

Question: List up to three specific things that the District could do to improve on making sure that students feel welcome, safe, and valued.

(192 responses)

1. More well paid happy staff
2. focus more on bullying, taking responsibility
3. NA
4. Providing more opportunities for extra curricular activities
5. Welcome assembly to go over procedures and athletics, give out fruitport gear, have a community kickoff event (non sports related) to kickoff the school year
6. prioritize mental health, prioritize behavioral health/supports, improve engagement/relationships
7. Not just listen to the students, but make changes based on what they are communicating.
8. Better teacher and student relationships, including more diversity into our programming
9. More trauma trained teachers, Family focused support, More SEL personnel in the buildings daily
10. Smaller class sizes, so no child feels alone.
11. I think staff and administration can use inclusive language and lead by example on inclusivity
12. provide a schedule that allows students more engagement in classes that they have an interest in
13. provide space or areas students can meet and hang out.

14. Implement behavior consequences, Implement consistent monthly classroom lessons addressing mental health, provide additional instruction to instructional staff regarding relationship building.
15. Zero tolerance for fighting!
16. Hire more diverse staff, continue to respect students for who they are
17. Team teaching in the middle school. Small group team building.
18. nicer facilities, more staff
19. 1. Students have expressed a desire that many of the smaller, consistent behaviors be dealt with. They feel it does not foster a good learning environment. 2. Hire more staff. We have lost people and never replaced them. Many students are left out mainly because there is no one to support them outside of the classroom teacher who is already dealing with large classroom sizes.
20. My children feel welcome, safe and valued in our schools. Thank you!
21. clean schools, students don't see other students receiving consequences when there are fights or bullying, have a more diverse staff
22. New student orientation for when students join mid-year. Find behavioral solutions for students who present constant discipline issues (improves the class environment for all other students). Celebrate student achievement corporately with more intentionality (senior assembly for all students to attend, pep-assemblies for major events/accomplishments.
23. Bring in more fun activities for the students to do occasionally such as a non-academic day with team building activities.
24. More School Counselors to teach/model SEL concepts to students and families (Social Workers are NOT cutting it), Increased Parent Involvement, Improved Building Infrastructure and Aesthetics to instill a sense of pride for the school and community
25. I think the Be Nice program is a big step. Mental Health Resources. Also a more varied curriculum would be great. We used to have media classes, and watch announcements by students every morning. More offerings would make kids feel all of these things. Theater/Drama, Media/Journalism, Graphic Design, More tech/real world classes, more languages, more physical education classes such as yoga, dance, etc. Also it would be great as a staff member if I knew if a student had a difficult background or trauma experience, to the extent possible.
26. Diversity Training, comprehensive and inclusive curriculum that allows students to see themselves as part of the school community, student panels based on random selection of students to get representation from all. Make students proud of their environment - rotate student artwork throughout the building, have photos of kids throughout the building.

27. I feel like the "Be Nice" initiative that is getting started at the high school is a great step to making students feel welcome, safe, and valued.

28. Real and immediate consequences for racist remarks/behaviors, stand firmly behind the inclusive nature of the public school.

29. Common language k-12, common k-12 core values, plan/focus on how we build/deepen relationships

30. Continue having welcome days/nights before school, continue providing many opportunities for students.

31. Promote and support diversity: clubs for students of color and LGBTQ students at the secondary level.

32. At Edgewood, students wait outside every morning before school starts. The gates are wide open...anyone/anything can enter. How will you keep my student safe if someone drives their vehicle through the gates? How will you keep the same if someone walks through the gates with a gun and starts shooting? Are your 5th Grade Leaders instructed on how to handle such situations?

33. Unbiased training on all issues so all students are seen as of equal value

34. Communicating, good points of contact and a school phone hotline. That hotline could be used to anonymously report things such as mental health issues of friends, stolen property or anything students want to report but are too afraid to do it face to face.

35. Continue to listen to students when they have concerns and address and have zero tolerance for bullying.

36. Reduce class size, remove disruptive students, have consequences for unacceptable behavior ,

37. Mentor, more time for social programs not just academics
38. Enforced policies on racisms
39. Work on bullying. Hold students accountable for their actions.
40. More communications, more staff,
41. Presence of school safety officer and more interaction from support service staff like social work and counselors
42. Not sure
43. More guidance counseling, more inclusivity of people of different cultures and persuasions
44. Time with smaller groups- more family style lessons with a teacher and a few students
45. provide resources and people to improve student attendance, do some mentoring programing, have a climate person in both the middle school and high school each and not divide a person
46. Teachers and staff to step up and not have a blind eye to bullying and disrespect of students to each other. We put our faith in the hands of these adults to act as our child's safe place and I don't see it happening. Compaction and understanding not judgment to every student not just the rich or popular, I see this year and year over again and again! If a student can't talk to a teacher and feel he's being heard they aren't going to do so.
47. Reduce extreme behaviors and offer a variety of inclusive activities so that all students can find something to be a part of.
48. Shift focus from athletics to academics
49. We need more classroom lessons & activities taught by social workers/counselors. Kids do not feel safe with kids exhibiting serious behavior problems, threatening others, and teasing others. We need to acknowledge students more often for a wide variety of skills.
50. Safe: Give consequences to those that hurt others. If a student has called in a threat to a school,

they should NEVER be allowed back at our school.
51. ???
52. Add a school counselor to every building. Someone who could assist in tier 1 instruction in the classroom of strictly social emotional learning, and help to provide short-term counseling and referrals for community resources for families when needed.
53. more recognition and outreach
54. I think the District does a great job at this. For some reason, students do not. Not sure how to make them see that.
55. Continued strong discipline that adheres to clear consequences for inappropriate behaviors, stronger staff and board presence at activities, stronger police presence like when Officer Rypstra had an office at the high school
56. off various clubs that appeal to many
57. Create a student culture where they are praised for their accomplishments
58. New students: a bag with community stuff in it. with coupons and a directory of stuff for kids/families to do in community
59. More para support so students feel safe, more acknowledgment of the good work being done by some students
60. No one should be ignored when crying for help.
61. Student PD/Mental health days
62. Please look at students who do not belong in the traditional school setting or behaviors that have become so serious that students feel unsafe in class. Explaining away their abusive behaviors and outbursts everyday, is not how the "real world" works. As much as we want to help these students, they are causing harm to the students and families who want to be here.
63. Stricter consequences for bullying, recognition of students showing care/kindness, committee/staff students could access with concerns and problems. for showing and promoting kindness/caring,
64. More support staff to help address behavior AND provide personnel to IMPLEMENT strategies KNOWN TO WORK.
65. unsure

66. Increase after-school activities, bring in motivational speakers,
67. More paid clubs to get all students involved.
68. Mentor teacher or peer, building being secured at all times, active listening and TCI training for staff
69. Enforce policies on students that are disrupting others' learning.
70. Hire more staff, better supervision
71. Have none
72. A student chaperone for a few days, less bullying
73. Cut down on bullying
74. Just focus on helping the kids love who they are and how they were created. And to love others for who they are. Too many kids are trying to keep up with the Jones's and think they have to be more than what they are. That causes a lot of stress and anxiety even in elementary age.
75. Listen! If a student is quiet, try to connect with them.
76. Doing great.
77. More security in place , doors that lock where students are located hard to get to
78. Stop ignoring the "bullies". Having the victim change their activities to avoid the bully does nothing but discourage the victim.
79. Improve or maintain social services for students.
80. The administration needs to be held accountable for the way it treats student complaints. Bullying by the principals and teachers has become so common here, it's not surprising we see it in the students.
81. Listen to them not just give a student handbook and speech's
82. Discipline enforcement. Outreach.
83. After school academic and club type programs for students. This gives a sense of belonging and creates relationships.
84. More councilors

85. I feel like if we are going to enforce politically motivated shirts and hats we should also cut down on wearing distracting clothing like cattails ect.

86. continue to eliminate vapors in the bathroom so students feel comfortable using the bathroom

87. Limit school of choice.

88. Make sure every student knows how threats will be handled and enforce them at all times

89. Mental health studies for teens/ diversity studies including race and LGTBQ

90. Mentor programs, crack down on bullying, community/family involvement

91. More security for schools and better procedures.

92. Same as above - can we get robotics consistent offerings at all elementaries? I'm specifically thinking about robotics.

93. Get to know students as individuals, not groups

94. Mental health awareness

95. Have teachers that have a passion for learning

96. More involvement and less stress

97. better social media presence, more student name recognition, asking students to take part in more opinions/surveys themselves

98. Take bullying seriously. Stop being so punitive with everything - have people considered the outcomes of some of the consequences to minor things?

99. Decrease classroom sizes, increase teacher pay, increase support staff for teachers

100.	My kids feel welcomed, safe, and valued every time they walk into Edgewood. Kudos to the admin and staff.
101.	Treat them all the same (no special treatment because of their athletic status)
102.	Happy staff, inclusion, tougher on bullies/students that cause others issues
103.	Feeling welcome and safe stems from transparent leadership. Our leadership (admin) should first and foremost support teachers! Trust them. Give them the power to steer the student body. When they need something, provide it!
104.	Clubs and activities that appeal to the quieter kids, gaming, anime, role playing games, cosplay etc...
105.	Accountability
106.	I believe the district is doing great!
107.	1 - Work directly with the township and county to improve pedestrian safety. Students who live safely within walking distance of elementary schools cannot safely walk there due to a lack of road safety. I also worry land will be prioritized for single family housing over mixed use, parkland, and mixed zoning opportunities all of which would improve student life. 2 - Improve dei practices; as our population increases, so will diversity, and we will lose enrollment numbers if we do not help new families feel welcome. 3 - Better PBIS strategies with clear sel and behavioral goals that improve intrinsic motivation, not just feel-good assemblies and prizes.
108.	More of a police presence during start/ end of day! Smaller class sizes
109.	Update facilities, remove students that pose any threat
110.	Working even more with students on realizing they are all the "same" going through the same things, so stop judging others.
111.	Address bullying immediately. Fairness.
112.	Education on bullying, social media responsibility and have more community first responder visits and talks

113.	At Edgewood this is already in place. I do worry about the bullying at the upper levels but this is an ongoing issue everywhere. I guess be firm and have consequences for students breaking the rules. Some schools are viewed as lenient with discipline
114.	take the bullying problem more seriously and hold students and parents accountable.
115.	Get the kiss and go (kindergarten/1st) under control at shettler. Weekly emails go out about not parking there as it is drop off only. However every single morning there's parents parking there making it very difficult to maneuver between cars. My biggest fear is that a child is going to get hit and seriously injured. (Hopefully positive changes can be brought and put into place before this happens)
116.	Increased academic counseling,
117.	talk to the students and actually invest in them, build the students confidence, TELL them these things more often than in an assembly with a free t shirt
118.	Provide an environment that's inclusive of all races, creeds and ethnicities
119.	Need mental health support and support for young children with behavioral issues.!
120.	1. Continued community communication (great job on this!) 2. Increased socio emotional training for staff 3. Increased funding of PBiS programs
121.	n/a
122.	Focus on team building with students for inclusiveness
123.	Make the classrooms safe places, strict/consistent consequences for disruptive or violent classroom behaviors
124.	Stop making school so political and worry more about academics.
125.	NA
126.	Provide mental health opportunities and social emotional programs or curriculum
127.	Don't let extreme right-wingers take over the school board.

128.	Give out more of the tickets for winning prizes to the good kids, not just bad ones who have a good day.
129.	Be honest with them. Everyone's individual talents, work-ethic and physical abilities are NOT the same, Trust in your own skills, Improve yourself as a person and find ways to treat others kindly.
130.	Better assistance principle
131.	More than one counselor at the middle school.
132.	Keeping the buildings locked and only able to enter through one entrance is great. Be careful about emails that are released about personal information. An email about my family was released and I was never spoken to and I don't feel it had honest information in it and the email released recently was very triggering for myself and my children. I am glad that you spoke with the recent family and clarified the initial email but starting a letter out with "medical examiner and police" lets people know something tragic occurred and then rumors start. I wish we could collaborate on the best way to handle these situations moving forward.
133.	Crack down on bullying
134.	Staff listen to students when they talk about bullies. Watch the cameras more often. Have a bus aide to monitor bullies.
135.	It seems like FCS does a good job overall of addressing this.
136.	the best security, teachers caring about the students,
137.	Mentors
138.	Constant security, talking to students about their future i.e. education/profession.
139.	Make sure that staff are present at all different extracurricular events, not just sporting events.
140.	My children have transferred from another school and getting them enrolled has not been easy. I have done everything possible on my end (freshman orientation, paperwork etc) only to be told they cannot get in until late August and they get whatever classes that are left. I did get them in honors classes only because of connections to teachers. Even getting into final forms for fall sports was difficult. My kids had to try out without being students. It's not a welcoming process and I have one more to go. It seems like there could be some problem solving in this area. I would like to think Fruitport would want new students and families.
141.	continuing to monitor and update policies and make sure they are being followed.
142.	Have a high school principal that is actually kind and smiles once in a while. Also it would be nice to have counselors that people can actually get a hold of and who are more focused on helping students who have mental health issues and need someone to talk to, because right now all the counselors focus is on career readiness and xello.
143.	One on one counseling sessions

144.	Have a safe way for students to report bullying, incorporate team building outings 2 times a year, acknowledge all students not just a few each month
145.	Mental health workshops/ideally class; community involvement; maintaining inclusion through policies and actions that protects ALL children (LGBTQ+)
146.	End overcrowding on buses, there are still kids sitting with one buttcheek on the seat as 3rd on deck, leads to bullying and a terrible experience, the number of parents picking up and dropping off within the bus service map tell you that the bussing experience is still haunting (I STILL remember the feelings from this more than any other aspect of my school years, I hoped it had changed)). No solution to this, but school is a cross section of those that will be the best adults, and those that will be future inmates - how to weed out the hopeless while investing in the hopeful? Maybe increase non-sport extracurricular activities, not everyone survives competing to get ON a team, but needs that team connection and support
147.	Don't allow bullying-should be as serious as a gun because it leads to that and worse these days. Put some student voices on your team-ask the outcasts because when they feel valued you've actually done your job, be more involved-really get to know your students.
148.	It would be incredibly beneficial to students to be taught the importance of relationships and the hazards of spending too much time on technology.
149.	I wish you could ban Facebook and social media - too much bullying and false info that spreads around schools
150.	Hiring dedicated and caring staff
151.	Include those in self contained classrooms. Spirit weeks, book fairs, holiday events, etc
152.	Cultural diversity, diverse culinary options, culture studies
153.	I feel that Beach does a great job making my daughter feel welcome, safe and valued.
154.	Continue staff building positive relationships with kid & families, school-wide TCIS systems/ verbal de-escalation training
155.	Really make it clear that anonymous text to the right authorities in time of danger, bullying, safety of self or others is not looked down on but absolutely the right and responsibility of everyone
156.	Work on the issue of bullying!
157.	I love the ROCKStar student of the month... However, I feel it is tough on kids who don't achieve it. (Ex: I have one kid who has gotten it every year and one who never has... so he's

jealous/bitter). I totally understand the concept. But maybe it's hurting kids who struggle more at school.
158. New middle school
159. Include LGBTQ+ in sex education. Replace police/safety officers with trained mental health professionals. All meals should be free.
160. Allow bus drivers to punish naughty children on the bus, better handling of situations kids report, faster response to parents reporting issues the child is dealing with at school
161. If a student get hit by another, don't just brush it off and have the victim feel bad for the bully
162. All bullying is addressed with consequences, reteaching, and restoration.
163. FCS does a good job
164. Teach absolute truth regardless of what society states, don't allow students to present false identities, speak truth in love.
165. Set an example. Treat all students the same.
166. Talking with students about issues.
167.
168. Showcase diversity. Show where education can lead and help them achieve their dreams. Success has many faces.
169. Let every student know they matter, have an anonymous way to report bullying, don't let people put others down.
170. Na
171. there is a lot of emphasis on athletics at the HS--facebook page, school calendar, etc, with almost not inclusion of other student activities that also represent the school--arts, music, robotics, etc that should be acknowledged
172. Make sure students feels connected to a staff member or an older student

173.	I think our students are made to feel welcomed. I have seen a big decline in holding students accountable for their actions. They need boundaries and discipline now to become decent citizens in the future.
174.	Security
175.	In my experience with the school, I can't think of anything new to do at this time.
176.	Make bullying a punishable offense, too many children get bullied and it gets swept under the rug.
177.	Continue to improve the grounds of the buildings and entrances.
178.	Know the students' names. Offer a donut morning where staff hands them out. Continue to be diligent on the drug, drinking and vape policy. For the students who do not do this, it makes them feel safer using the restroom or being in class and walking the halls.
179.	add some electives such as drama or other foreign languages
180.	See above
181.	I have never once felt like my students at Shettler were not welcome, safe, or valued. The community in that building is phenomenal.
182.	Better relationships with administrators. The kids need to feel like they're understood. Also, I have emailed safety concerns regarding hallway traffic with no response from the administrator that was emailed.
183.	Buddy up littles with bigs for confidence when new
184.	Increase acceptance of LGBTQIA, especially at the adult levels. Gender neutral restrooms in new buildings. Adult behavior that shows disdain and contempt for students and families cannot be tolerated.
185.	Teachers and staff taking time to talk to both students and parents accomplish this goal.
186.	Improved building conditions
187.	Better Safety protocols
188.	diversity, equity and inclusion - not just talk about it, practice it. seek ways to connect students with diverse groups through "penpals" and other outreach programs.
189.	Na
190.	Offer an online resource that kids could use for getting additional help with school work (similar to Hooked on Phonics, ABC mouse, online tutor discounts, etc.)
191.	1) Rethink how to make a homeroom or something like that - a place where students really build a community over time (maybe over multiple years), engage in social activities, get to know others, check - in with each other, work together, support one another. 2) Continue to find ways to celebrate all students - service projects, athletics, academics, arts, music, students of color, LGBTQ+, 3) Professional Learning for staff around asset based, strength based, and culturally

responsive instruction.

192. Remove violent and abusive students from school.