



February 13, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you so much for your participation in the Climate and Culture Survey for the schools of the Diocese of Metuchen. Your input is an important part of the process of school improvement that we value in the Office of Schools. As we gather data from our families, educators and students, we are able to provide the most effective professional development for principals and teachers and consistently improve the curriculum for our students. There were 2,570 parents that took part in the survey, all across the Diocese. The surveys were available to students from Grade 3 through 12. We had 3,760 completed surveys.

We are pleased to share with you a summary of the information we gathered in those surveys. Aside from the demographic information, there were three questions about the climate and the culture of the school on the survey.

Question 1.

Which four of the following phrases best describe, in general, the kinds of things teachers in your child's school say to students?

Your responses indicate that the teachers: clearly express to the students what the expectations are for the lesson or assignment; engage the students in higher order thinking skills by asking them to explain the work they are completing; and, students are consistently receiving positive reinforcement.

Based on your responses, fewer than 10% of the students are being asked to repeat what they are saying in class. This reflects the students' ability to express themselves well and the teachers' attentiveness to the students.

Question 2.

Which four of the following words or phrases best describes, in general, the kinds of things your child is most often DOING while at school?

Your responses to this questions indicate that your student: is attentive in class; collaborates with others regularly; and, is given ample opportunities to demonstrate knowledge through formative assessment.

Based on your responses, fewer than 10% of the students are engaged in creating and demonstrating long-term projects. This is a critical part of the collaborative work that our students are engaged in across the curriculum, and will continue to improve by having students engage in an increased number of sustained inquiry projects as we move forward.

Question 3.

Which four of the following words best describe, in general, the interactions YOU have with staff at your child's school?

Your responses to this question indicated that your interactions in our schools are: respectful, supportive, helpful and comfortable.

Based on your responses, fewer than 10% have had uncomfortable interactions in our schools. Naturally, we will all be striving to improve on that percentage also.

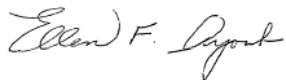
While the survey you completed was very brief, you can see that we gleaned a great deal from your participation. Now we are asking that you participate in another survey. This one is a bit longer (17 statements) and more traditional. This survey, **Catholic Identity Defining Characteristics**, solicits your input in the central role of each of our schools, our Catholic identity. Please use the link provided to complete your survey.

<https://eprovesurveys.advanc-ed.org/surveys/#/action/99615/p33469>

The survey is open now and will be available to you until March 15, 2019. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Thank you again for your attentiveness to this very important part of the educational process, assessing and improving all that we do. As Catholic school educators, we are blessed to be collaborating with you as we lead your child to a closer relationship with Jesus in an atmosphere that is distinctly Catholic and academically excellent. Thank you for that blessing.

Sincerely,



Ellen F. Ayoub
Secretary of Education