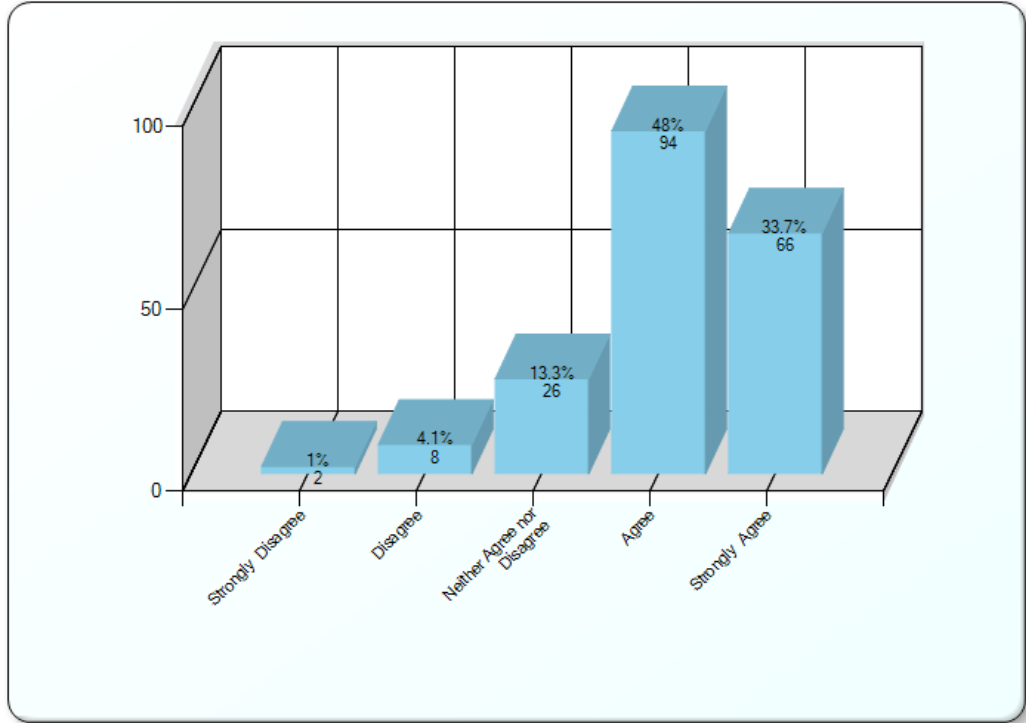
### 19. I feel well-informed about school programs/services/activities.



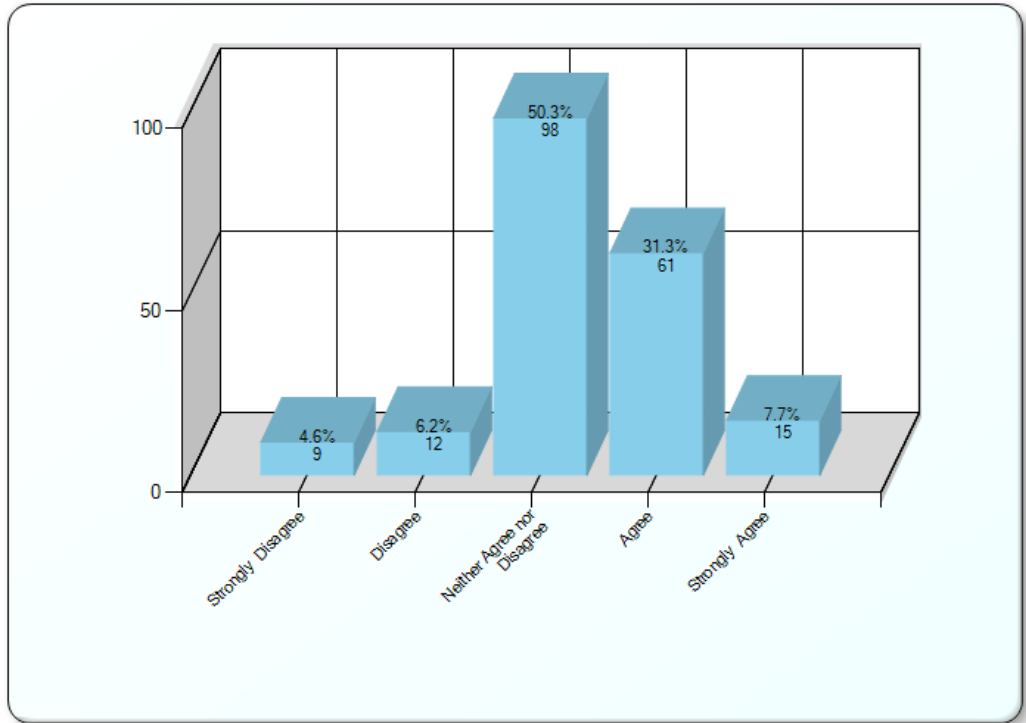
### 20. The school keeps me informed of my child's progress.



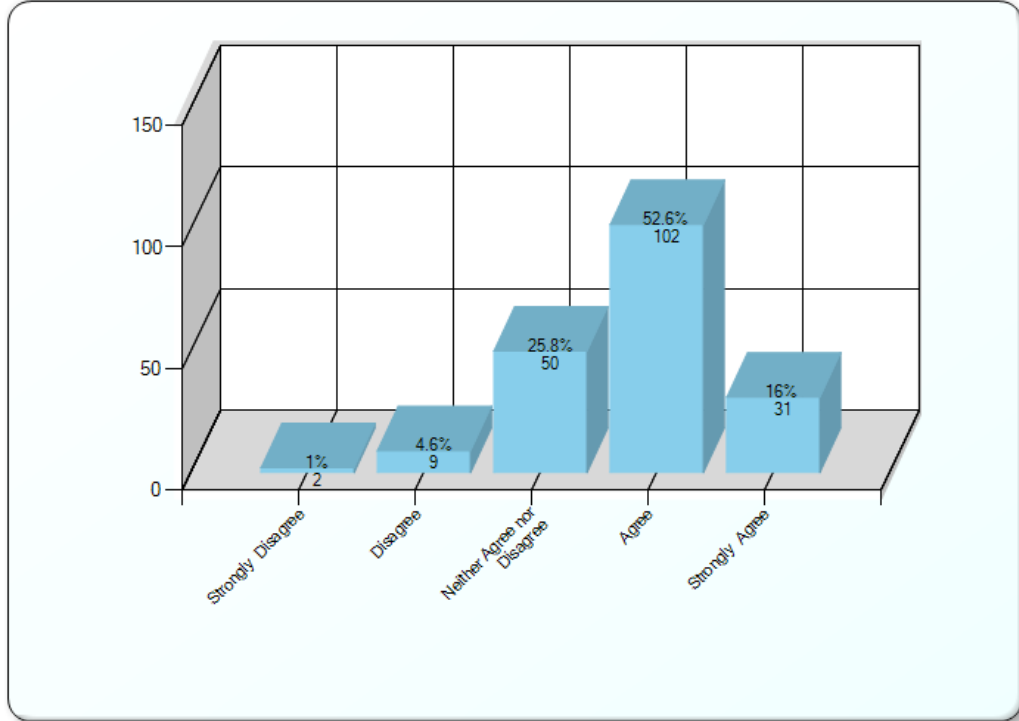
**21. School staff (teachers/principal) are responsive to parent concerns.**



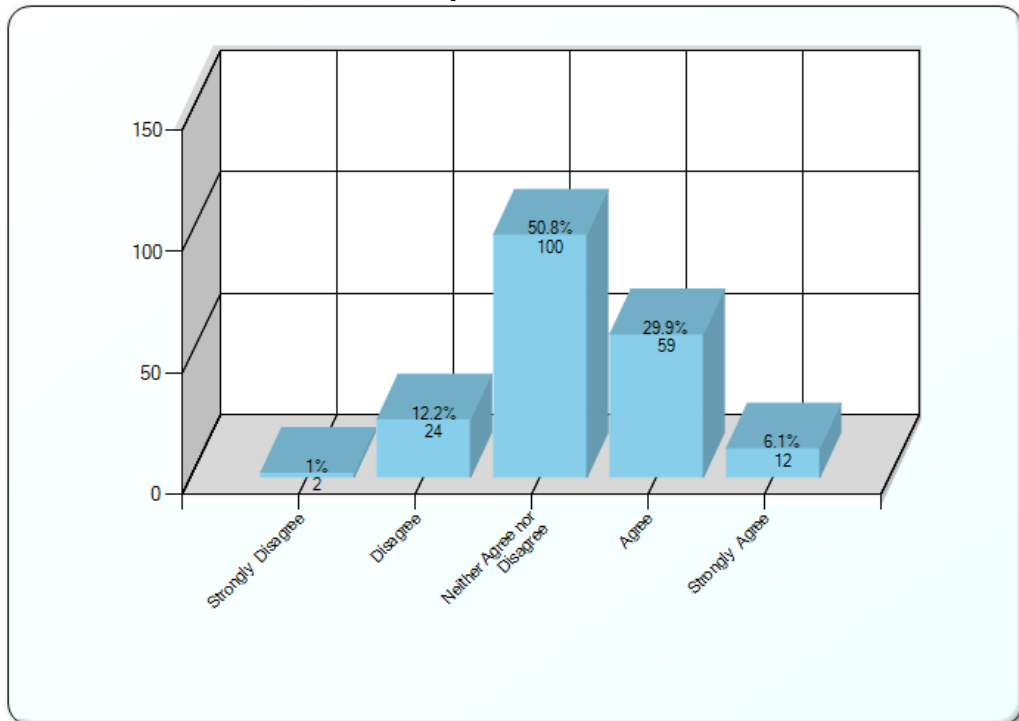
**22. District administration/Board of Ed are responsive to parent concerns.**



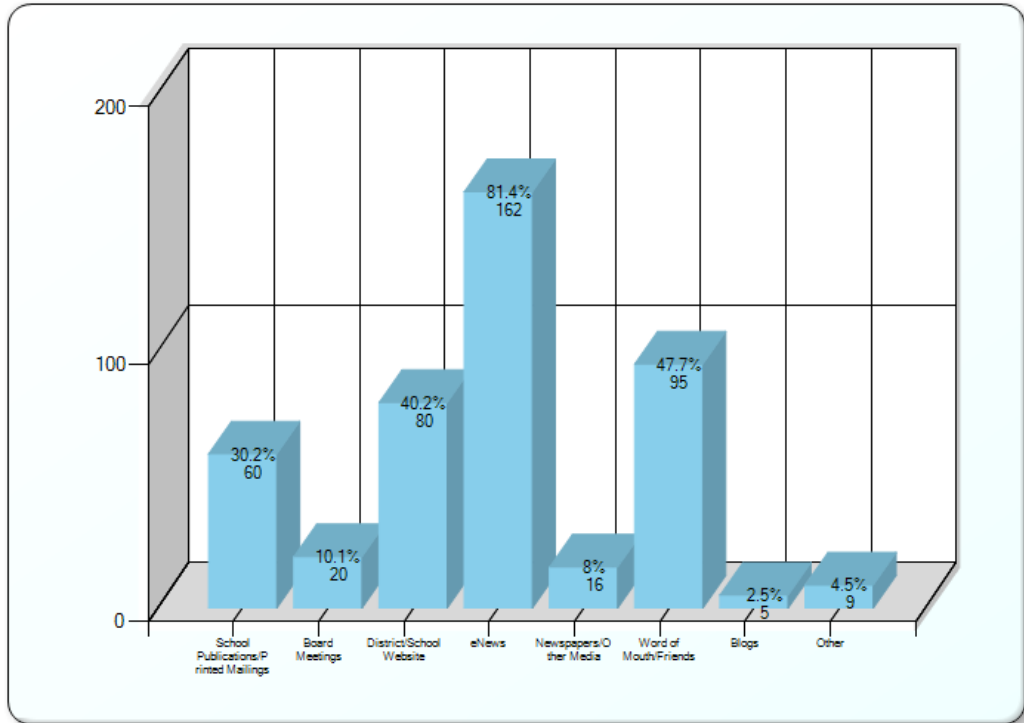
**23. I have sufficient opportunities to express my opinions or concerns regarding school.**



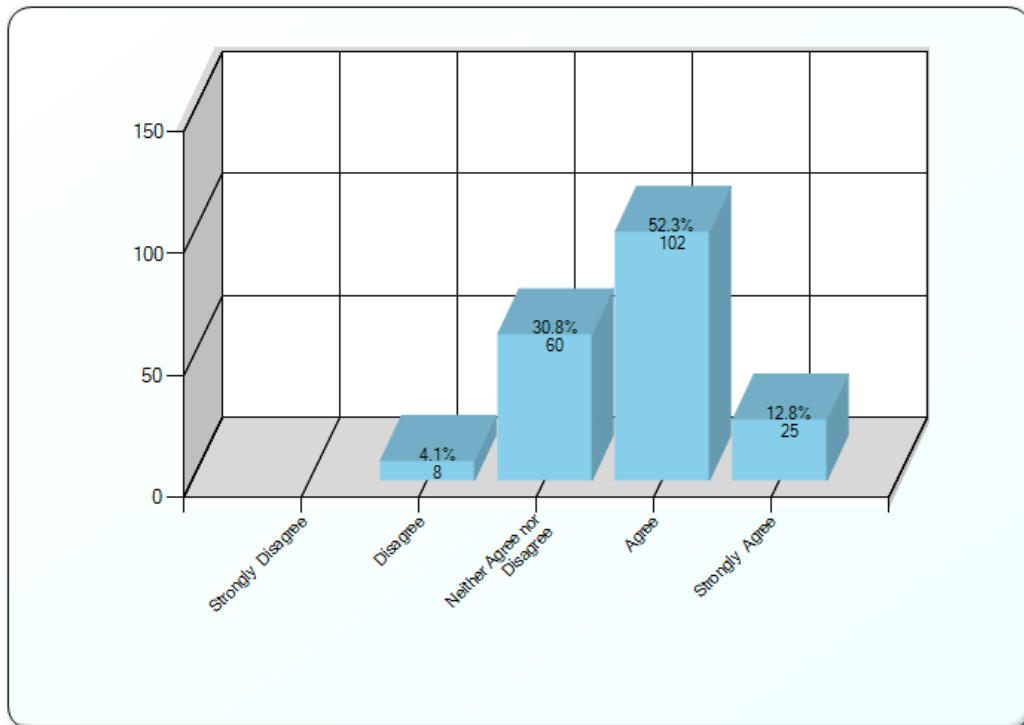
**24. I would like to be more involved in my child's school.**



**25. How do you receive most of your school information?**



**26. The District website is a useful source for everything I need to know about Ridgewood Public Schools.**



## Comments

Your school received a total of 237 comments in all sections. All comments were reviewed by a committee of administrators, Board of Education members and parents. A summary of key themes is included here. Note: *All* comments have been provided to relevant administrators for follow-up, and the full text of comments is available on your school's website. (In the interest of privacy, comments that personally identified staff members or students have been removed.)

### **General**

There were 45 comments on school climate. Overall, the comments were positive, expressing that the staff is dedicated, takes a holistic approach to their child's educational and emotional well being, and is responsive. There were eight comments on safety issues, regarding bullying, drop-off procedure and front door security.

### **Academics/Curriculum/Instruction**

A total of 73 comments referenced academics, curriculum and instruction. Of the 73 comments: 25 were about enrichment and rigor; nine mentioned tutoring; eight referred to the visual and performing arts; seven were about homework; three pertained to math; and three mentioned Spanish; the rest were general comments on curriculum.

Respondents requested: an emphasis on teaching the basics in math and writing; more opportunities to challenge advanced students, particularly in math; and science and social studies textbooks. A few felt that children in the middle were not being attended to. Some requested more guidance in creating educational opportunities for their children outside of school.

There was no consensus in the homework comments. Some thought there was too much homework, while others thought there was too little homework. One wanted more writing assignments.

Overall, there was satisfaction with the specials programs, such as physical education, music and art.

### **Extracurricular**

Twenty-two comments referenced extracurricular programs, mostly expressing that there was both a lack of extracurricular programs and information about opportunities.

### **Facilities**

There were 35 comments about facilities and maintenance. Seven comments were made about the need for cleaner bathrooms; some comments were made about overcrowding and the need for more instructional space. Some comments were positive about the new playground and the grounds, while others expressed concerns about the quality of athletic fields and maintenance of the property.

### **Communications**

Thirty-two comments were written about communications. Overall, the comments were positive about the school's communication, including notices and comments from teachers and the principal. Two comments indicated that working parents were excluded from the Home and School Association meetings due to daytime meetings; two comments voiced concerns about reactions to criticisms of the staff or school.

We're sorry. The full unedited comments are unavailable at this time.

Thank you for your participation in our Annual Parent Survey!

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