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School Planning Survey – Online Engagement Comments February 25, 2025 – March 11, 2025

Below you will find all comments provided in the survey as they were written. Comments have not been edited for spelling, grammar, sentence structure, truncation or otherwise. Comments have been edited to ensure anonymity. We also edited or omitted abusive, discriminatory and otherwise inappropriate comments.

1. Please share any other thoughts you may have about our SDP.

- There was a lot of work done in writing for the asp and it was good to see how students are growing.
- Principals at Belfast have always made great choices with the SDP. Have seen many improvements over the years.
- Both goals are important.
- It looks great on paper but I have not seen a lot of it happening.
- I think it's great and my child is benefiting from it
- I think the school development plan should also include. It would be thought more of EA's for more one-on-one help for students
- I feel that the goals you have chosen are excellent, and I hope to continue to see student success.
- I enjoy how Belfast school focuses on students' creativity through art and music. The school is a very welcoming environment that reflects inclusion towards everyone.
- I really appreciate how thorough and inclusive the plan is.
- The school is doing good job. Thank you!
- I'm amazed at how well the students are treated at Belfast. It's such a great little school and I feel fortunate to have my daughter attend school at a place that truly care about the students' well being
- The goals in this years SDP seem purposeful with achievable outcomes
- Thank you for your hard work!
- It's good that You want to hear from the parents about the SDP every year.
- It looks great and meets my expectations
- I think it a great way to make adjustments were needed and helps keep up with the times
- Keep up the good work



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- I think encouraging connection and understanding in the school community will help everyone learn well.

2. *What is one thing Belfast School does well to support belonging?*

- School wide events
- Buddies
- Just arriving at the school, teachers are all welcoming and know who you are and your kids.
- My student often talks about their “big buddy”
- I have a real hard time answering this because this year I felt there was a lack of inclusion
- Learning about other faiths
- Talk about inclusion with the kids
- thanks to the buddy system, my son now knows other children in the school and they say hi in the field or hallways.
- A wide variety of school experiences and clubs gives kids an opportunity to mingle and find something that they enjoy/are good at. It also gives students and teachers a chance to get to know each other outside of their class and help make trusted connections
- Cultural days and spirit day options for those of other faiths
- There is a deep sense of community and support through school initiatives. Voices and opinions are heard. Feed back is welcome and students are active participants.
- They’ve always done well with making the kids feel a sense of belonging at school
- I think because the school is small all of the teachers and students know each other. I think this helps students to feel seen.
- Multi-grade activities that allow students to share their voice.
- They have a variety of clubs to choose from and exciting field trip opportunities.
- Real sense of community among the students, teachers and parents. We love Belfast.
- Share different cultures
- Sets tone and expectation of respectful and kind interactions.
- I wish I could select more options above, because I think Belfast does a lot of things really well
- A welcoming atmosphere



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- Belfast ensures the staff actually get to know the students and care about their day to day outside of school.
- I asked my child about this and she said she likes the evening events (dances, welcome back bbq) although I am not sure if this is a Belfast school initiative or parent council? She also likes choice day.
- Community days
- Allow the children wear the costume from back home and advise them to talk their language at home.
- I see it in almost everything they do
- Educating the children about other cultures
- There is NO bullying and my child wants to go to school for the first time in 3 years. He feels loved and welcomed.
- Communities
- They do not single out any children! They explain to children why we are all different and teach them about kindness and not to bully.
- The school wide musicals and concerts are a great way, because everyone gets to take part.

3. *What is one suggestion you have for our school to support a sense of belonging?*

- Continue doing all you do.
- We're doing great
- Not sure
- Some type of survey/way to get feedback before the end of the year.
- There needs to be more education on neurodivergent students and how everyone should be included.
- Keeping every child accountable
- I don't have any at this time.
- continue to offer these things
- I think Belfast has done a fantastic job with windows/mirrors, highlighting cultural/religious holidays, choice days
- The club options seem like a great start.
- Would be great to see a heritage day where students share their backgrounds
- I would still keep the programs that are in place
- More special clubs and activities.



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- Continue to work on developing social skills and healthy friendship discussions.
- Create a gratitude wall that everyone can visualize easily. This can include photos, phrases, quotes, student/staff notes, etc. Similar to the tree that is on one of the walls.
- Nothing at this time, you are rocking it!
- Did very good
- Keep up the good work!
- More options for clubs for the Div. II students
- I feel like the process of auditioning for major performances has been a bit divisive among students and caused some strife/jealousy. I loved the Bunch of Munch production Mr Ursenbach did a few years ago, it seemed very inclusive.
- Making experiences more accessible. Feels like there is always an experience that costs money and when money is tight it's hard. But I don't want my student to miss out.
- To comprehend and understand a little bit more the children who talk two languages, that is a little bit difficult for them to learn English as a second language.
- I don't. They do such a great job now
- Online parent council meetings
- Maybe the kids could write short notes about why they're grateful that Belfast School is their school and have them posted on boards.

4. *What feedback has your child received about their writing this year that you are aware of?*

- Rubrics and checklists.
- I don't know
- Asked to elaborate more on details.
- Work sent home with comments
- I have had none
- He needs to improve but has done a great job so far
- That he needs to practice more.
- none to my knowledge
- Minimal feedback has come home
- I have only seen notes on her report card but we missed parent teacher interviews due to illnesses.



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- To provide more detail
- His writing is more clear or precise
- They have received some extra help. They have an IPP and are working towards goals outlined there.
- I have not heard of a lot of writing feedback from my two daughters.
- The teacher enjoys reading the adventurous stories and ideas that they come up with, whether fictional or non-fictional.
- Needs practice and extra help with reading.
- Still working in that
- assignment-related writing feedback
- N/A (kindergarten)
- could improve on organization within writing
- Constructive observations. Nothing specific.
- I think she gets feedback from the teacher, but writing samples have not been sent home. However, perhaps they are on Google classroom and I haven't looked there.
- I know more about my child's reading than writing
- The writing is the area that my child finds difficult.
- Just to slow down and practice more which he needs
- More detail
- He gets one n one help and uses technology when needed
- Doing well
- Practice letter formation
- My child has a strong and descriptive vocabulary.

5. *Please share any other thoughts you may have about our school budget and fees.*

- The fees are reasonable and well used.
- There needs to be a change in the way fees are collected.
- I have not been able to make partial payments so maybe having screenshot to show how it's done would help
- Reasonable for my family
- I think it is helpful having some fees to pay for artist and residence etc so that fundraising can offset fieldtrips
- I still think EA need to be added to the funding budget. My child has had to work without one this year.



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- None at this time.
- I wish more of the extra curricular activities and extras were covered by the government. Our children deserve to have this be part of their education. In the meantime, I'm happy to pay to enrich my daughter's education, but know it could put financial strain on others. I think the amount spent on staffing is very reasonable, and feel my child is well supported because of this.
- Anything that would help reduce the amount families have to pay each year would be beneficial! The majority of families are struggling to pay for groceries, the added expense of school fees can be incredibly stressful.
- can't afford it
- I'm not sure where else I can put this, so I'll put it here: The Healthy Hunger Fun Lunch program needs review. It's a great program, in theory, but some of the options are pretty sad and sometimes the costs are not appropriate. Like the McDonalds option was a hamburger with ketchup? My kids eat regular cheeseburgers. The MuchoBurrito bowl was ridiculously expensive for the amount that was provided, and even then it was too spicy for a third grader. Most recently the Boardwalk option was like full on restaurant prices (and higher) for food that will likely go to waste as they only had limited time to eat it. We opted out of this one but it would have cost us nearly fifty dollars for the stuff they would have wanted for our two kids. It might have been fun to eat but not to pay for. The funlunch program is good, and needs to be available...but it's completely out of touch.
- Our priority is small class sizes.
- It's not just the fees but the extra slurpee days or pizza days etc where I don't want my child to be left out but the extra costs add up
- I think the monthly lunch supervision fee is too high.
- Looks great
- I think Belfast does a great job with their budget and does more fundraising than I think the average schools do which in my mind is GREAT.