

Additional Comments about 2016 Survey in comparison to where we are now.

Safety in School:

Behavior concerns:

Seeing a large uptick in students, we have not seen an uptick in behavior issues. That has been positive. Part of it may be related to smaller class sizes and ability to manage behaviors in classroom. Training of staff, character/responsibilities initiatives in elementary have all be positive in helping keep behaviors in check.

We have seen some isolated incidents of chemical use in high school in terms of reports/students being caught. Although I think in past there were similar violations with chewing tobacco and smoking during open lunch that weren't caught.

Bus:

We have seen normal amount of tickets/incidents. Younger children staying in seat, listening to drivers seem to be the highest item ticketed. I would like to still consider initiative of having upper elementary/junior high bus assistants available to help drivers with younger children remain in seats or keep them occupied by talking with them to help on buses.

Student Recognition:

We added more elements to the end of year awards day. We have not implemented student of the month yet- but could be something added. Always encourage positive notes/calls home. Recognition for improvement has not been accomplished yet. This is an area we could implement a few ideas that would be very positively received.

Student Learning Communication with Teachers:

Since last survey we have added Knowledge Bowl and now One Act Play. Karlstad may have interest if enough student interest is there to combine towards other academic activities if enough interest can be developed.

Hire of a community education coordinator will be positive. Right now focus is on increasing some options for adult options as that was a weak point in our programming. We've added several academic/recreation options for youth.

One proposal for conferences from a couple of high school teachers was interesting and worth exploration. Perhaps have high school conferences one long night per quarter rather than the 2 night twice a year set up we have now. We could keep elementary the same or with smaller class sizes, consider the once a quarter option- long night as well. This could increase communication opportunity for those that want it. At high school level those that teacher quarter electives may never see a parent they need to. Our parents find value as face to face meeting and conferences showed the most value.

Online Courses: Was an area of caution and remains so. Some students are not ready. Some that struggle if they dig a hole if they don't seek out help. Supervision and time on task concerns are also there.

Extra help within school day: We have a Foundations of learning added to the high school and a good number of paraprofessionals within the building. We also have supportive after school programming at elementary level. One area for possible development: 8:00 to 8:30 at the high school - teachers are here and available;

however all kids are in commons and are not seeking additional assistance. Perhaps a system where teachers make appointments with students that they see needing extra assistance will help this grow into an opportunity.

Technology:

High Speed and Internet was a barrier in some households. Satisfaction with technology is high.

We've done some improvements limiting access to entertainment options when students are on deficiency until they get grades back up.

Parents still want kids to have text books- easier for them to relate if help is needed.

District Communication:

Newsletter/School Messenger/E-mail all high for parents.

Facebook lower.

We provide access to parentvue- perhaps an addition to our orientations would be good for training on how to use it.

We've used school messenger a little more frequently for reminders and not just for emergencies like weather closings.

We have tried to add more data to items on Google Calendar and add reminders for key things.

Areas reported done well:

Teacher staff, support staff, safe, care, communication

Areas for growth:

More communication in terms of sports schedules/practice schedules; quicker communication regarding missing work/grades; additional support; improve in terms of respecting privacy/confidentiality (we have provided sessions for staff in training on this topic).

Highlights since 2016:

Enrollment > 387 in spring of 2016; currently 427

Capital Improvements 2018:

Tilting Skillet for Kitchen

New Playground Equipment (Dinosaur, Spinami, and Climbing Walls/slide)

Security Cameras throughout buildings

HVAC Replacement in Shop

Office Remodel HS

Carpeting special education area in Newfolden and Library area Newfolden

New Classrooms Newfolden Elementary

Converted HS Hallways and Bus Garage to LED

Sidewalk Repairs

Added 3 classrooms in having new desks/chairs in high school (more group opportunities/configurations)

New Garage Doors - Viking

New Freezer Viking

New Countertops Viking Kitchen

New Bus

New Chromebooks for teachers and 9th and 10th grade

Additional Chromebook lab in Newfolden elementary

New Ipads Newfolden Elementary

Upgraded Wireless and added wifi to outdoor classroom

Capital Improvements 2017:

New Refrigerator Staff in Viking

Stage Door Replacement both schools

Carpeting on Ramp, new elementary classroom, Teachers lounge, office in Newfolden Elementary

Improved Road out to Propane Tank area

Rock under Propane Tank area

Replacement of Plumbing in Kitchen in Newfolden

Outdoor Classroom Building

LED Replacement in Offices, Lounge, Conference area of High school

Upgraded all outdoor LED Emergency Lighting

Traded in older suburban and purchased a new one

United network infrastructure between Viking and other two schools

Added audio enhancement to music rooms

New Classroom Newfolden Elementary

Added Chromecasts to all rooms

Added Flatscreens to commons for signage/announcements

Chromebook Printer in Library for HS students

Capital Improvements 2016:

Roof Repair Gym Roof

Weight Room Replacmeent

Conference Room Chairs

Softball Field Fencing

Complete Boiler Project HS

Water Bottle fillers HS and NE

Replaced all lighting with LED Viking Elementary

Replaced Garage Openers in Viking

New School Bus

Chromebooks Viking and Newfolden Elementary

Upgraded Projectors to brighter models

30 Chromebook Lab for HS

Upgraded Wireless

Hovercams to all rooms in elementary