

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
Orchard	322	348	147	42%
District	5618	6697	2573	38%

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

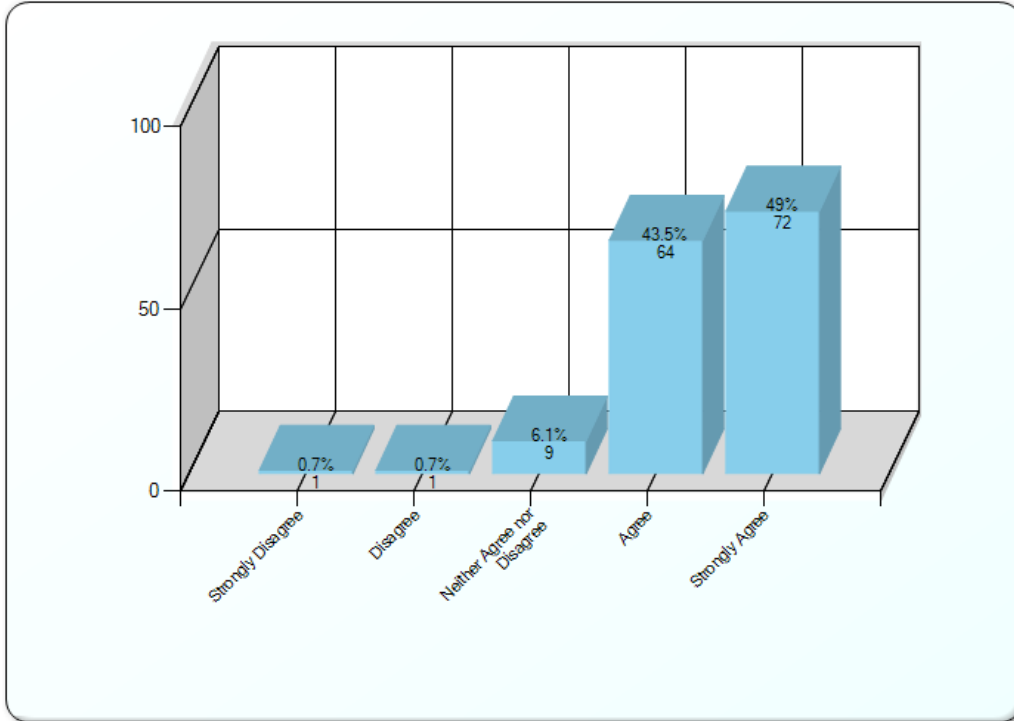
You and your school community can use the results of this survey to start conversations about your school, especially in terms of teaching and instruction, extracurricular activities, facilities, communications, parent engagement, administration and more. Parents are encouraged to talk with each other, 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.

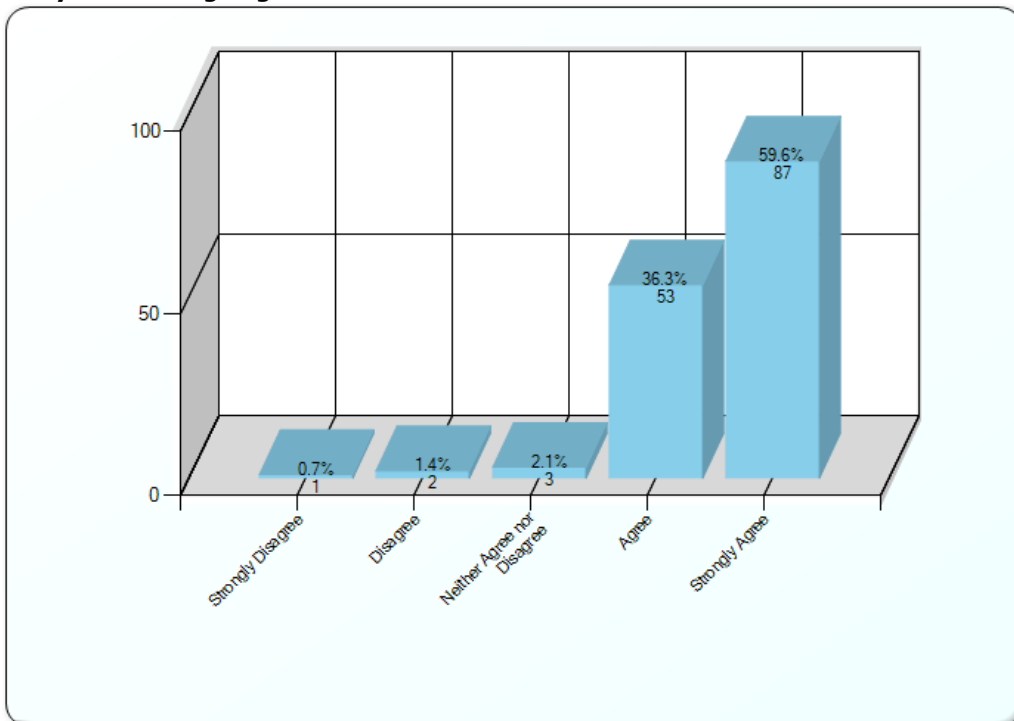
ORCHARD SCHOOL  
Results: Parent Opinion Survey 2009 – 2010

**GENERAL: OVERALL SATISFACTION AND CLIMATE**

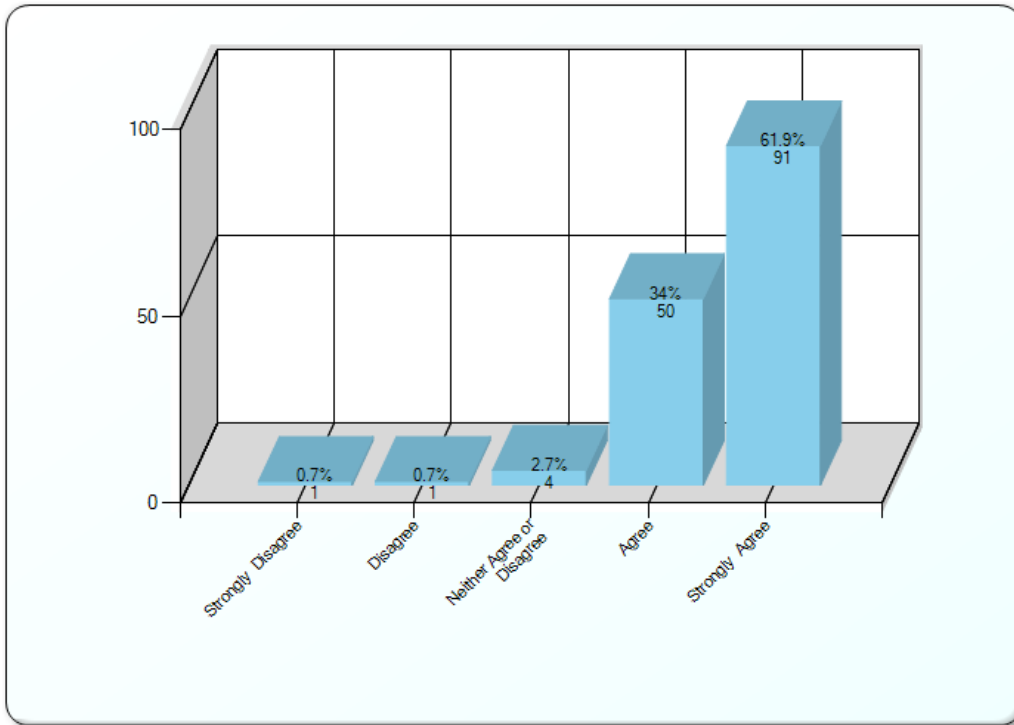
**1. I am satisfied with the overall quality of my child's education.**



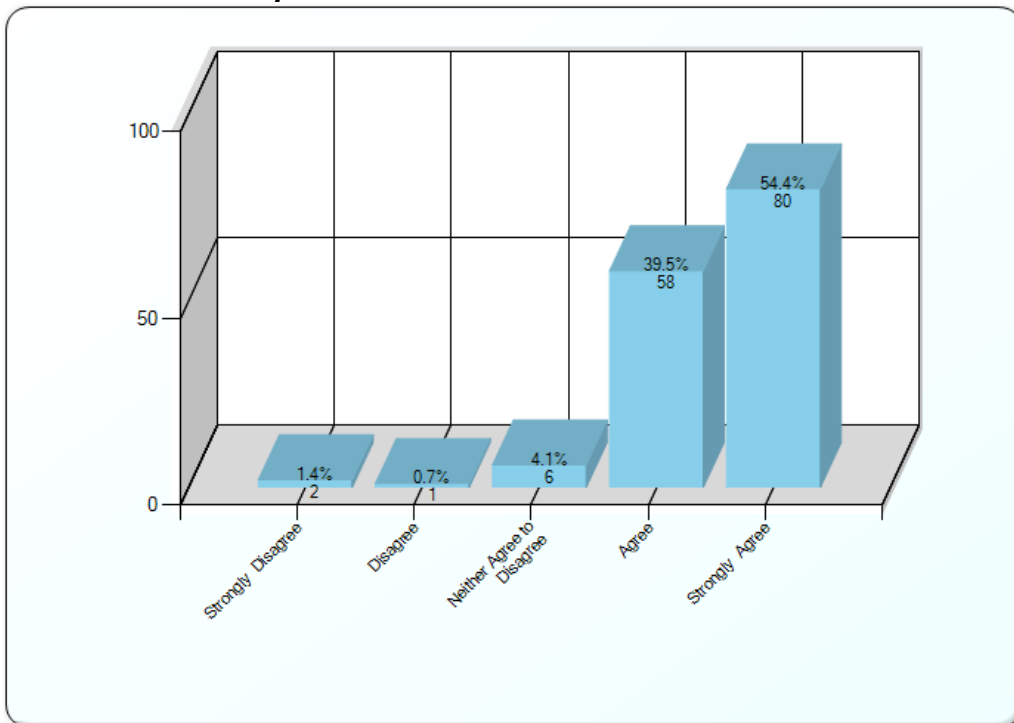
**2. My child likes going to school.**



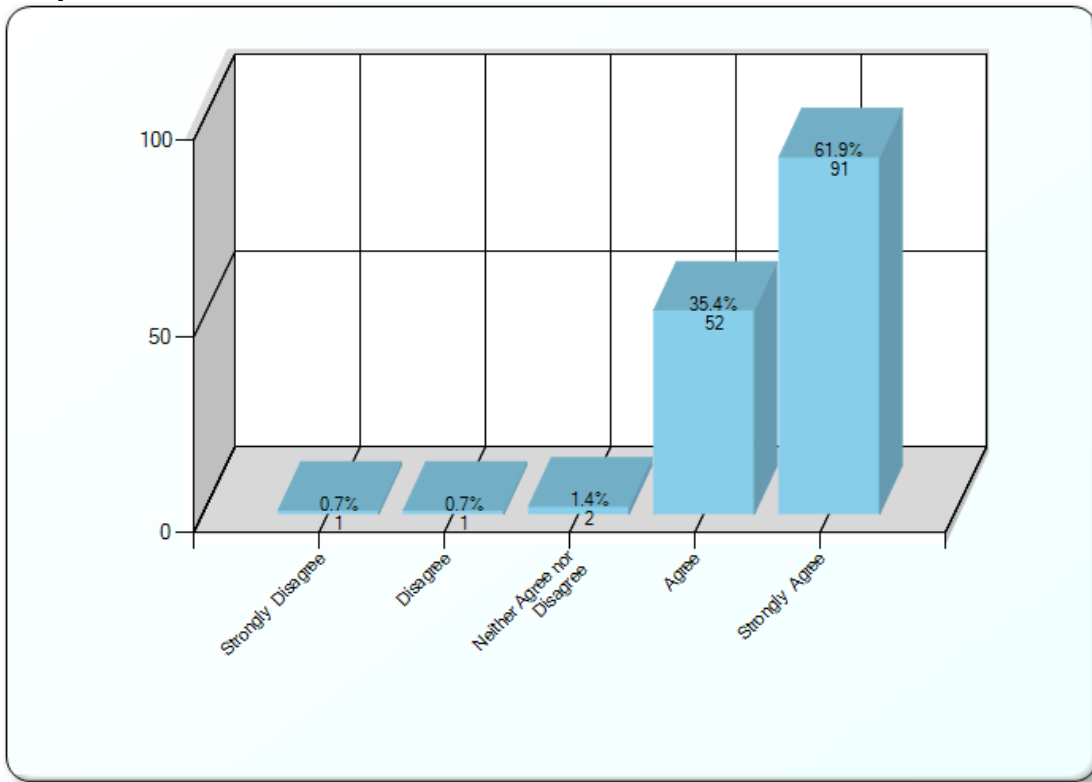
**3. I would recommend my child's school to other parents.**



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

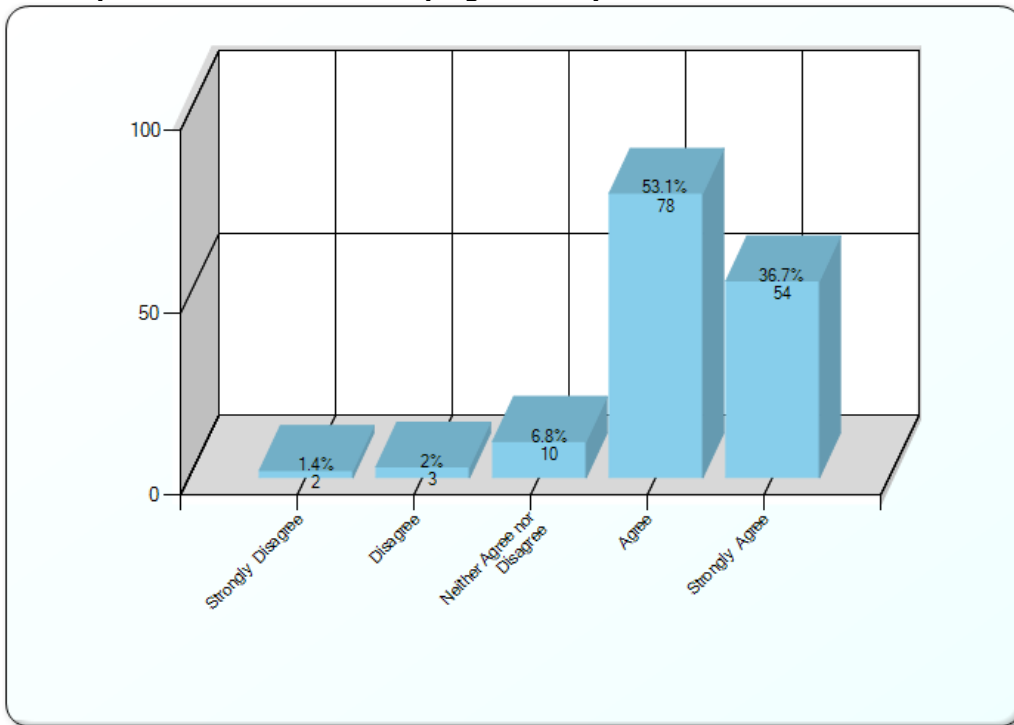


**5. My child is safe at school.**

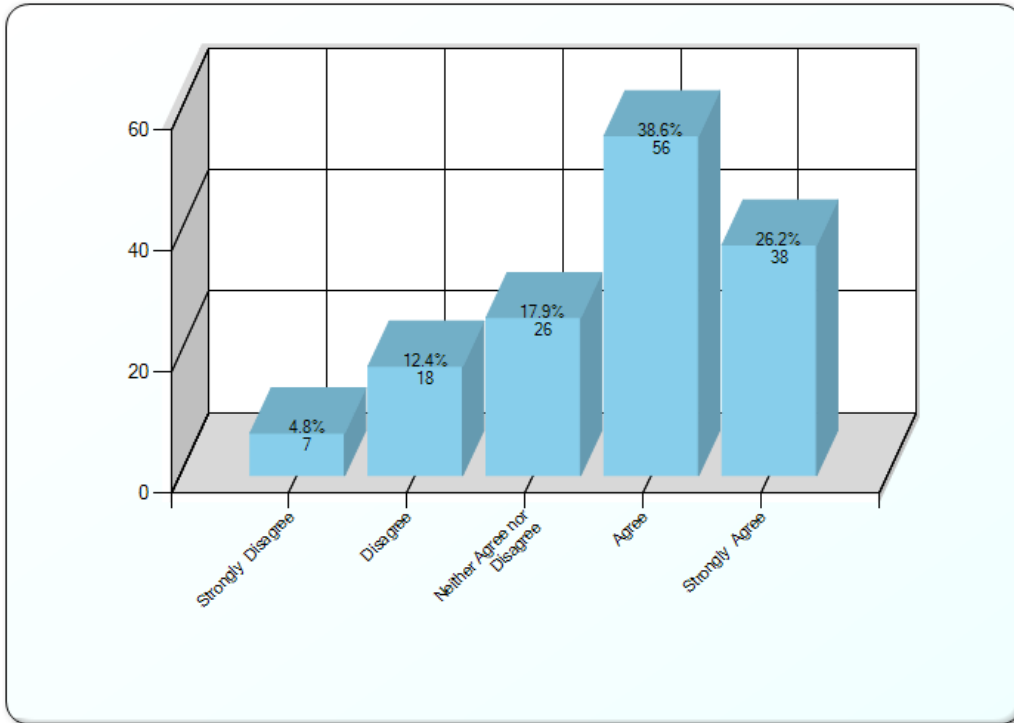


**ACADEMICS / CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION**

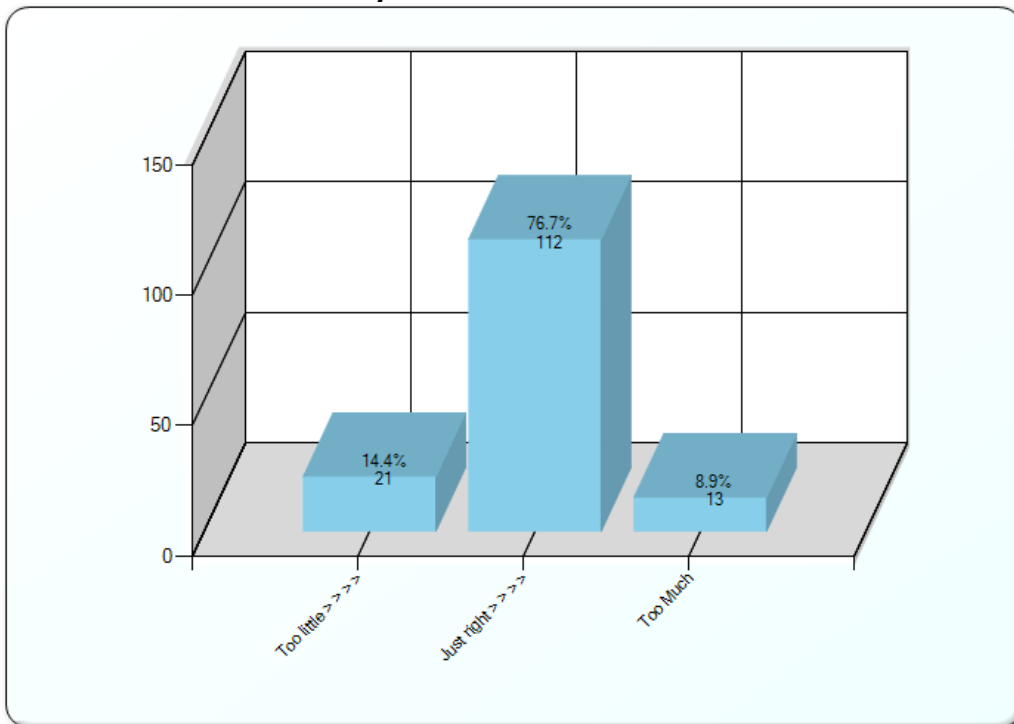
**6. I am pleased with the academic progress of my child.**



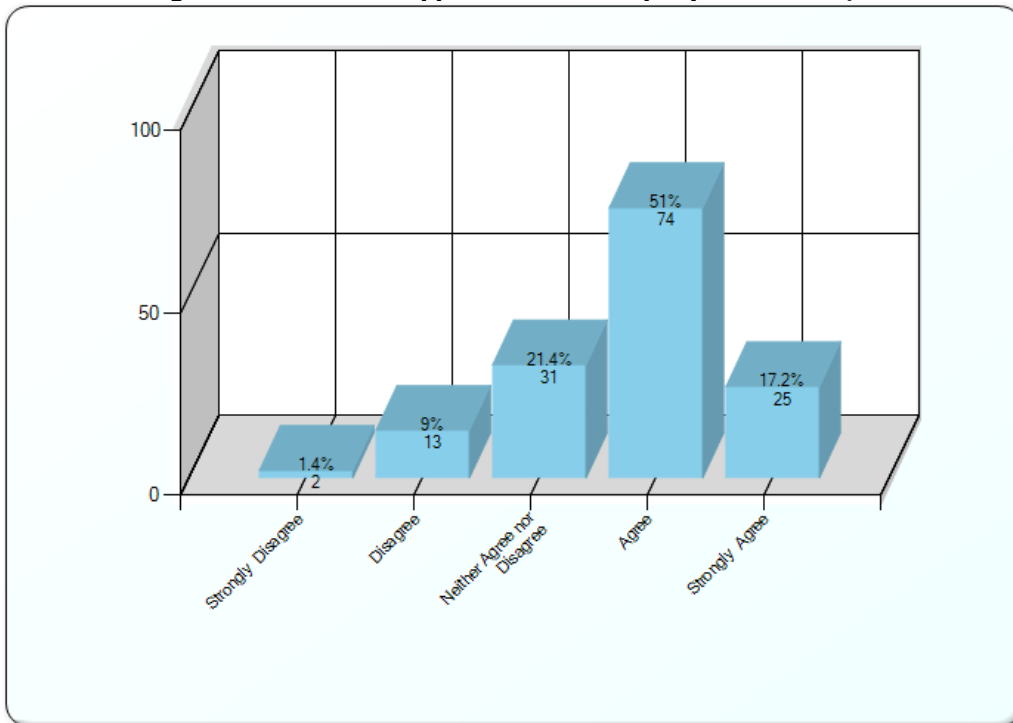
**7. My child is challenged academically.**



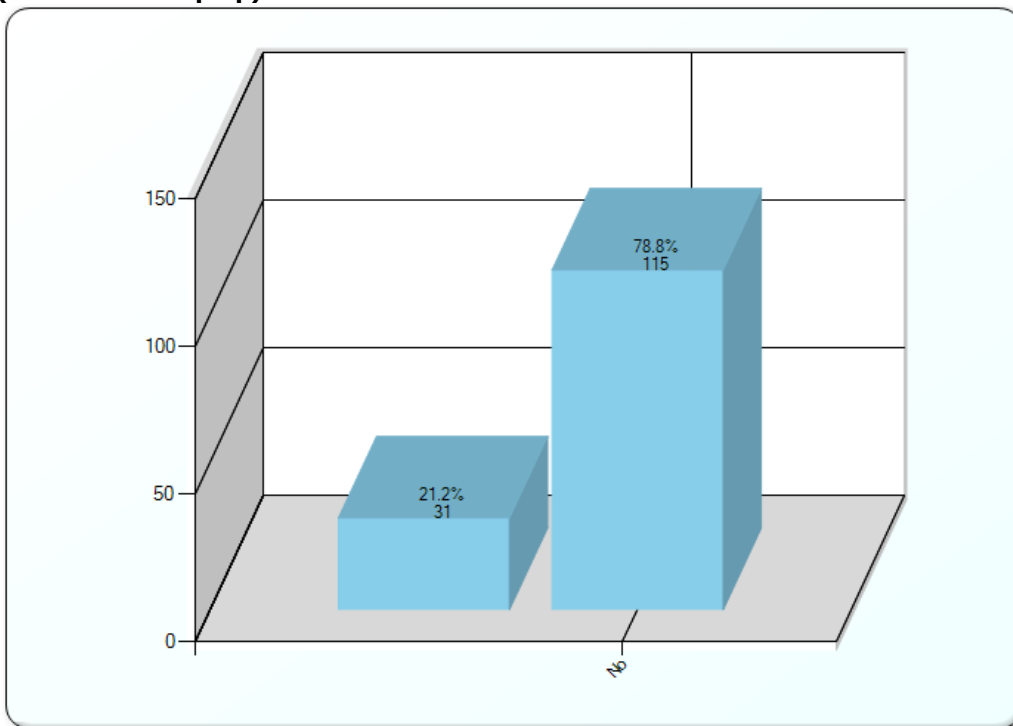
**8. The amount of homework my child receives is:**



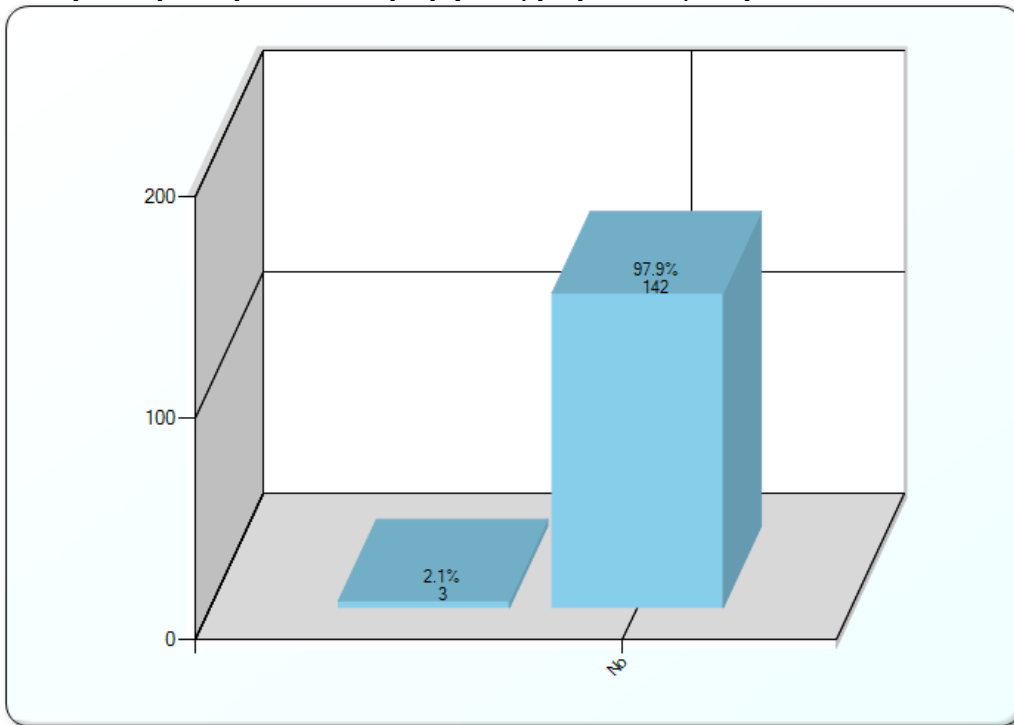
**9. The school gives me ideas and opportunities to help my child do his/her best.**



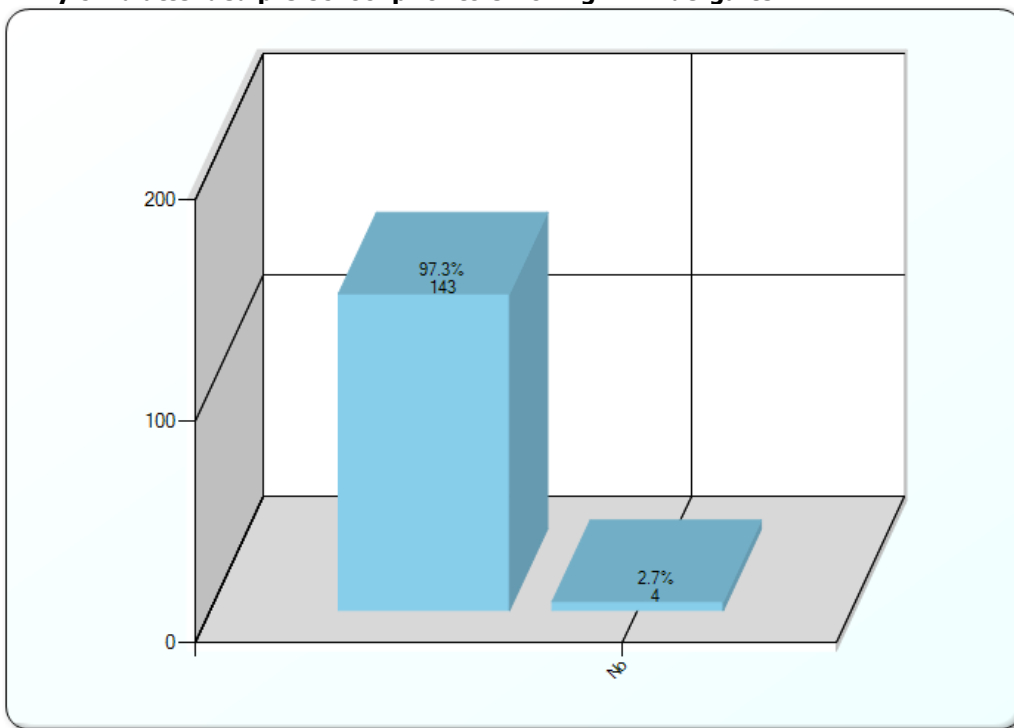
**10. I supplement my child's education with professional tutoring in core subjects such as math or reading (other than SAT prep).**



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

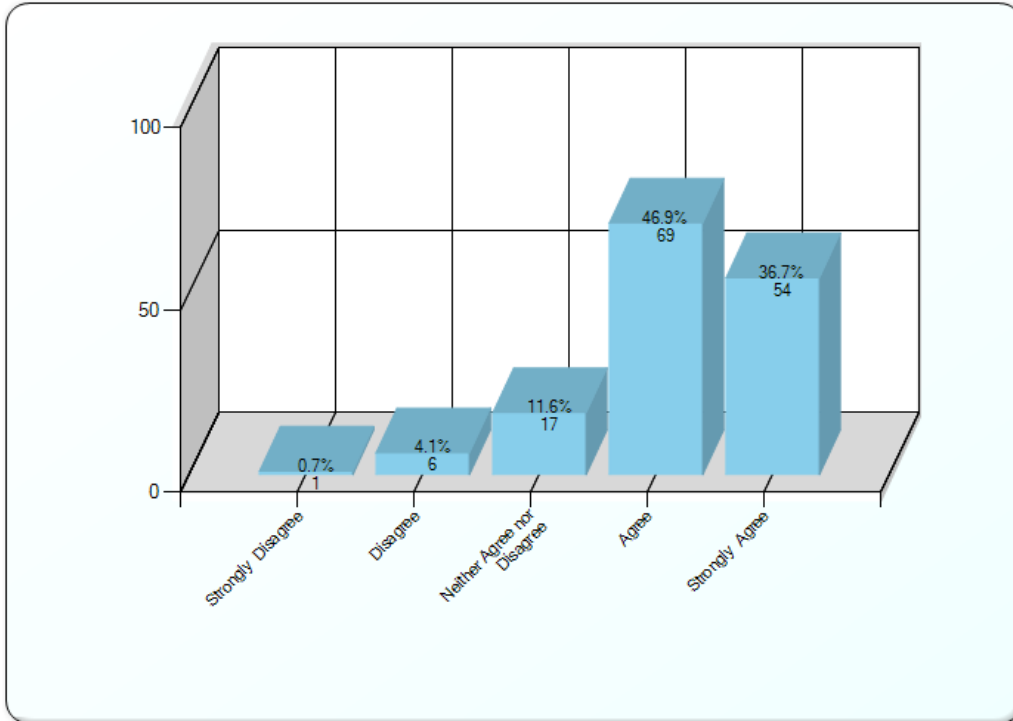


**12. My child attended pre-school prior to enrolling in kindergarten.**

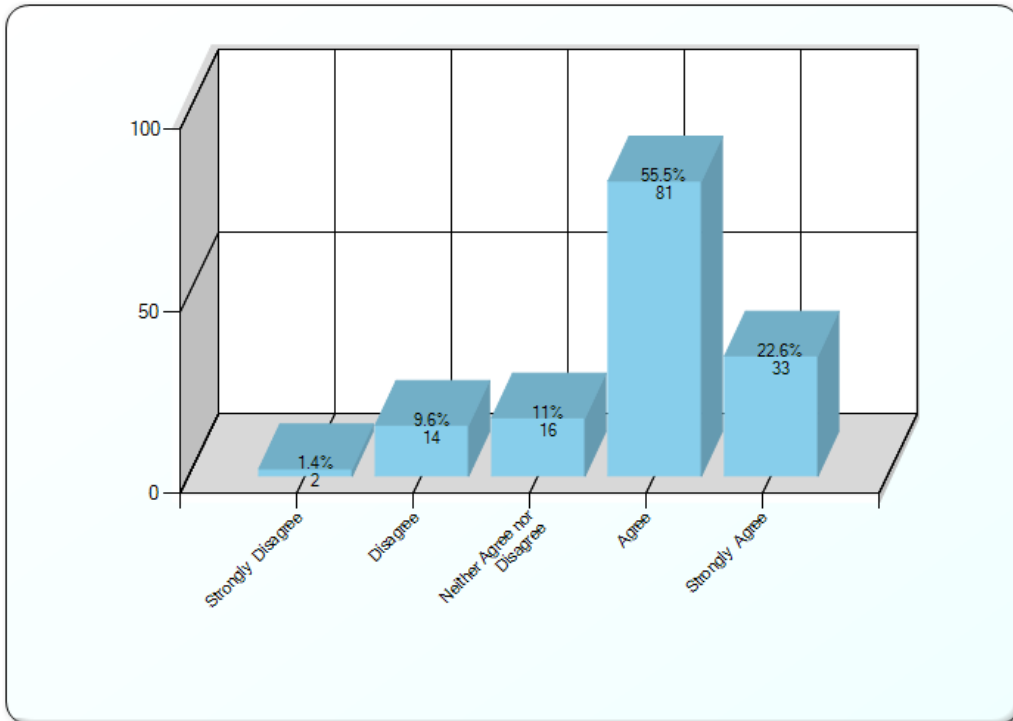


## EXTRACURRICULARS

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

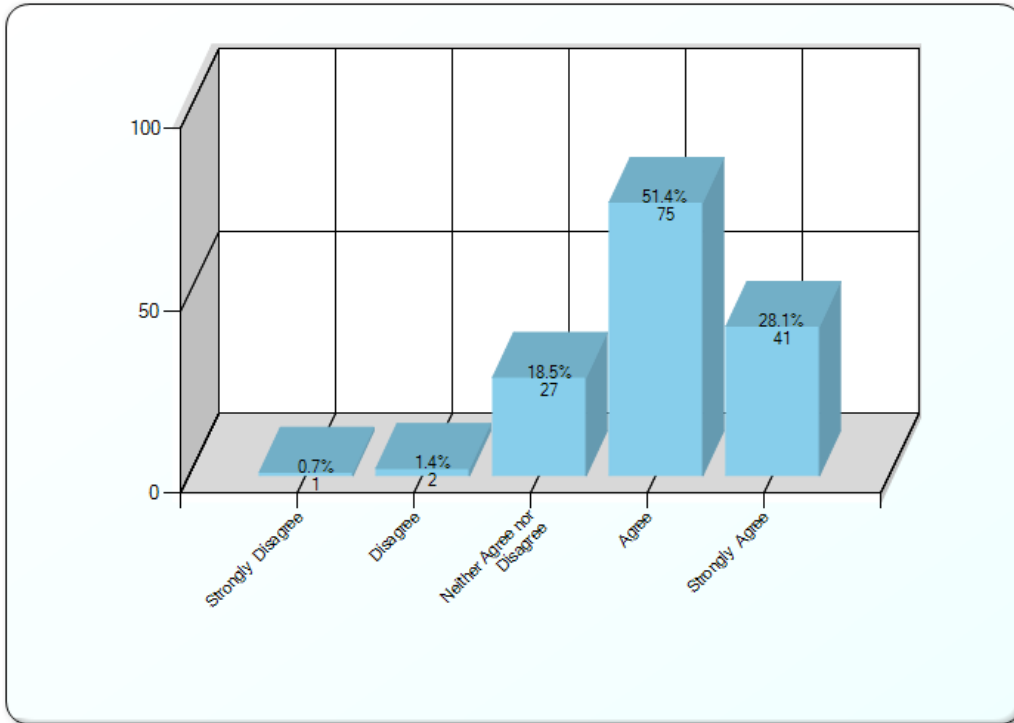


14. I am satisfied with the health/wellness/fitness/sports offerings at school.



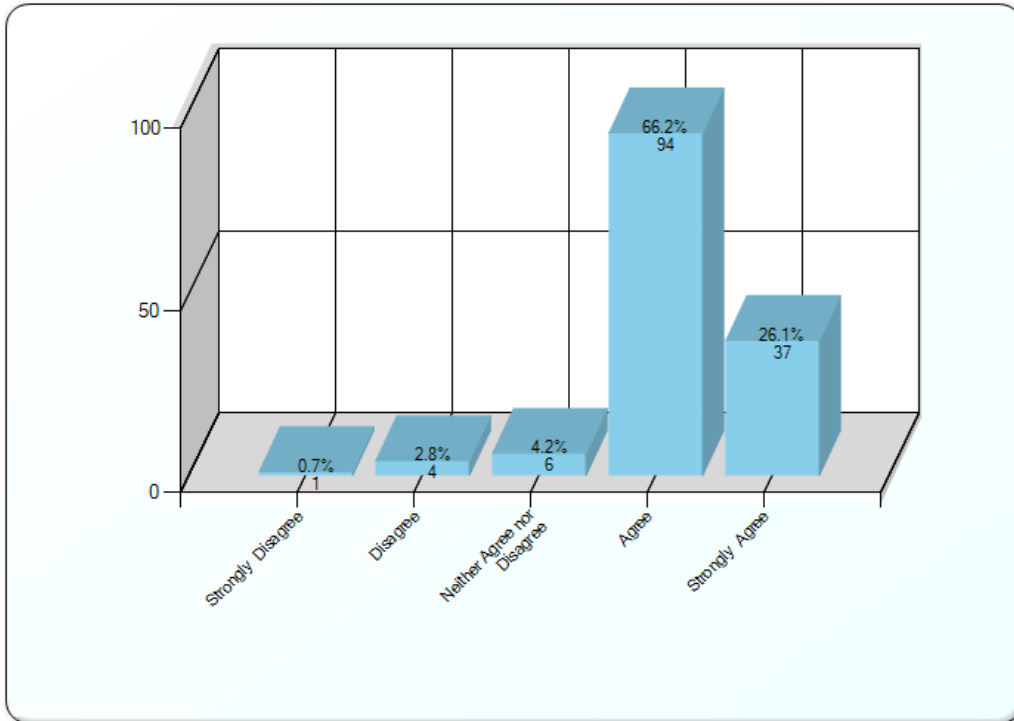


**15. My child is encouraged to try new things at school.**

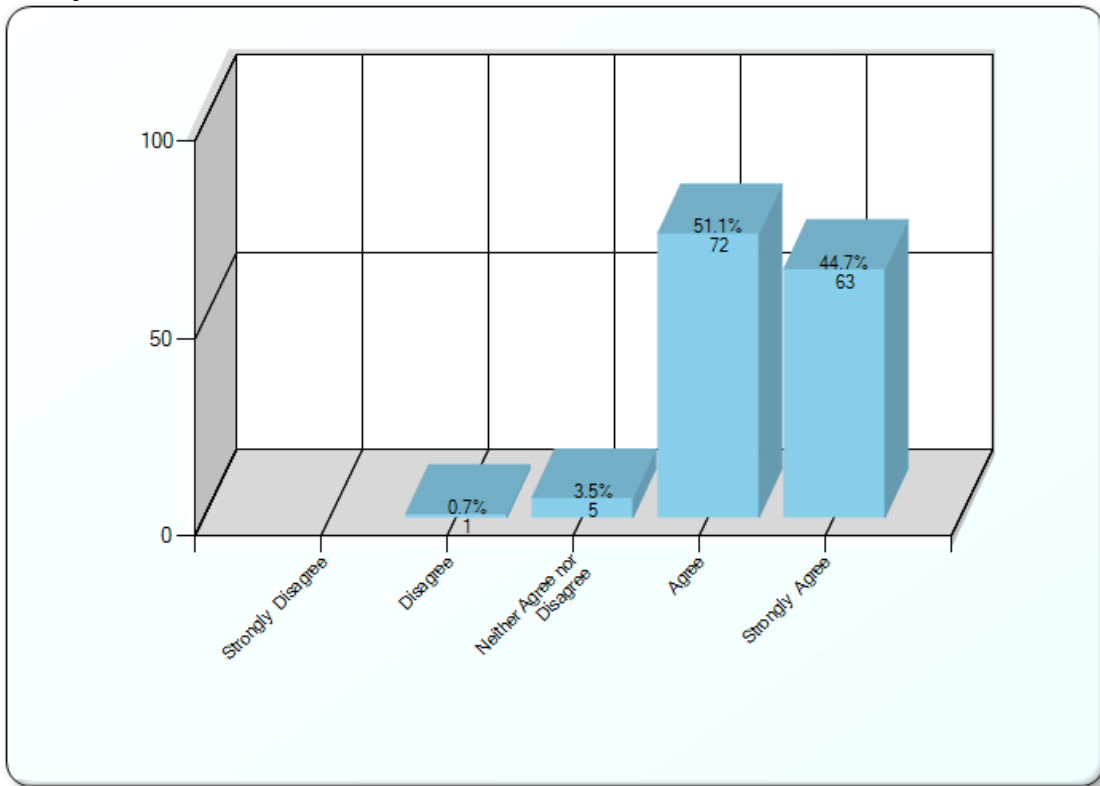


**FACILITIES**

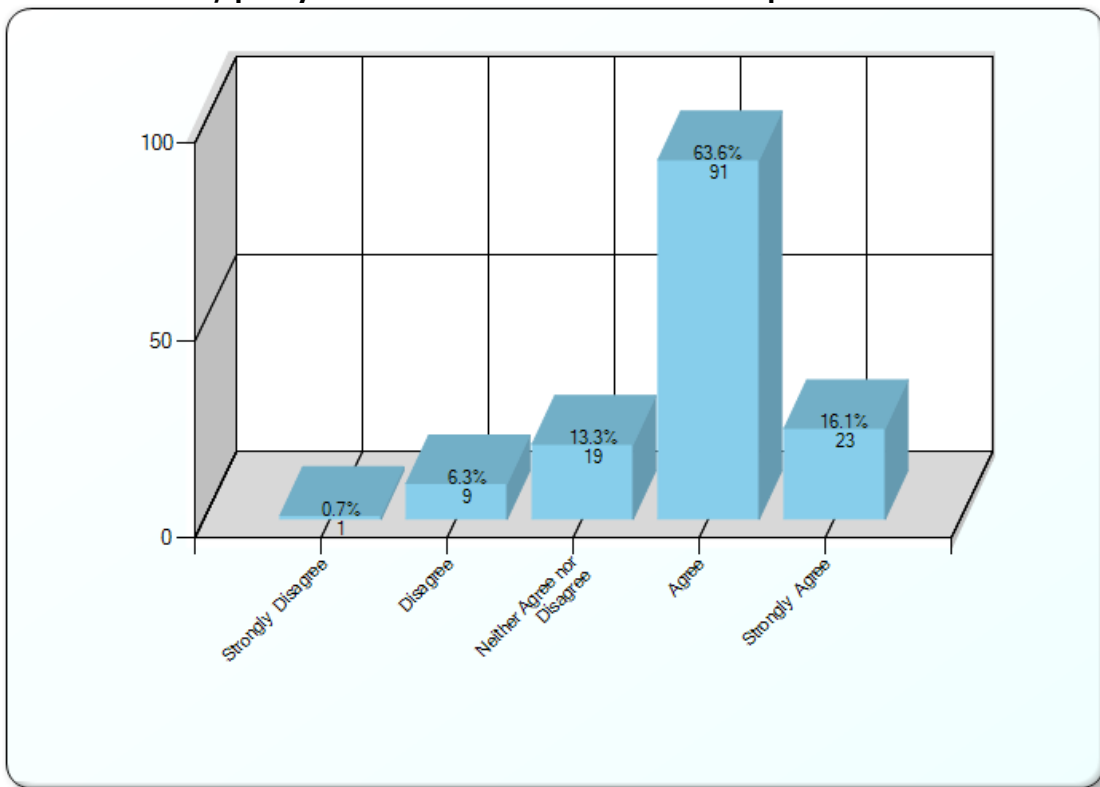
**16. I am satisfied with the quality of the physical spaces at my child's school.**



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

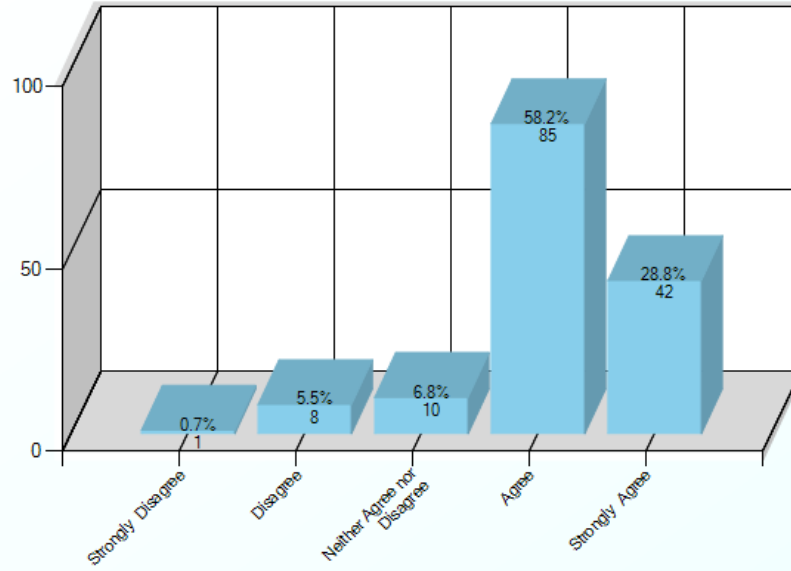


**18. The condition/quality of our school athletic facilities is acceptable.**

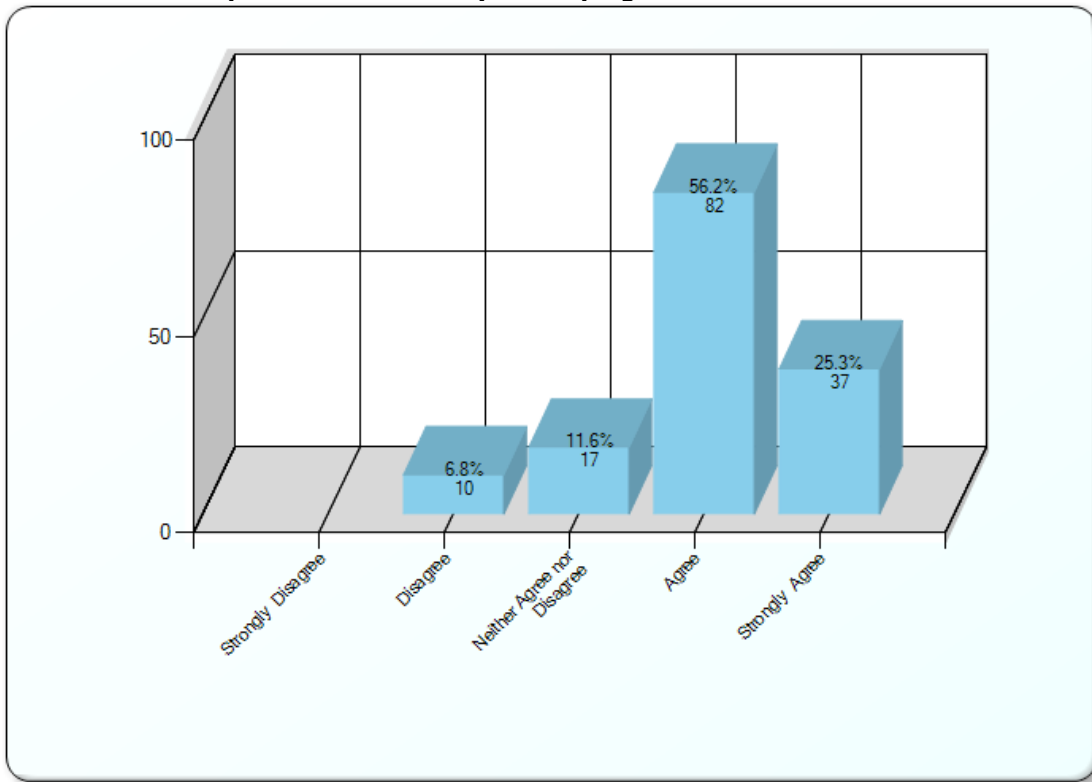


## COMMUNICATIONS

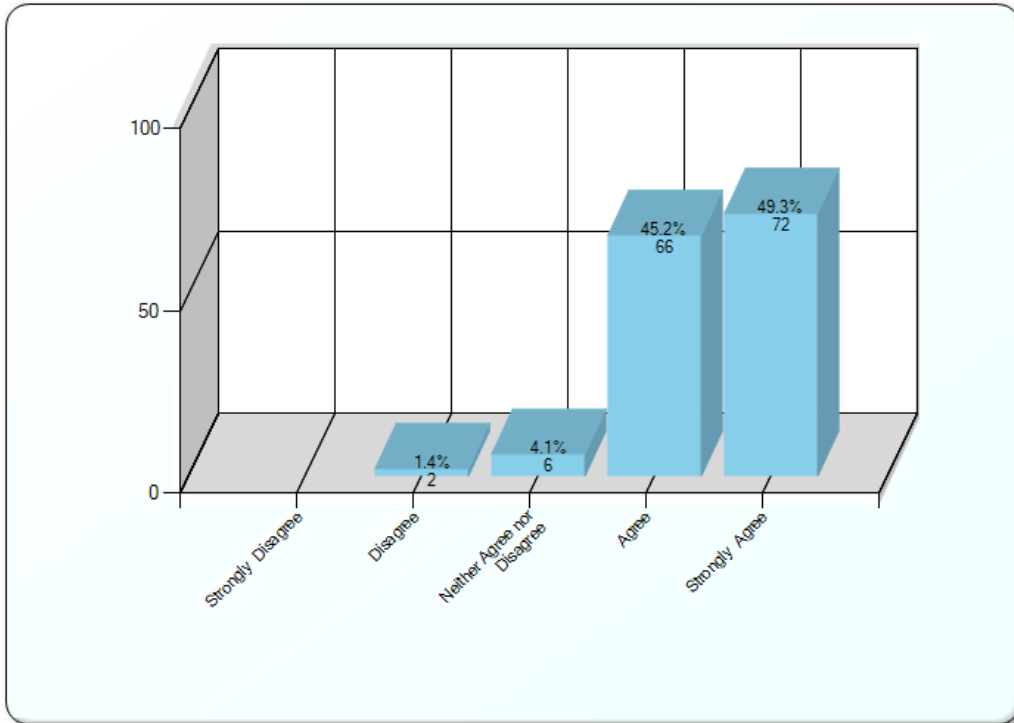
19. I feel well-informed about school programs/services/activities.



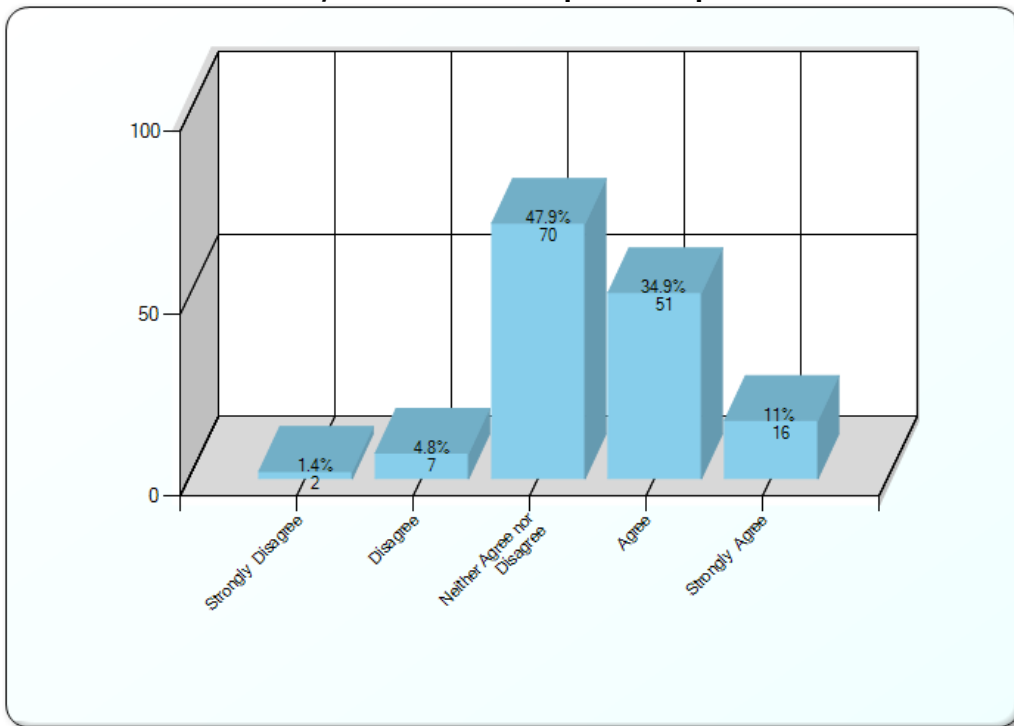
**20. The school keeps me informed of my child's progress.**



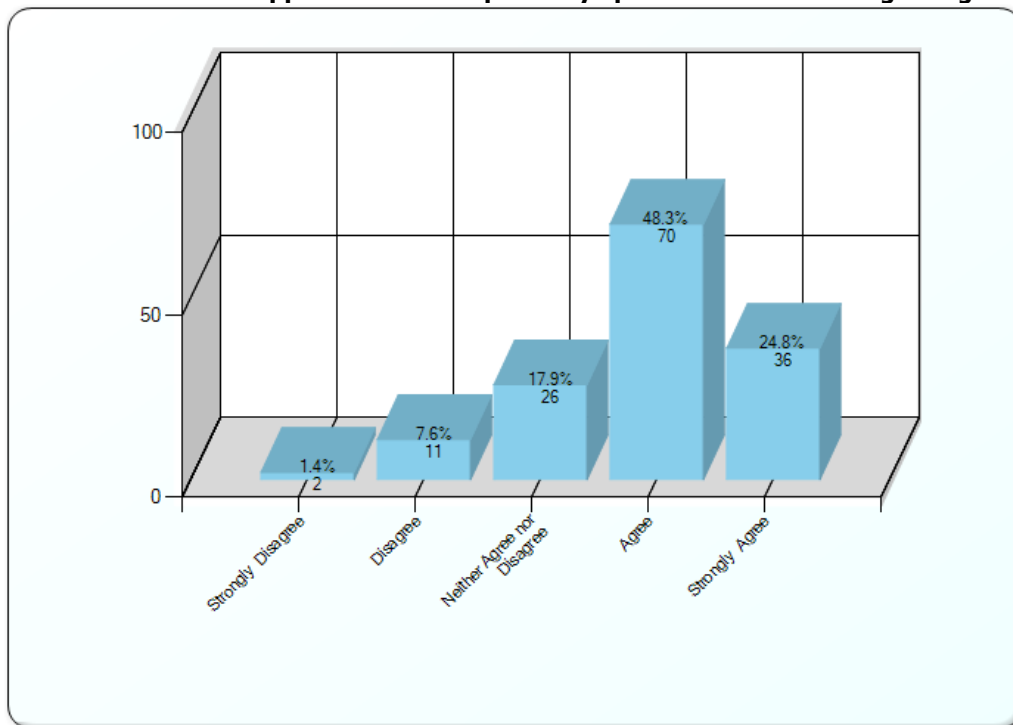
**21. School staff (teachers/principal) are responsive to parent concerns.**



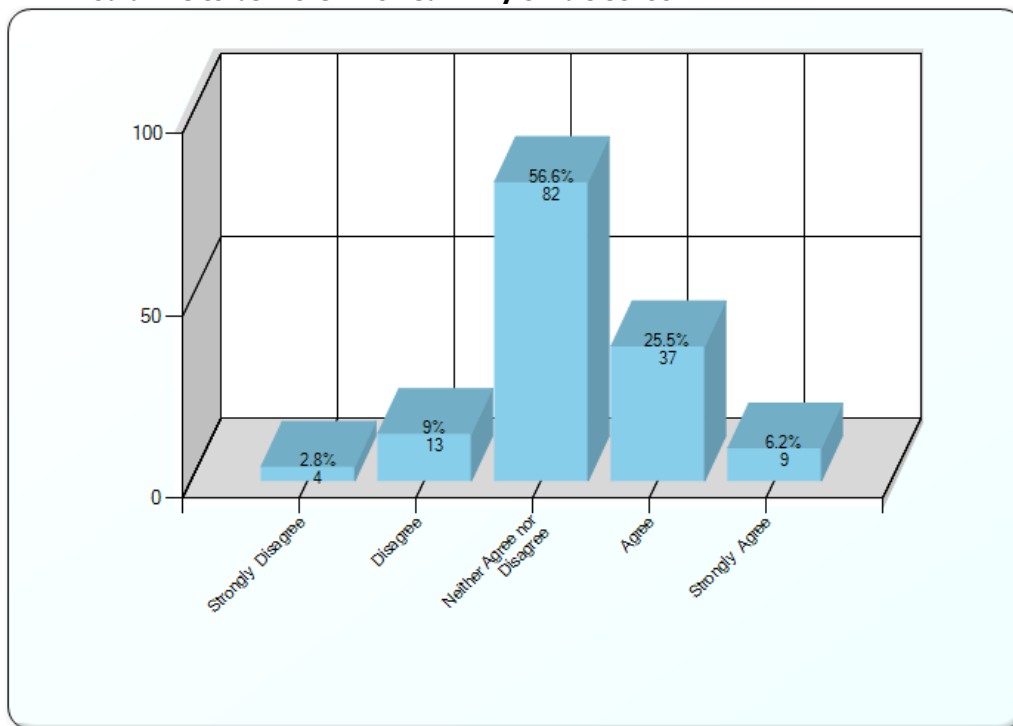
**22. District administration/Board of Ed are responsive to parent concerns.**



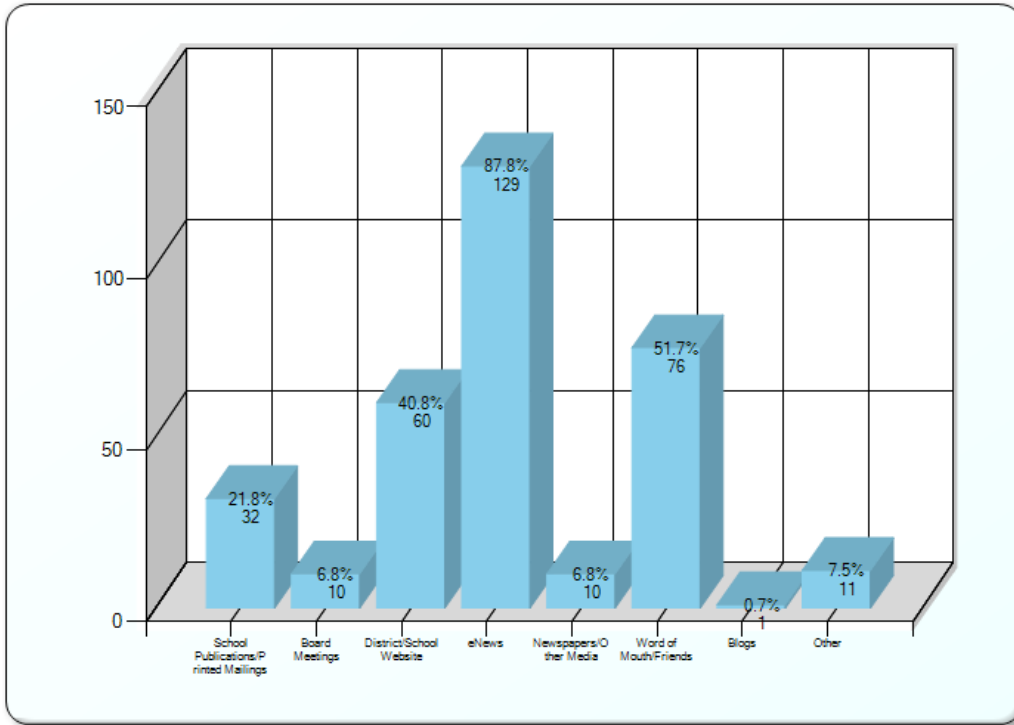
**23. I have sufficient opportunities to express my opinions or concerns regarding school.**



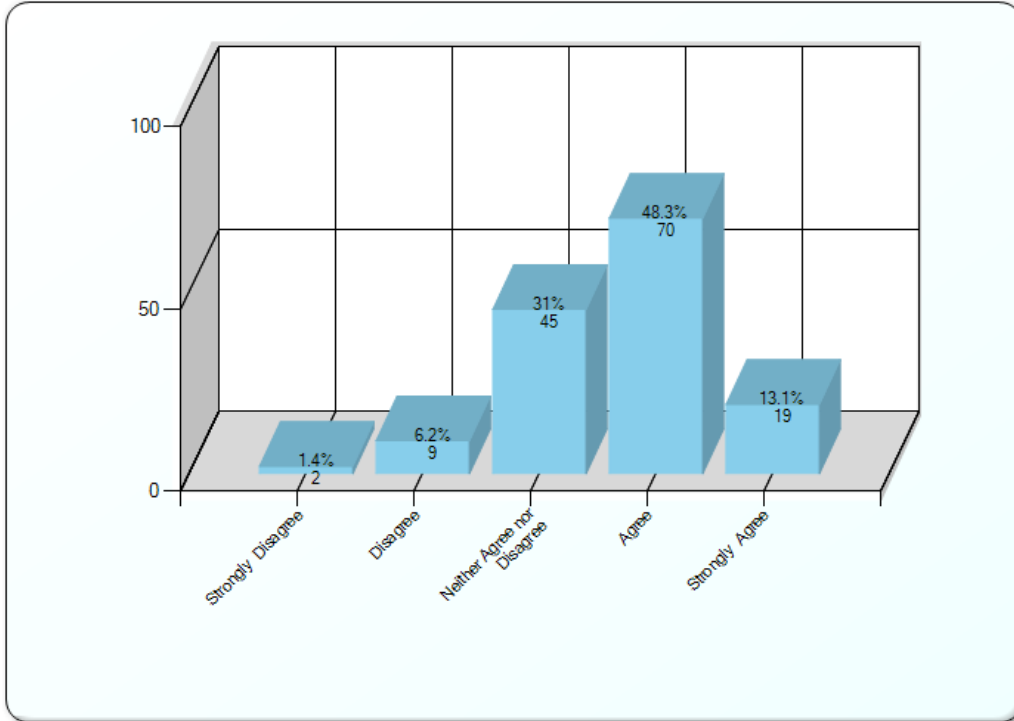
**24. I would like to be more involved in my child's school.**



**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 169 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

Of the total comments, 24 referenced the overall climate at Orchard School. Twenty-two of those comments expressed overall positive satisfaction with Orchard, with recurring themes of positive climate, and great atmosphere and staff.

### Academics/Curricular/Instruction

Of the total comments, 66 referenced academics, curriculum and instruction. Sixteen positive comments were expressed on either the overall academic program, or about specific curricular areas. Of the 16 positive comments, seven were about the high quality of the teachers. Fifty negative comments were expressed on either the overall academic program, or about specific curricular areas. Of the 50 negative comments: 11 expressed the need for differentiated instruction; seven pertained to the Physical Education program; five pertained to the math program; five were about homework; and four were about the music and/or art programs.

### Extra-Curricular

Of the total comments, 14 referenced extra-curricular activities at Orchard. Nine comments were positive overall, with the drama program frequently mentioned. Five comments were negative overall.

### Facilities

Of the total comments, 23 referenced the buildings and grounds/facilities. Four comments were overall positive. Nineteen comments were negative, mentioning either the overall condition of the buildings and grounds/facilities, or specifying multiple rooms or locations. Of the 19 negative comments: four specifically stated that the Multi-Purpose Room/Gym was too hot; five mentioned the condition of the Orchard fields.

### Communications

Of the total comments, 21 referenced communications. Seven comments were overall positive. Fourteen comments were negative. Of the 14 negative comments: seven were about teacher feedback; seven were about the website and/or e-news.

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

Thank you for your participation in our Annual Parent Survey!

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
[dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us](mailto:dfishbein@ridgewood.k12.nj.us)  
201-670-2700, ext. 10530