

Ridgewood Public Schools

Annual Parent Survey

2009-2010 Report

Benjamin Franklin Middle School

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
BFMS	687	882	368	42%
District	5618	6697	2573	38%

How can you use these survey results?

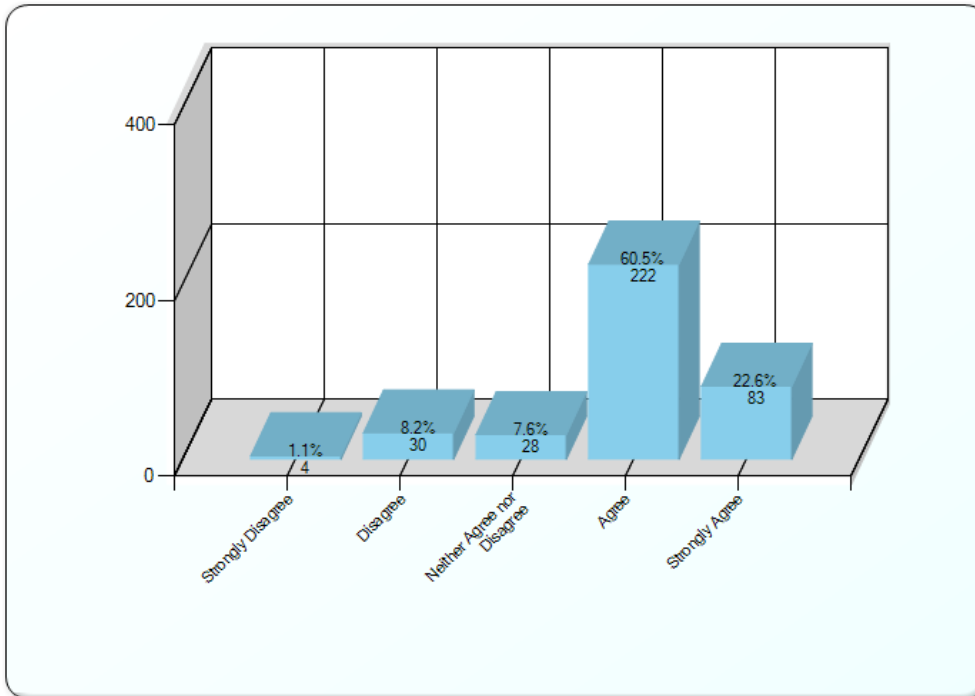
You and your school community can use the results of this survey to start conversations about your school, especially in terms of teaching and instruction, extracurricular activities, facilities, communications, parent engagement, administration and more. Parents are encouraged to talk with each other,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

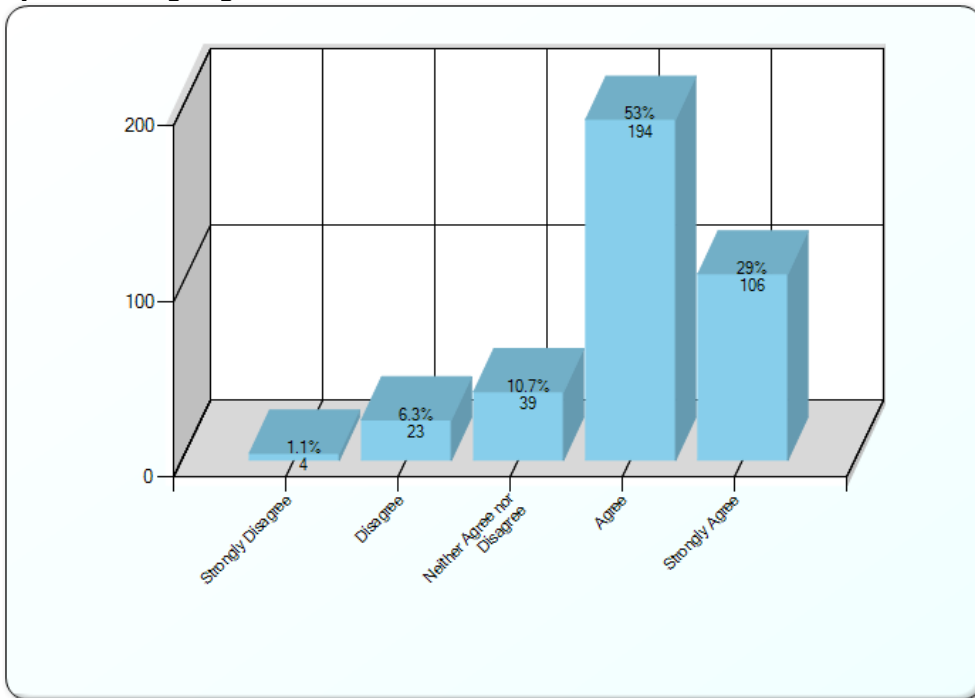
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Results: Parent Opinion Survey 2009 – 2010

GENERAL: OVERALL SATISFACTION AND CLIMATE

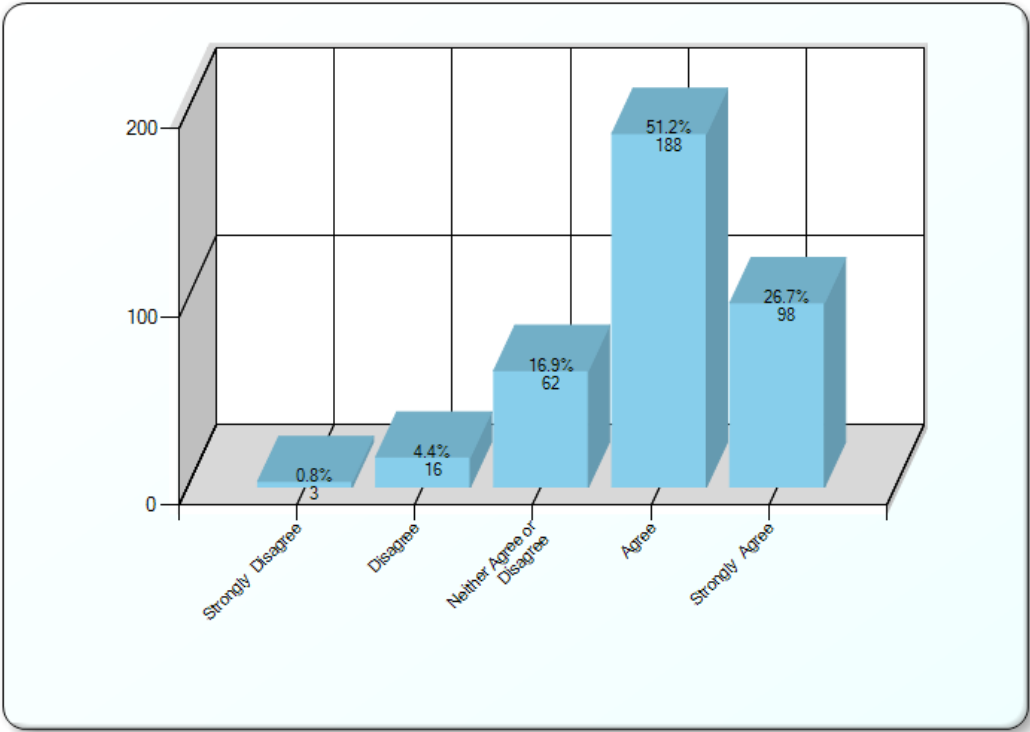
1. I am satisfied with the overall quality of my child's education.



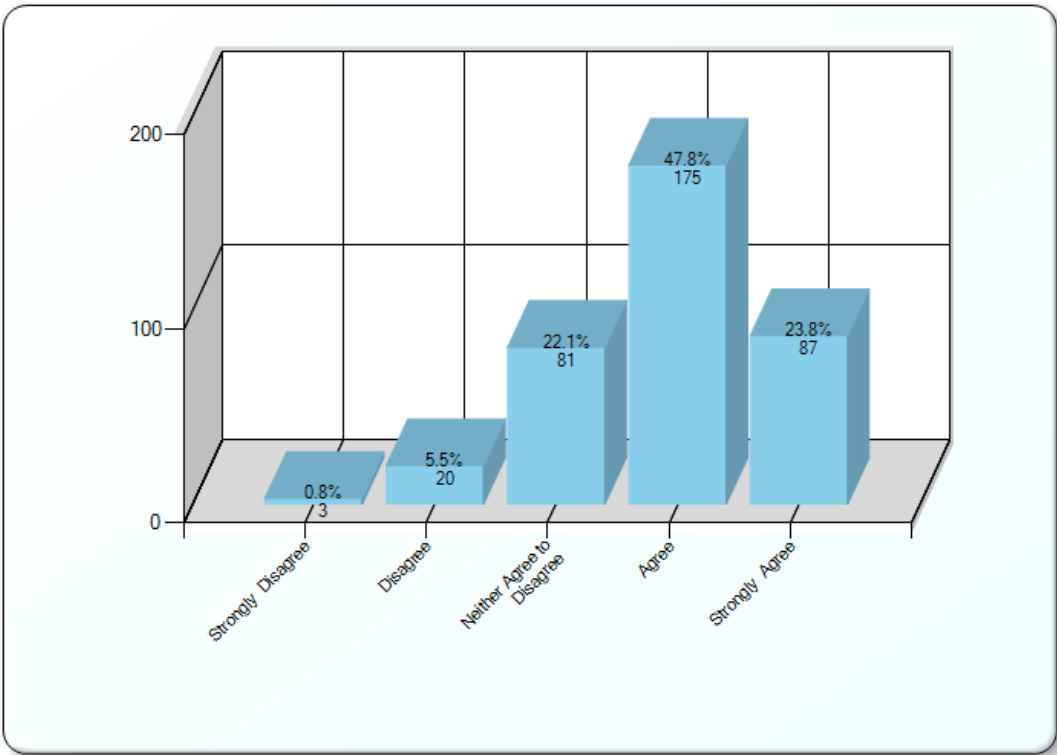
2. My child likes going to school.



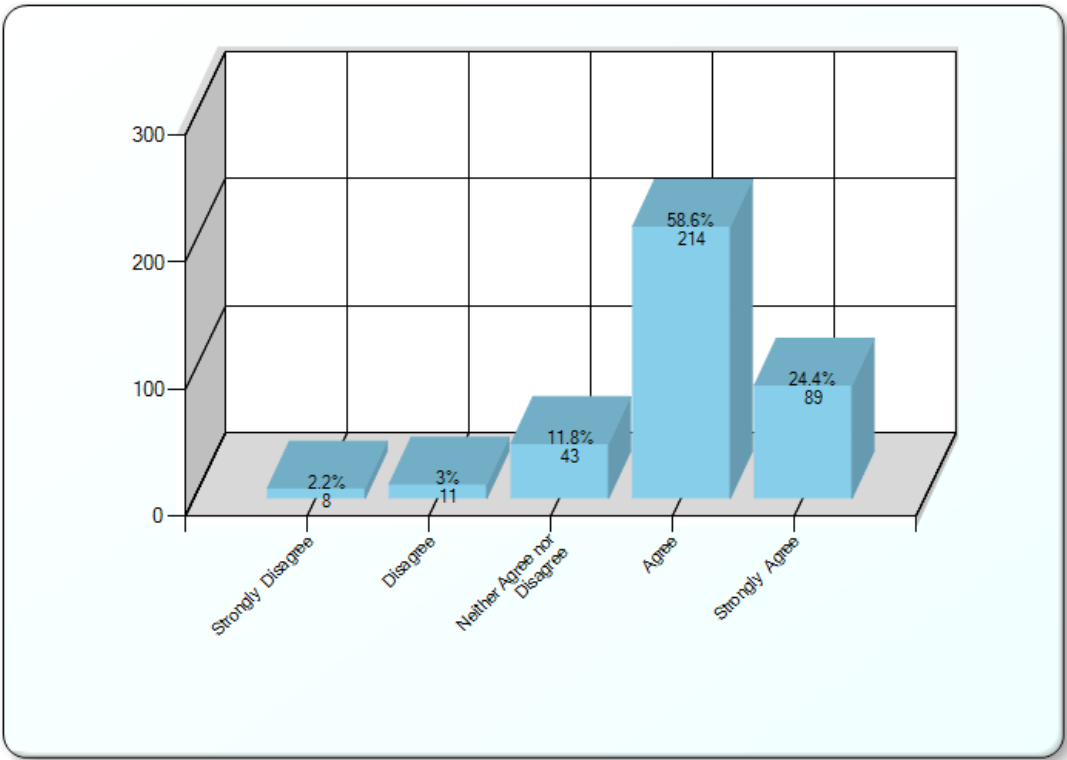
3. I would recommend my child's school to other parents.



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

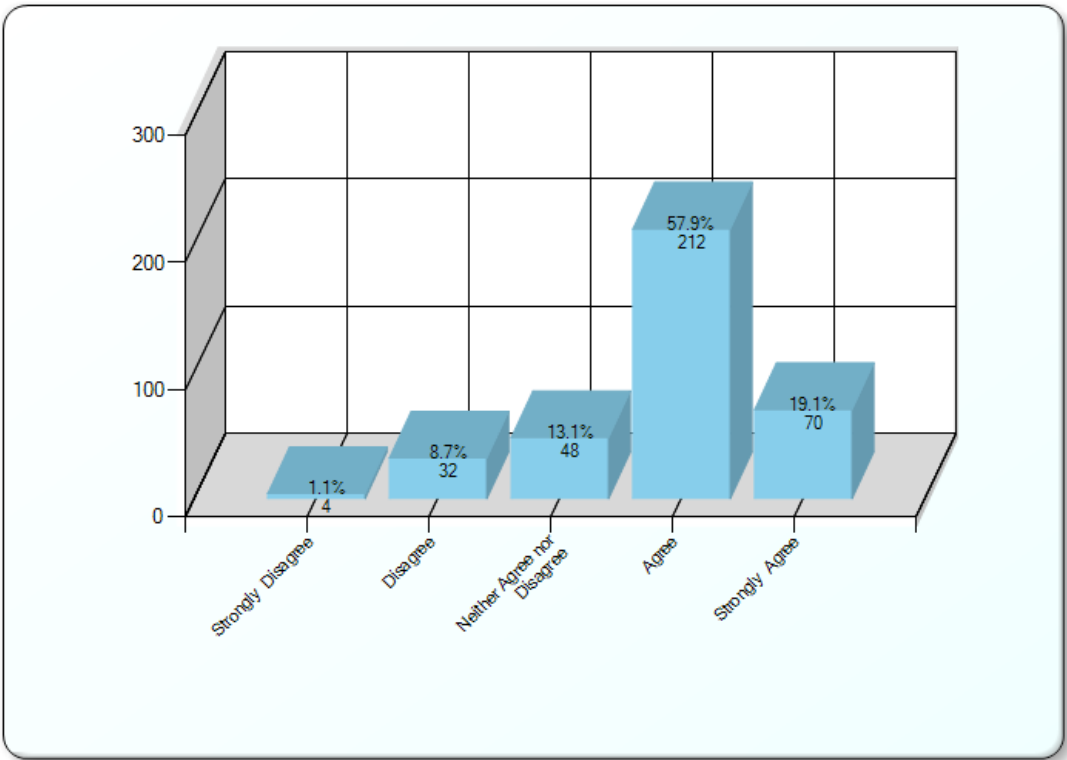


5. My child is safe at school.

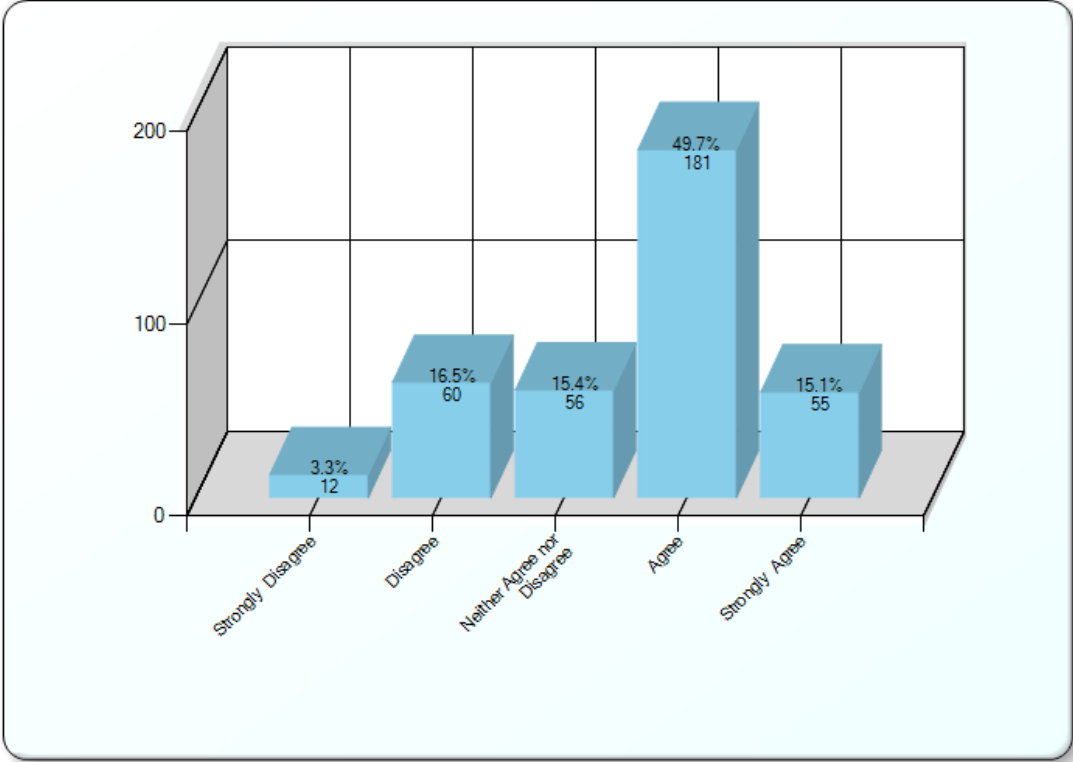


ACADEMICS / CURRICULUM / INSTRUCTION

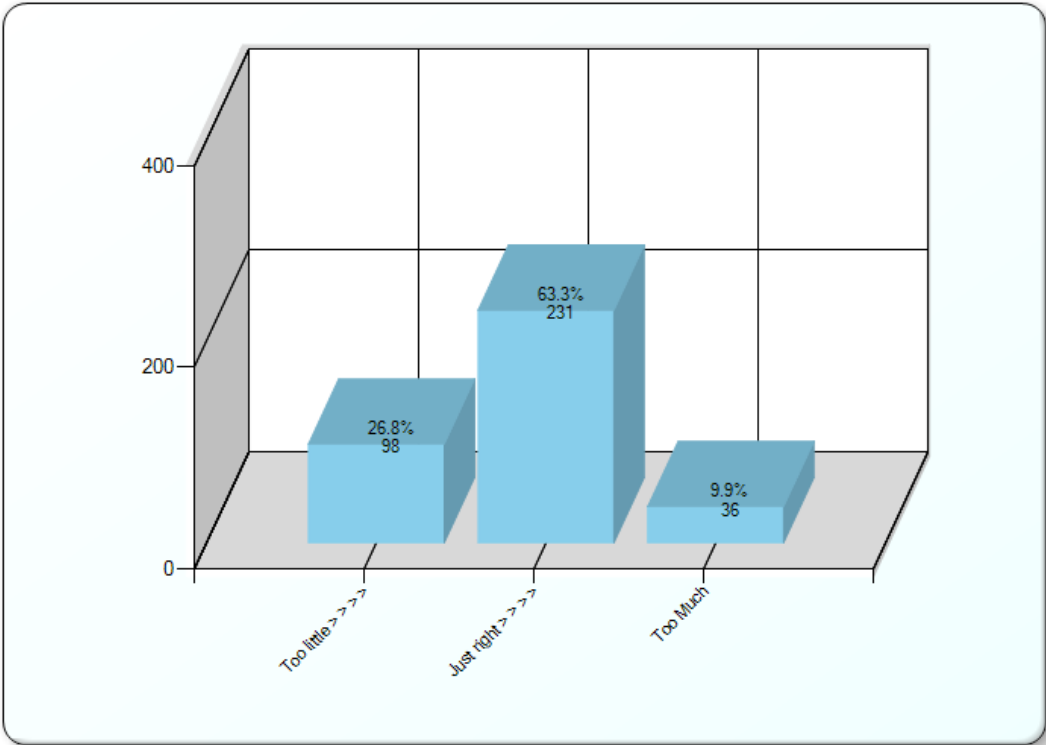
6. I am pleased with the academic progress of my child.



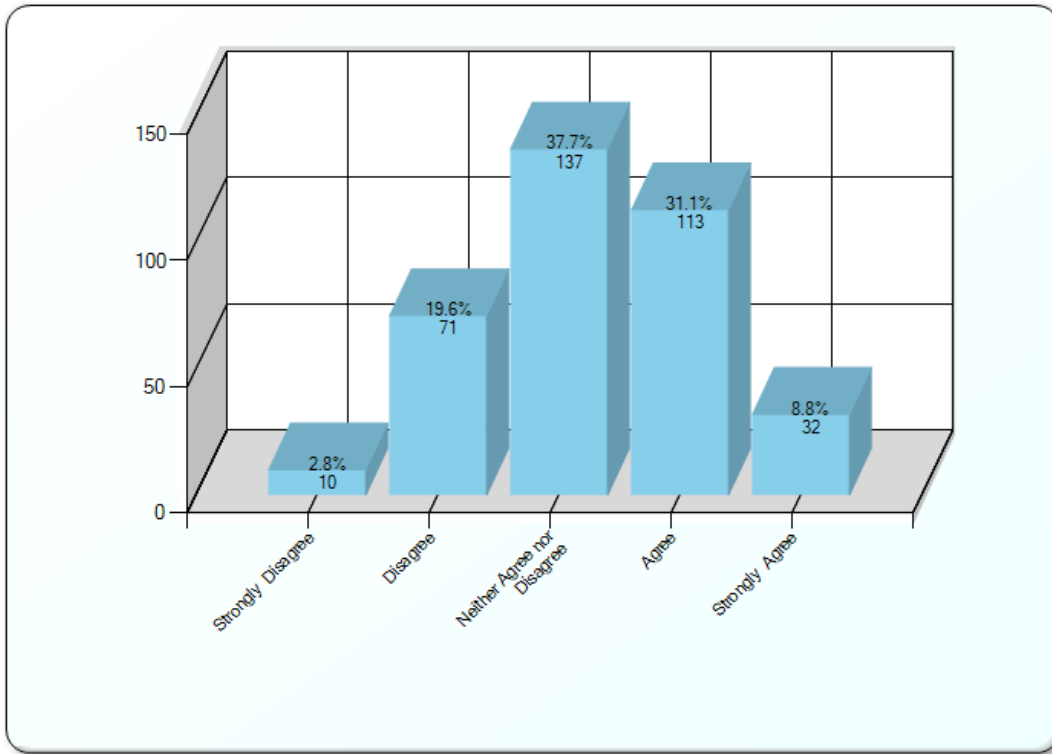
7. My child is challenged academically.



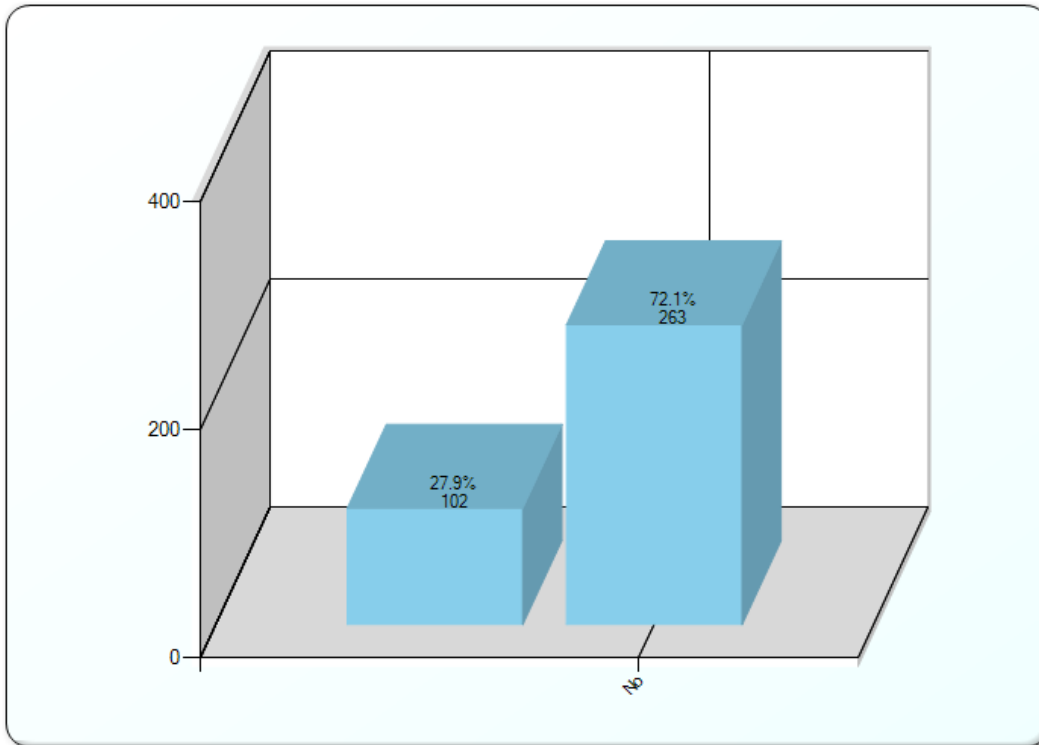
8. The amount of homework my child receives is:



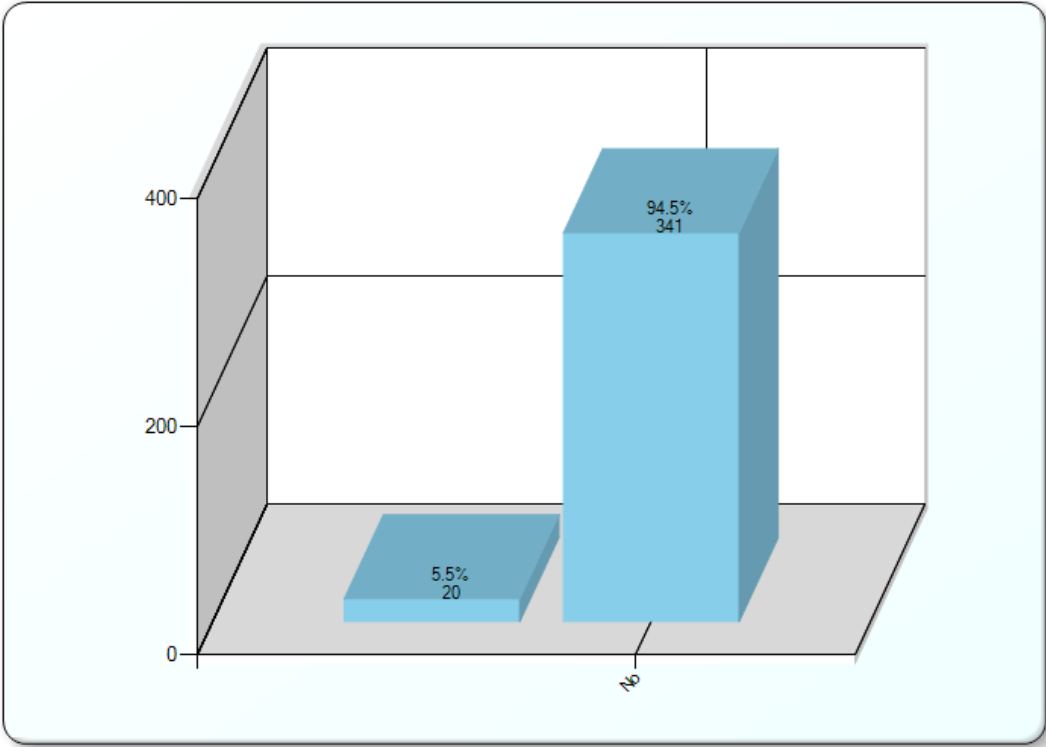
9. The school gives me ideas and opportunities to help my child do his/her best.



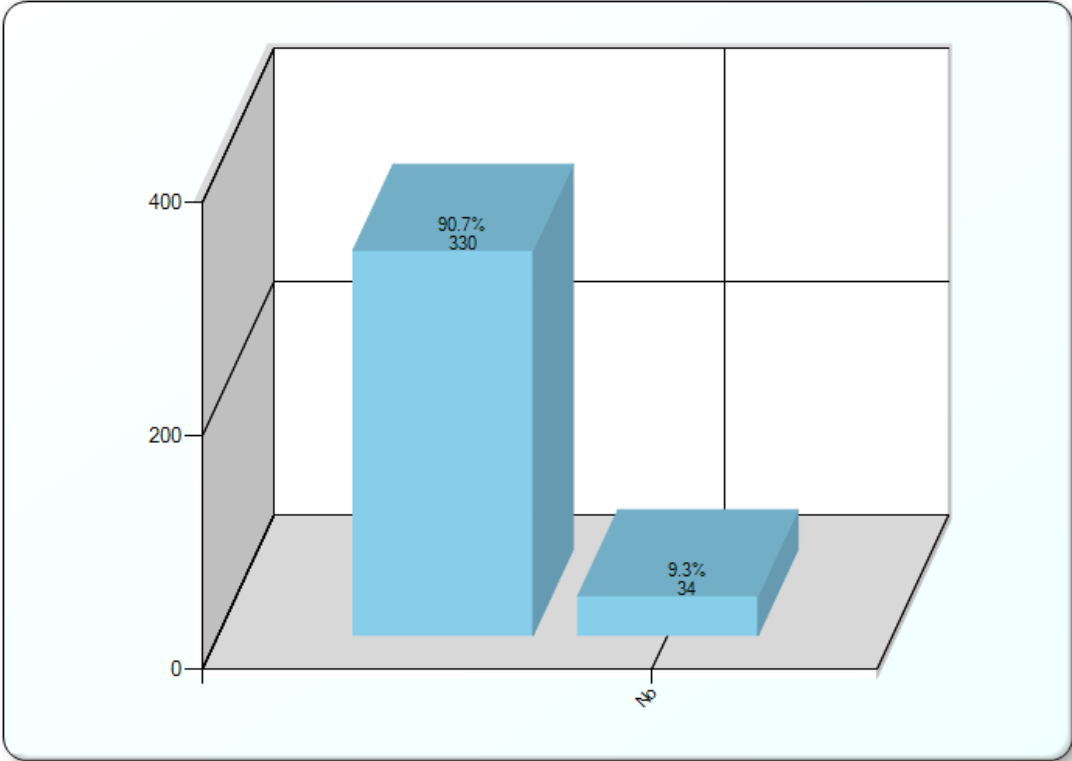
10. I supplement my child's education with professional tutoring in core subjects such as math or reading (other than SAT prep).



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

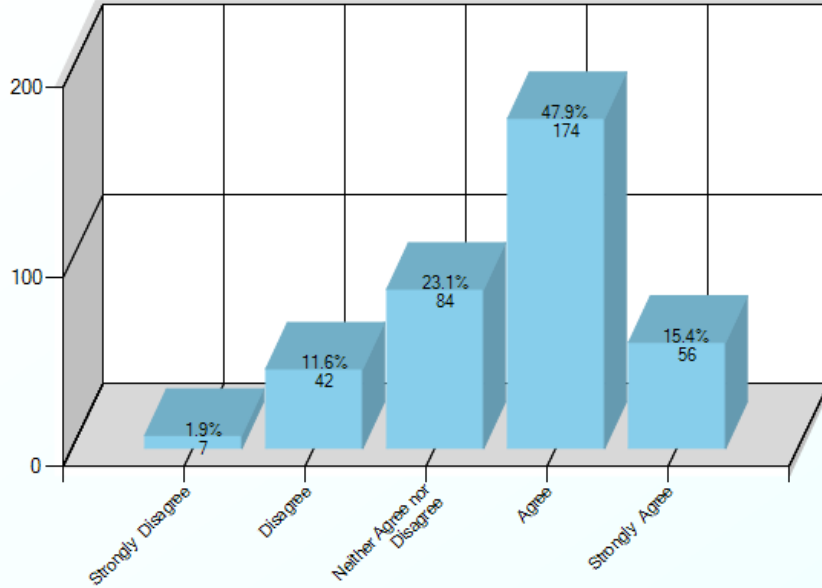


12. My child attended pre-school prior to enrolling in kindergarten.

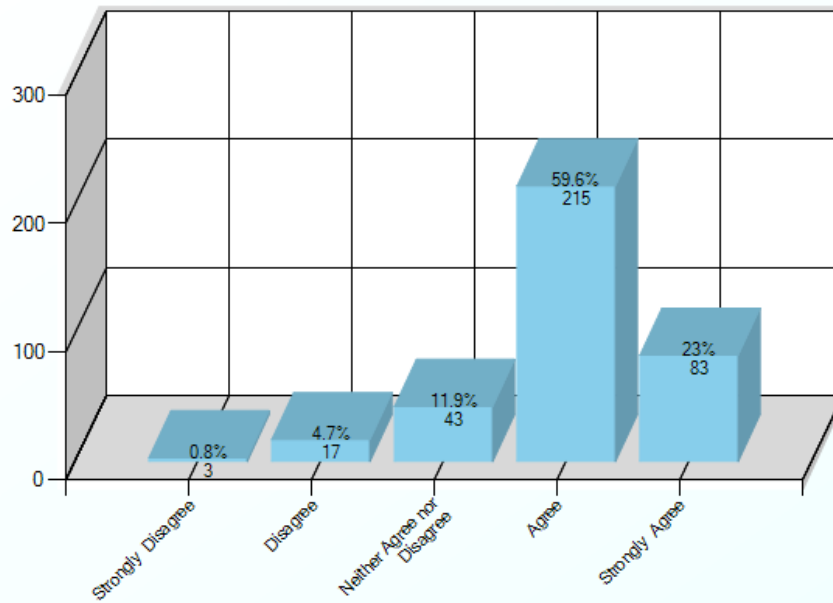


EXTRACURRICULARS

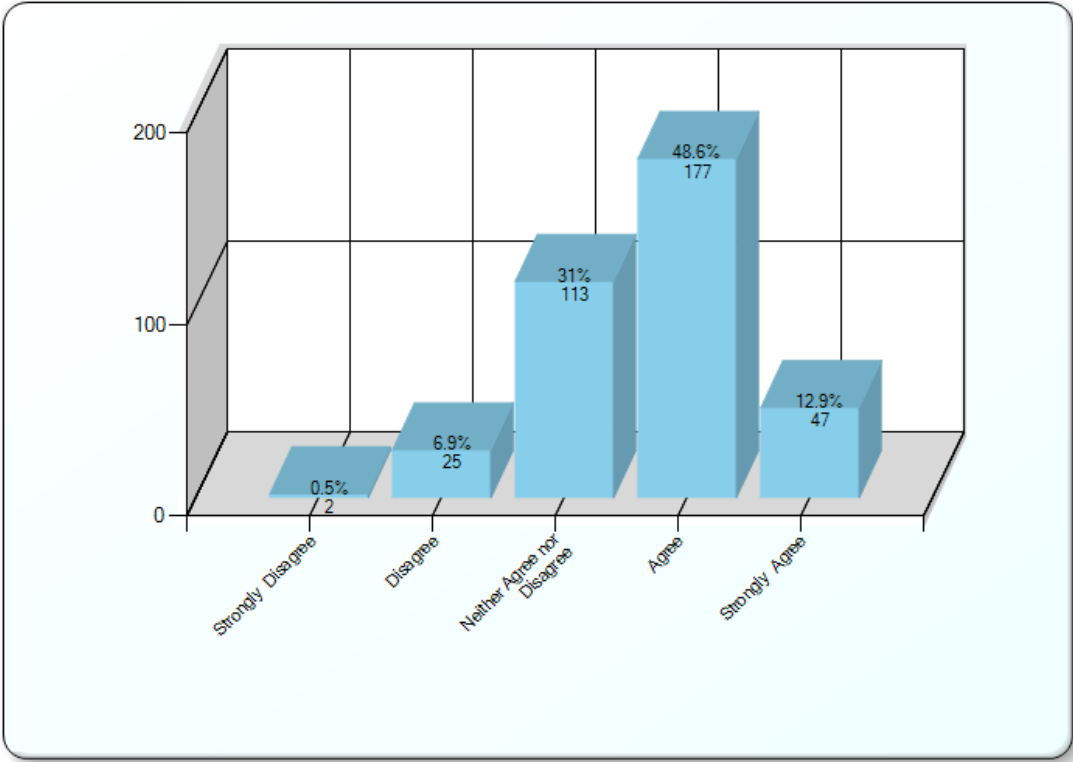
13. I am satisfied with the non-sports extracurricular opportunities (music, drama, art, etc.) in school.



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

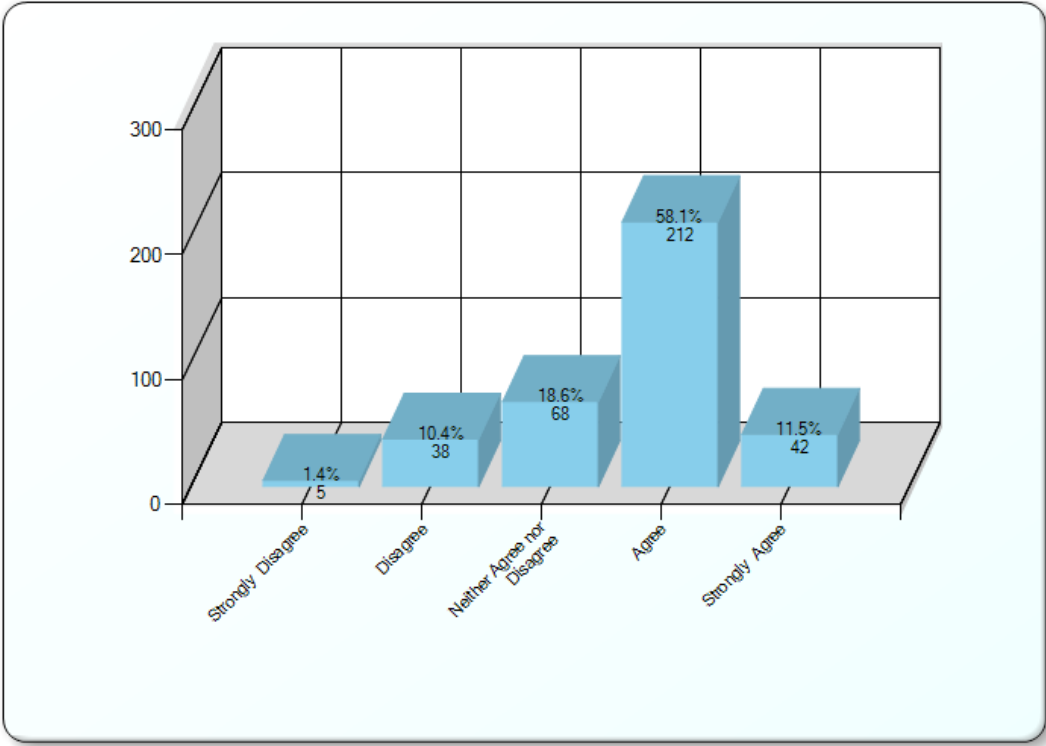


15. My child is encouraged to try new things at school.

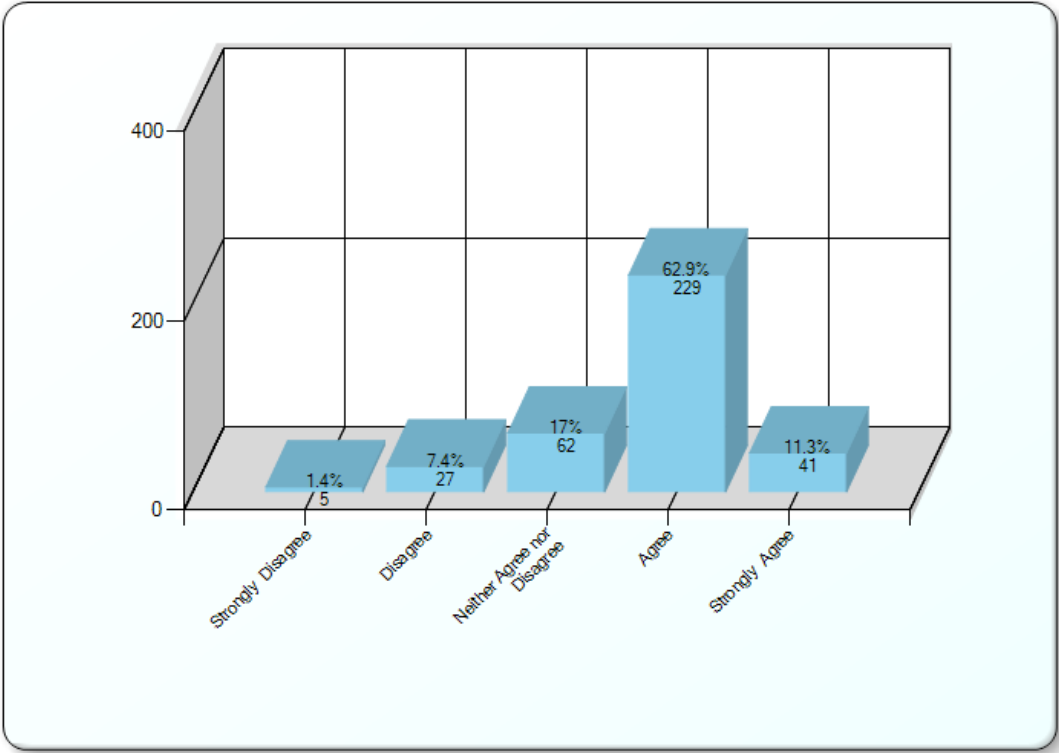


FACILITIES

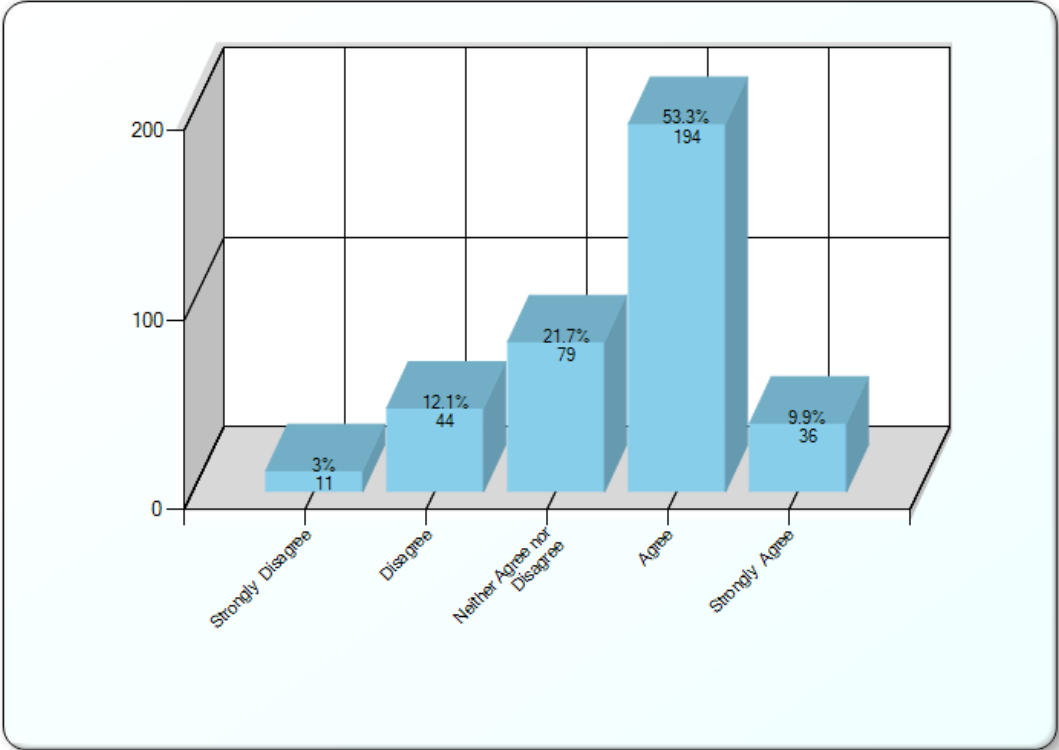
16. I am satisfied with the quality of the physical spaces at my child's school.



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

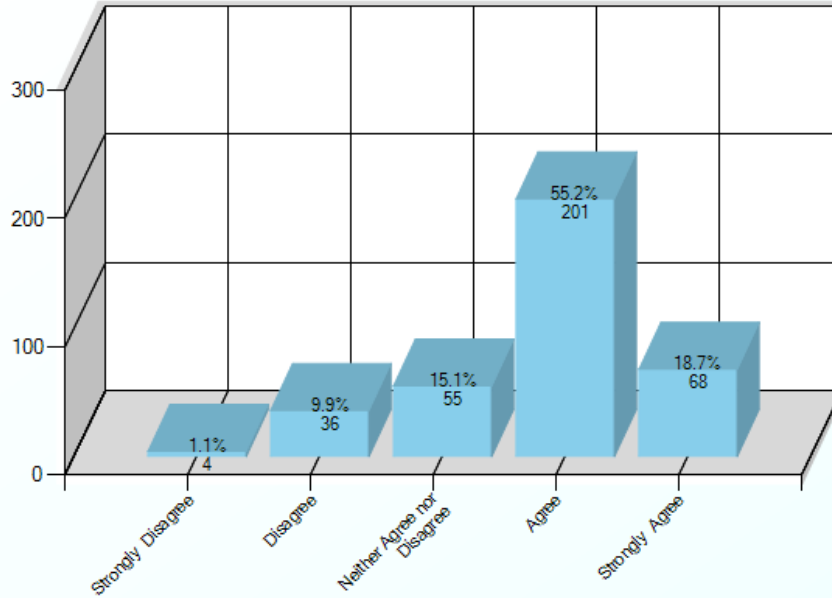


18. The condition/quality of our school athletic facilities is acceptable.

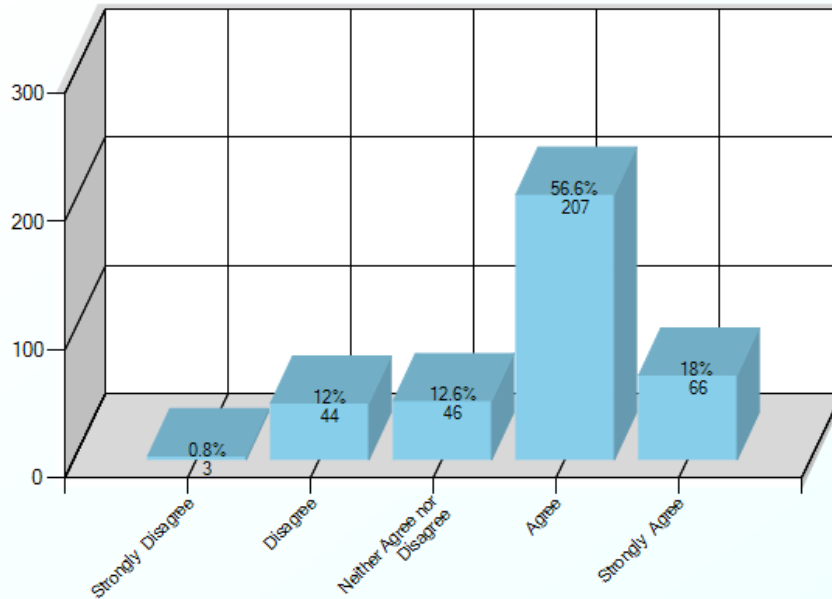


COMMUNICATIONS

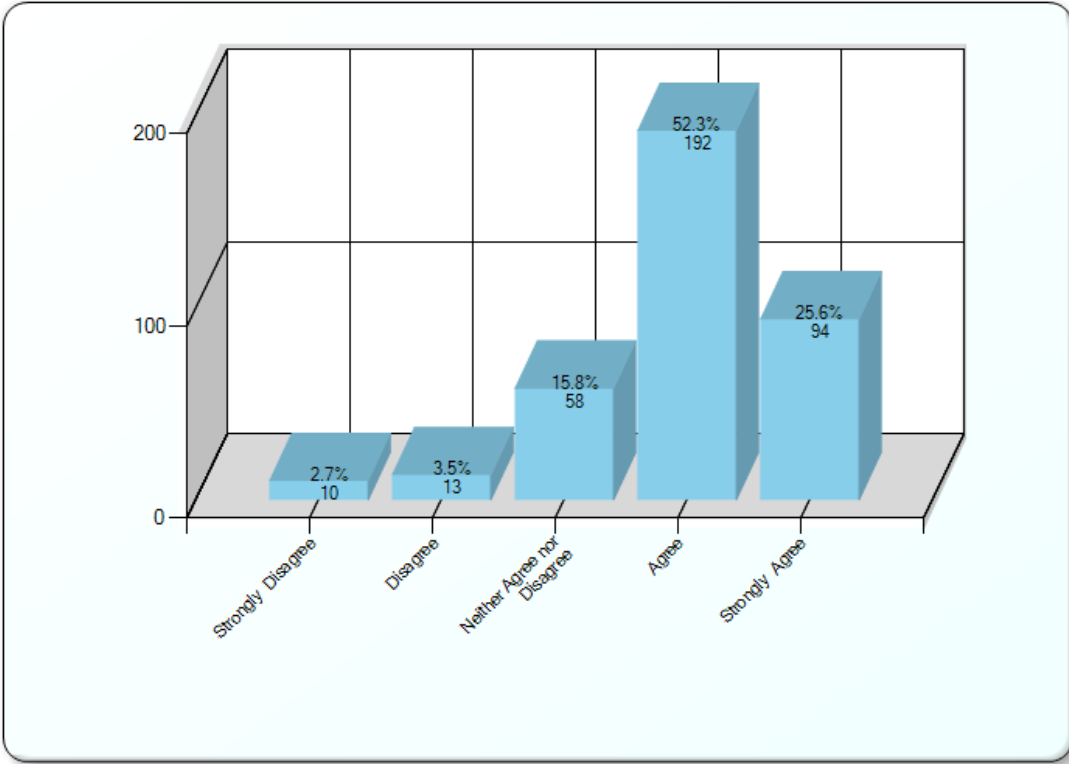
19. I feel well-informed about school programs/services/activities.



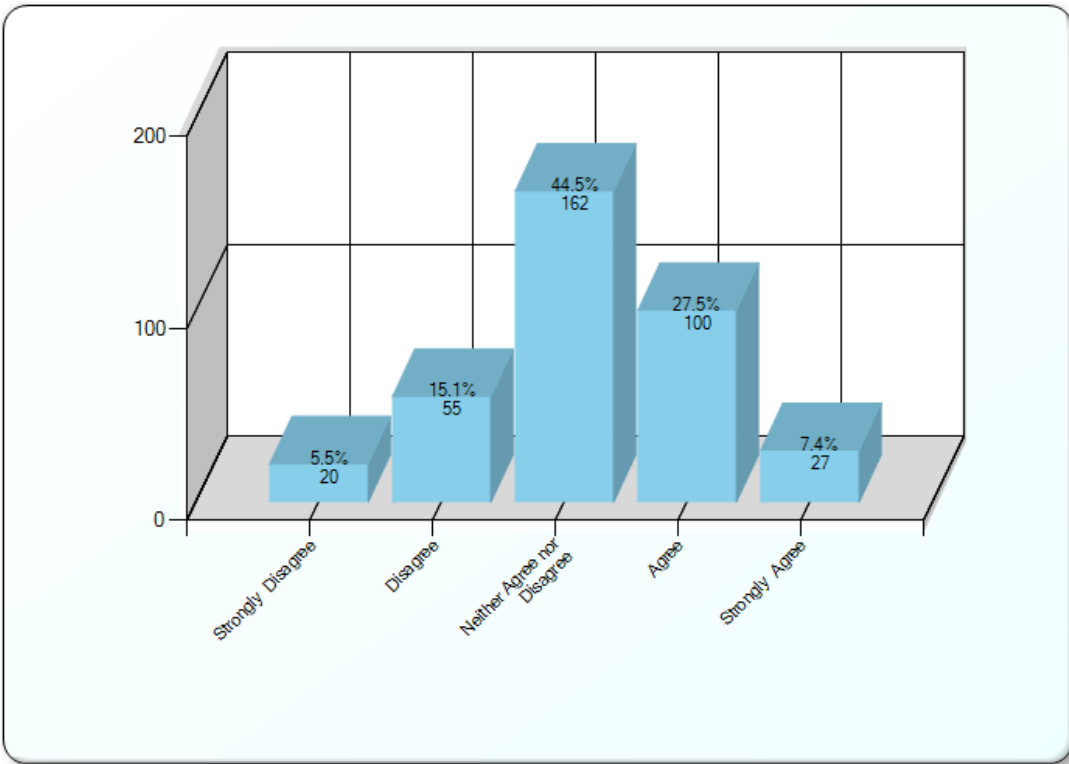
20. The school keeps me informed of my child's progress.



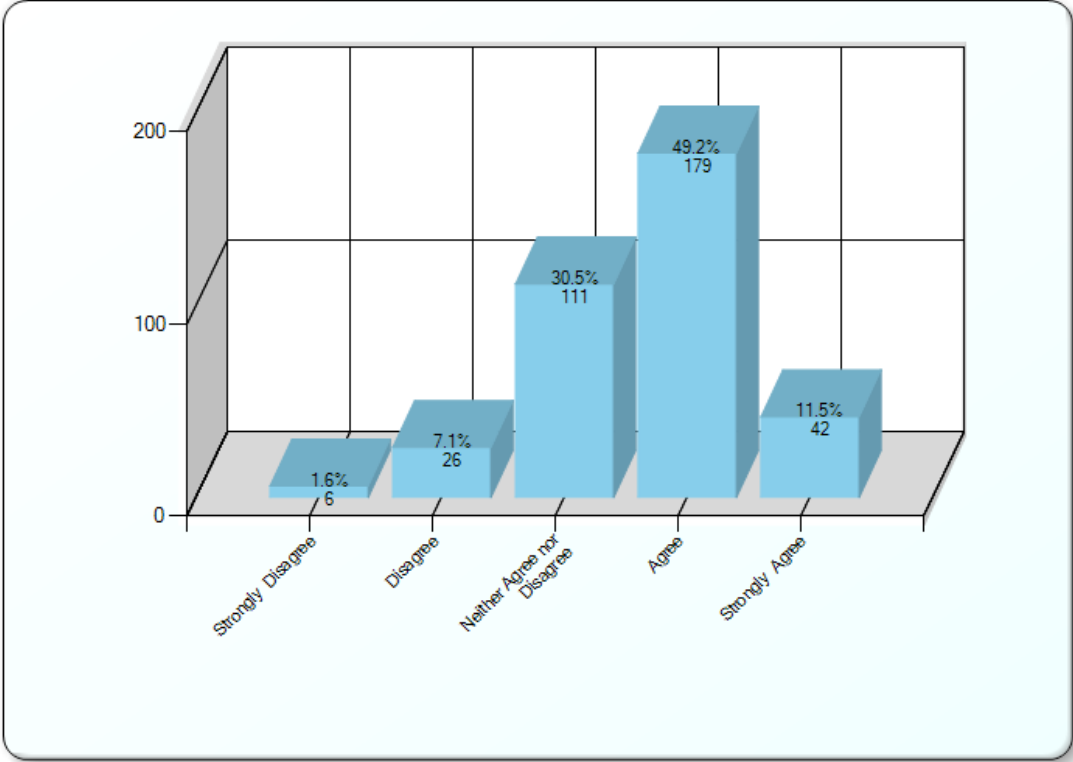
21. School staff (teachers/principal) are responsive to parent concerns.



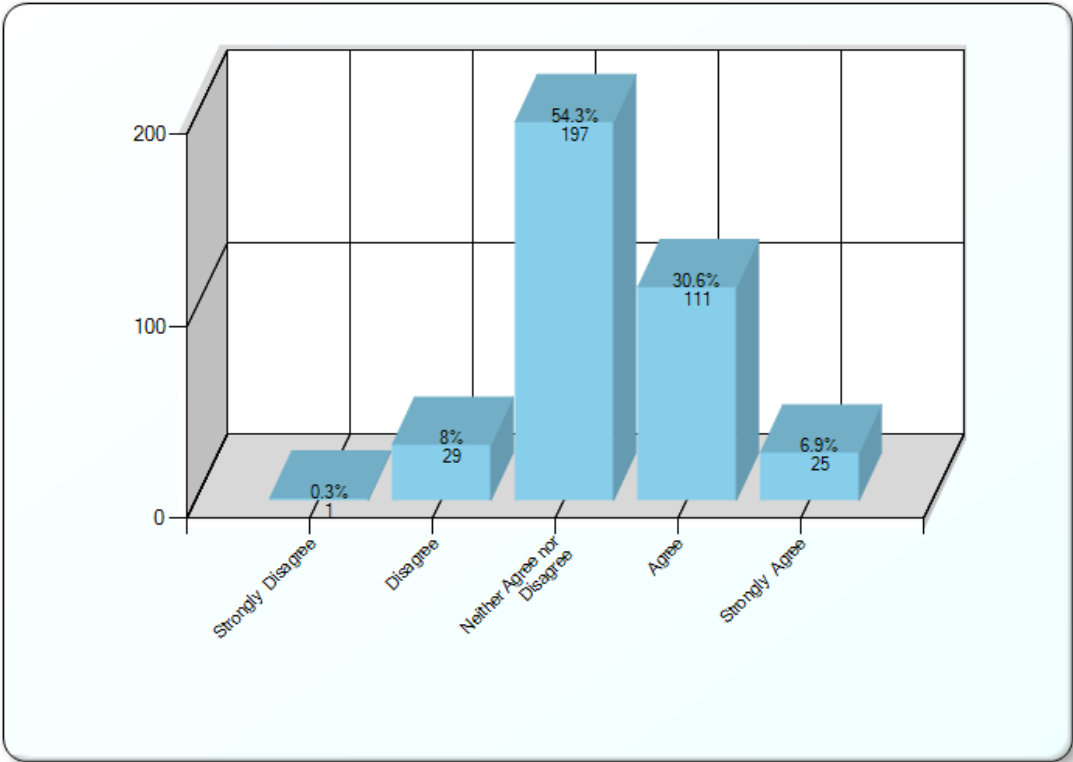
22. District administration/Board of Ed are responsive to parent concerns.



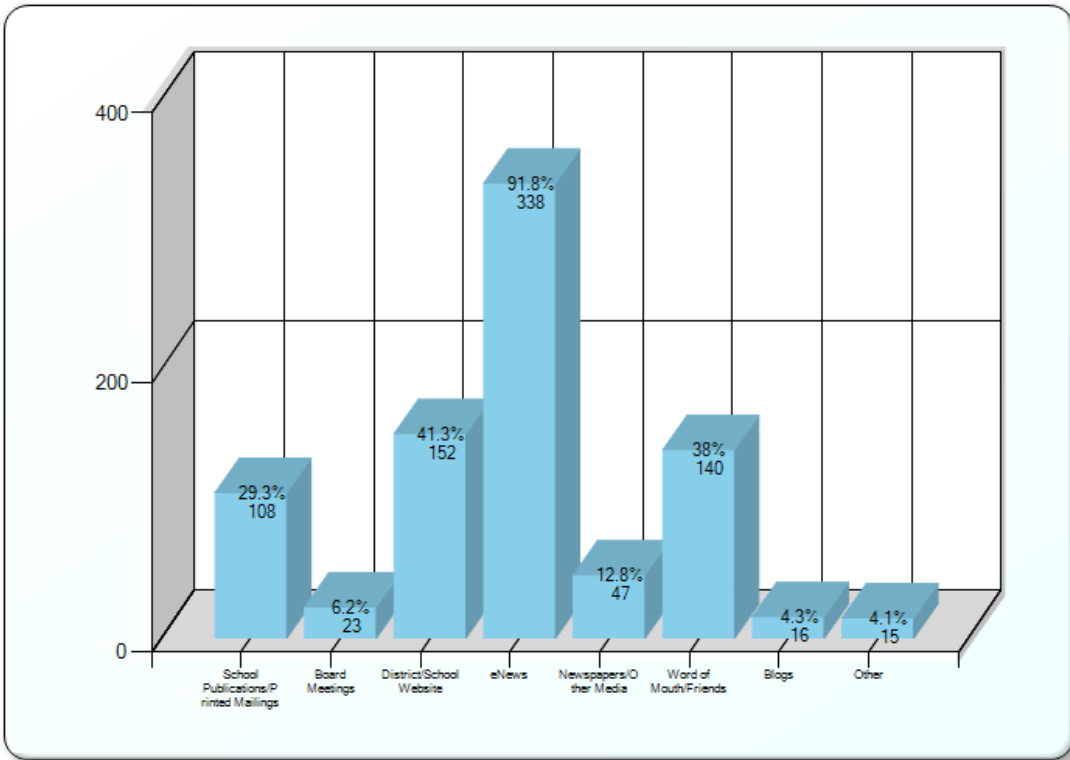
23. I have sufficient opportunities to express my opinions or concerns regarding school.



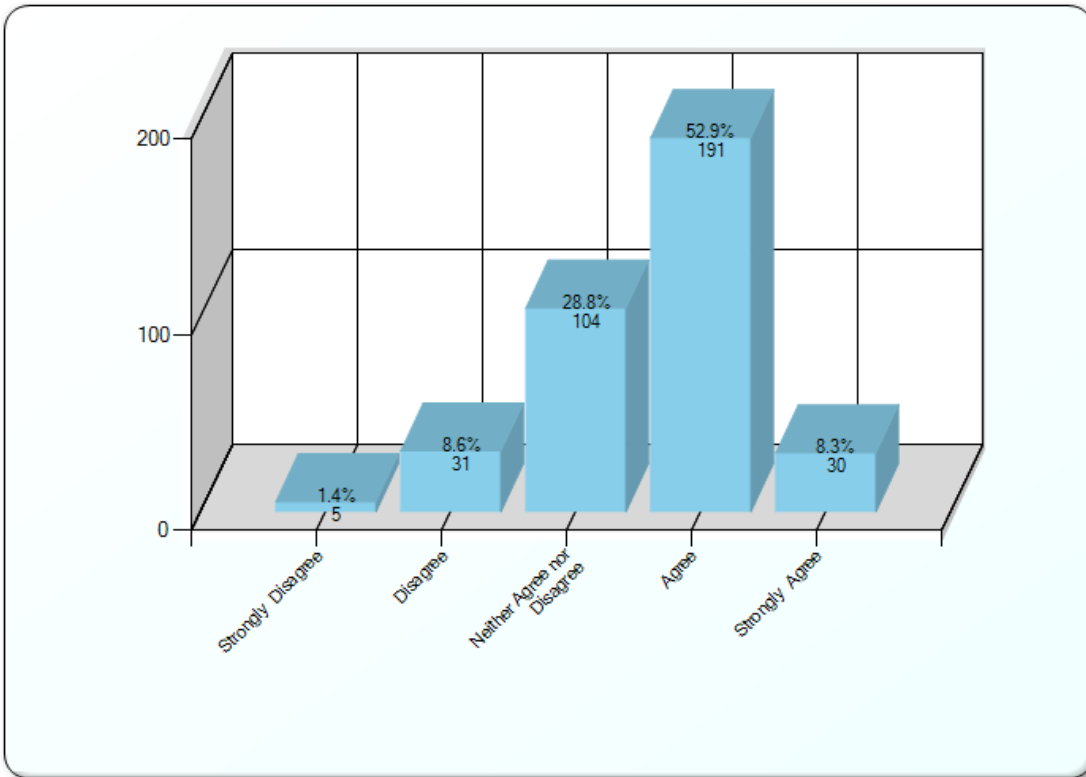
24. I would like to be more involved in my child's school.



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 397 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 25 comments on school climate, most of them positive. Two expressed concerns about bullying in the school. Eighty-eight were about safety, 81 of which were concerns about the proposed Valley Hospital expansion, specifying a compromised learning environment; the need for an environmental study; pedestrian and traffic safety issues; and the loss of field-use during construction.

Academics/Curriculum/Instruction

There were 101 comments referencing academics, curriculum and instruction. Satisfaction with the new Social Studies program was expressed. Forty-four comments were directed at the need for more rigor. Respondents wanted their children to read more classics; have more writing assignments; and eight comments specifically stated that students were not being prepared for high school. Sixteen respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the math program, stating, for example, that it is weak and not suited to different types of learners. There were 15 comments about homework, specifically that the amount was uneven -- sometimes much too much and sometimes none at all.

Extracurricular

There were 25 comments on extra-curricular activities. There was strong support for more arts activities – especially music – and a desire for more organized sports and more variety in the after-school offerings. Some felt that the clubs should be more purposeful and better organized. Some felt that extra-curriculars could be better advertised to parents and students.

Facilities

There were 39 comments on facilities, 28 of which pertained to building and maintenance issues: Bathrooms and stairwells should be cleaner; the building needs to be “spruced up” and updated; and the outside needs improvement. Eleven comments pertained to needed field improvements. Some acknowledged the bond referendum work and looked forward to the new track and fields.

Communications

There were 61 comments referencing communications at BFMS. Five respondents felt comfortable with the level of communication. Fifteen expressed a desire for better teacher-parent communication, wanting to know teachers' concerns about students in a timelier manner than waiting for progress reports. Respondents felt that progress reports did not accurately reflect how the student is doing. Nine comments expressed a lack of communication on extracurricular activities and suggested that this information be on the school calendar. Six suggested teachers use the web site more often and update their web pages. Thirteen voiced concerns that the Board of Education was not taking a stand on the Valley Renewal plan.

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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