

ÉCOLE MERIDIAN HEIGHTS THOUGHT EXCHANGE 2022

Parkland School Division 70

Which program is your child enrolled in?

Q1 What are some things you appreciate and some concerns you have about École Meridian Heights School and/or Parkland School Division this year? (Note: you can hit the three purple dots and skip a thought in the 'Star' phase if a thought doesn't apply to you.)

I appreciate the teachers so much. They've been dealt a bad hand the last two years.

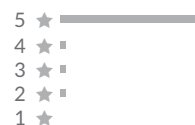
Between budget cuts, a crappy curriculum redraft, the pandemic, online/offline/online changes with no notice... our teachers have done an amazing job!

4.5  (24 )
Ranked #1 of 98



I am very concerned about the new curriculum coming from the government along with budget cuts PSD is facing. The new curriculum seems very problematic, timing awful in period of budget cuts, fewer EAs, and catching kids up from at home learning.

4.4  (23 )
Ranked #2 of 98



I appreciate the teachers so much for all their hard work throughout this pandemic. They're trying hard to keep our kids safe while teaching them and trying to keep themselves safe.

4.4  (23 )
Ranked #3 of 98

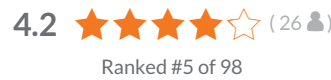


Most of the teachers are amazing. Concerned about underfunding and the new curriculum coming. The government isn't supporting the school enough to provide students with what they need (supports, mental health resources, covid resources, etc).

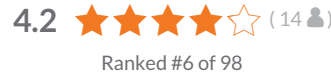
4.2  (29 )
Ranked #4 of 98



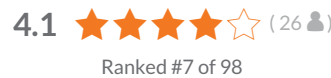
We as parents are so appreciate of the amazing teachers and staff who dedicate so much energy to our kids! Our kids can tell how much teachers and staff care for them, and that helps make school a positive experience.



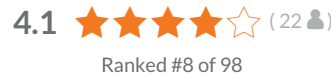
The teachers at the school are truly amazing and are working very hard despite the difficulties they are facing and need more support Without the teachers being properly supported and respected it makes it difficult for them to do their job



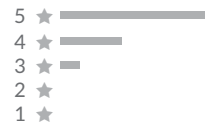
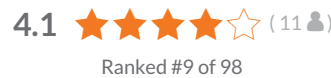
Multiple platforms are used for parent communication - PowerSchool, ClassDojo, google meet, email, blogs, newsletters with multiple links, etc. Clear communication on 1-2 platforms would help parents keep up with the school environment.



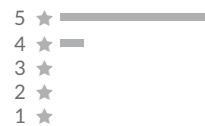
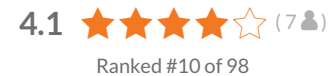
More support for special needs kids There aren't enough EAs to go around, meaning teachers have to choose between supporting special needs kids or teaching the rest of the class.



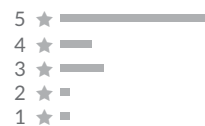
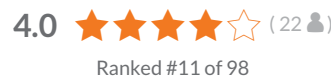
I appreciate the teachers.





The school needs a counselor trained in mental health While I appreciate the role of the current counselor, there needs to be a trained and licensed counselor in every school, especially since Covid

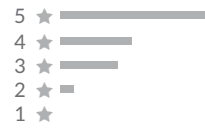


Thanks always to staff who love and care for all the students you are a second home, a safe place





I look forward to post-COVID school gathering events It will be great when it is safe to be able to come together for big school as well as whole-classroom or whole-grade events.

4.0  (20 )
Ranked #12 of 98





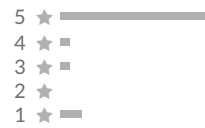
April Kerr is an amazing teacher. My child is motivated and excited to go to school. Teachers need to feel appreciated for all their hard work and dedication.

4.0  (18 )
Ranked #13 of 98





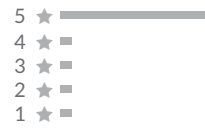
Very concerned about the AB gov't deciding to eliminate precautions and masks based on politics not science. Dangerous for students, staff, and families. Removes the few protections still in place.

4.0  (17 )
Ranked #14 of 98





Very concerned about the removal of masks and soon all covid restrictions. I don't think it's safe for our kids, most of whom are unvaxxed. Worried!

4.0  (15 )
Ranked #15 of 98





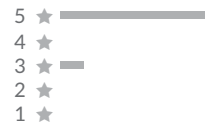
The administration at Meridian since its change has been difficult to work with unrelated to covid It has caused difficulty in fundraising and supporting students

4.0  (14 )
Ranked #16 of 98





I appreciate that staff are always welcoming and caring towards my child He knows the staff are there if he needs help or has a problem he can't solve on his own. This builds a sense of safety and belonging in the school

4.0  (7 )
Ranked #17 of 98





I appreciate how hard the admin and teaching staff are working to overcome sudden changes (both staffing and regulatory). Thank you for taking care of our kids and helping us go to work!

3.9  (26 )
Ranked #18 of 98





I appreciate that teachers have made a valiant effort to have work for my kids to do when they've had to be home. I know that's not always easy It is important for kids to feel connected and not fall behind when they have to be home.

3.9  (24 
Ranked #19 of 98





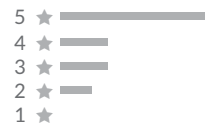
Very unhappy with the principal when trying to talk to him about concerns. He is always passive aggressive and dismissive.

3.9  (21 
Ranked #20 of 98





I am really impressed by the music classes! My kids love their music classes and I thought the Holiday concert was great! I also love that they are learning about classical composers.

3.9  (17 
Ranked #21 of 98





Unacceptable behaviors need to be dealt with, not rewarded If a student disrupts an entire class, they should NOT be rewarded with playing Lego in the office!

3.9  (16 
Ranked #22 of 98





I appreciate the teachers sending home personal emails about my child's successes at school

3.9  (8 
Ranked #23 of 98




I am concerned by the soft response to vulgar language and aggressive behaviour of students (especially in younger grades) I understand the need for empathy and support, but my child feels that certain kids get away with a lot, and the classroom sometimes feels unsafe.

3.9  (7 
Ranked #24 of 98





I appreciate how kind and open the staff is at Meridian Heights. Our child is fairly new to the school and her welcome was warm and inviting. A positive school environment goes hand in hand with my child's academic success.

3.8  (29 
Ranked #25 of 98





Appreciate there is an opportunity for students to participate in a FI program in Stony Plain. Communication continues to be a challenge during covid

3.8  (28 
Ranked #26 of 98





Lack of sanding on any of the walkways into the school other than where the buses drop off It is unsafe. Both me and my kids have fallen. One of the kids that I carpool with fell and had to have her nose examined. There's been no action

3.8  (28 
Ranked #27 of 98





Stop sharing information through the blog post It is annoying to open and an extra step in the email process. Put it in the email.

3.8  (28 
Ranked #28 of 98





The teachers are very open to provide consistent communication on the student's progress and areas for improvement. Every teacher I've communicated with has been more than willing to work with the student and parent to ensure the student can excel.

3.8  (28 
Ranked #29 of 98





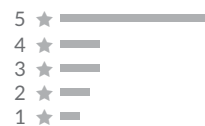
I would love to see the outdoor classroom area expanded and utilized. Take kids outdoors! The more outdoor learning the better.

3.8  (27 
Ranked #30 of 98





My only concern is the lack of advanced notice for special days for the kids to participate in. The vast majority of kids want to be included in these student union based activities. An email blast to all parents would help.

3.8  (27 
Ranked #31 of 98





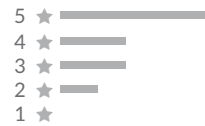
Getting an email telling me to go to a blog post is annoying! Put the information in the email. I can't search my emails for the info if I need it because it's only on the blog! So stupid!

3.8  (24 
Ranked #32 of 98





I am concerned with the lack of supervision at lunch time. Roving supervision between classrooms is not enough for certain classes.
My child has felt unsafe because of the language and behaviour of her classmates during lunch with no supervisor present.

3.8  (24 )
Ranked #33 of 98





Appreciate all the teachers and staff.

3.8  (23 )
Ranked #34 of 98





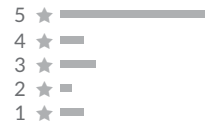
Enhanced art extracurriculars There is almost nothing in the tri area for kids with art interest and talent, would love an art club

3.8  (23 )
Ranked #35 of 98





Thank you to teachers for going out of their way to provide sports teams They are so overworked and underappreciated but still put the kids needs first

3.8  (20 )
Ranked #36 of 98





We appreciate the teachers' efforts to keep kids on pace with assignments when they are home due to illness/covid/etc It takes extra time and effort to open google meets and post assignments on google classroom and we really appreciate the when the teachers do this

3.8  (11 )
Ranked #37 of 98





Having access to a counselor is very important to my childrens wellbeing and mental health

3.8  (8 )
Ranked #38 of 98



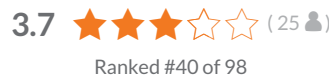
I don't usually know when activities are being planned until my child tells me after school that today was ___ day at school. I check the newsletter.

3.7  (25 )
Ranked #39 of 98

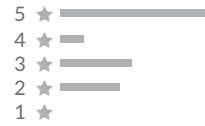
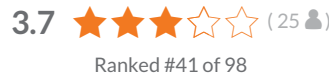


I would love to see even more inspiring, diverse, and hands-on, creativity-focused arts and music activities for young students.

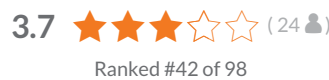
Students shouldn't have to rely on extracurricular sources of learning for enriched arts and music.



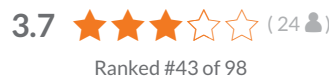
Mr. Kinney provides such a great resource for our children and for parents. Mr. Kinney as a counselor and teacher provides great life topics that children and young adults need to know. Parent resources provided are great!



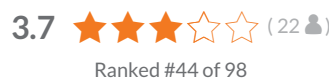
I would like communication to be more concise. Blog is a bit much.



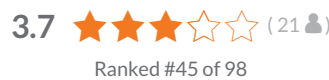
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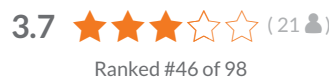
Need more communication and transparency
Not enough communication about COVID cases in classes. How can I make an informed decision if I'm not told when there's a case in my kid's class?





I love the strong communication between my children's teachers and me as a parent. I am really grateful for the high responsiveness of our children's teachers as well as the school overall.



Stronger anti-bullying program I see a big difference between our children's experience with school-led anti-bullying programs and EPSB. I see room for growth.





The administration should feel like they report to parents and earn their trust rather than keeping secrets and covering up failures of the province. Parents don't feel like they can trust the school admin if they aren't being open and make teachers feel like they also can't be open with parents.

3.7  (21 
Ranked #47 of 98





My granddaughter just came home with COVID and now brother and father both have it. As above - father is triple vaxxed and brother too young. Obviously not enough protection in the school even now.

3.7  (16 
Ranked #48 of 98





I appreciate the way meridian heights and parkland school division take into account parent feedback when planning a school calendar. It's important to know our voices are being heard as well as promoting accountability.

3.6  (28 
Ranked #49 of 98





Concerned about the focus on student assessment rather than building student competencies Students learn in different ways and at different paces. We need to be more adaptable with the larger target in mind instead of the next assessment.

3.6  (24 
Ranked #50 of 98





I would like a direct route to the school for rural French immersion bus students. Taking 2 busses in the morning & 3 busses to get home a stressful way for for a student to start and end their day.

3.6  (24 
Ranked #51 of 98





Lifestyle sports "Lifestyle" sports (x-country running, hiking) vs team sport phys ed extracurriculars give kids more options for developing lifelong love of movement

3.6  (23 
Ranked #52 of 98





The controls being placed by administration to not allowing activities as the performing arts and blanket exercise is detrimental to the students. Sports is only an outlet for some students. The arts and support groups and incorporating blanket exercise supports the rest.

3.6  (17 
Ranked #53 of 98





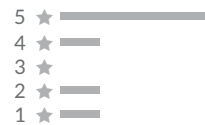
Masks and family choices will be supported by everyone no matter the decision Let's all respect family choices going forward about masks. Kids who wear masks or don't, may an underlying value of respect be demonstrated by all.

3.6  (16 
Ranked #54 of 98





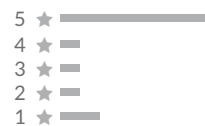
Teachers, especially in junior high, should remember that their students have gone through a lot between elementary/pre Covid and now. More joy please When students who loved school, now loathe it, changes in school culture need to be examined. It's not ALL due to Covid. Bigger kids need fun too!

3.6  (13 
Ranked #55 of 98





Keep the Joy for Junior High students Our daughter once loved going to school, but now feels like all the JOY has been sucked out. It's not just a COVID thing, but a shift in culture.

3.6  (12 
Ranked #56 of 98





Level of French spoken in class My child regularly tells me they do not speak French in class. This is not what I expect, as I was in a FI program as well as a student

3.6  (7 
Ranked #57 of 98



Better classroom management my child is often called names and is bullied and it is impacting her mental health

3.6  (6 
Ranked #58 of 98

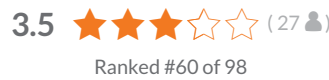


curriculum I'm concerned that the students will not be taught with an antiracism/anti oppression lens, that they won't be taught critical thinking

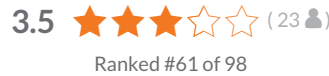
3.5  (29 
Ranked #59 of 98



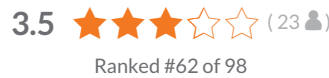
The attendance system has faults. On days of absence, we receive phone/email notifications from the school, even though we excuse/call-in every absence prior to the school day.



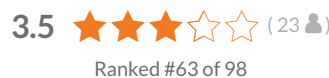
I think kids should be learning outdoors more during COVID. This would be a way to engage community members and parents in their learning and help the They need to feel connected to their community and benefit from the outdoors, especially during COVID.



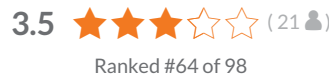
Interested in knowing what extra curricular activities are available at the school. Website is lacking information



Playground sand needs some maintenance
The sand is hard and compact, reducing the safety on the playground.



school newsletters ... can they just come out in one format



Parent volunteering I look forward to when we are safely able to volunteer with field trips, activities & extracurriculars, so we can help out our amazing teachers & EAs





I think we need more interventions.



A big thank you to Mme Huedepohl for keeping choir and Troupe Magique going while being Covid-safe These programs mean a lot to the kids who are involved in them.





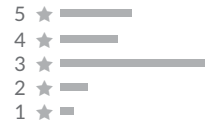
Staff, children feel safe

3.4  (23 )
Ranked #68 of 98





As a non-French speaking parent I would like to see virtual supports for French immersion students. I can't help my child with their reading or other homework very well when I don't know the language.

3.4  (22 )
Ranked #69 of 98





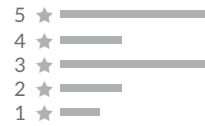
We love project work in science and social. These projects really motivate our kids and give us a way to participate in their school day. Something to talk about.

3.4  (22 )
Ranked #70 of 98





Would be nice to have microwave access again Maybe not a big deal in the grand scheme, but microwaves mean hot food for kids. This winter was SO COLD, I'm sure lots of kids would have liked it.

3.4  (22 )
Ranked #71 of 98





This !!! The two ladies in front need to be reminded they are the voice and face of the school. Be kind ladies .

3.4  (9 )
Ranked #72 of 98





I would appreciate a continued focus on literacy interventions for students who are in need of additional support

3.4  (7 )
Ranked #73 of 98





The level of work is not appropriate Some of the language in my child's work is too challenging, even for myself who is fluent, or his dad who is Francophone - not grade 4 vocabulary

3.4  (5 )
Ranked #74 of 98





Would love to see my kids get outside more each school day. There is so much potential for outdoor learning to stimulate young minds and bodies!

3.3  (24 )
Ranked #75 of 98





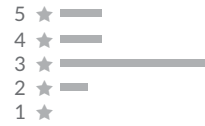
Good job with extracurriculars this year
Meridian's approach to Jr. high options this year was a creative solution to a bad situation. Great job!

3.3  (19 )
Ranked #76 of 98





Love regular feedback on assignment scores
We get this from one of our kids' teachers it is very much appreciated

3.3  (18 )
Ranked #77 of 98



A need to continue to build community spirit within classrooms and throughout the school

3.3  (7 )
Ranked #78 of 98





REP program restrictions at schools are challenging when students are participating in school sports. Students express a strong need to have the support of their parents during athletic participation.

3.2  (27 )
Ranked #79 of 98





I appreciate that my kids have good friends and enjoy being with their classmates. I am concerned by the lack of communication about my kids' learning It is important that my kids feel happy and safe at school, which they do. It is disappointing to feel in the dark about their progress academically

3.2  (26 )
Ranked #80 of 98




I am concerned by the amount of coming and going with classes having multiple teachers and many transitions in the daily schedule. It is disruptive and chaotic to have so many transitions in a day, and staff schedules seem to be really hectic. This is hard on everyone.

3.2  (24 )
Ranked #81 of 98





Non speaking french Parents need to be given more information that Canadian parents for french can offer to help support them. Canadian parents for french design is to support parents but if they are unaware of what it does for them they won't access that resource.

3.2  (15 )
Ranked #82 of 98





The hot lunch program isn't very good. They have no fresh, made-in-school options, orders are often wrong and the selection is boring/repetitive.

3.1  (26 
Ranked #83 of 98





Roni Pirout is kind, understanding and easy to talk to. It's important to have someone in the school admin to voice my concerns to.

3.1  (25 
Ranked #84 of 98





The reception staff seems to always be annoyed when I call and won't confirm that a message has been delivered to my child or their teacher. Your reception staff sets the tone for every interaction and is even more important since we (as parents) are no longer allowed past reception!

3.0  (27 
Ranked #85 of 98





I don't like that I'm not allowed to visit my child's classroom. I have no way to know what the environment is like - the place where she is all day. As a parent, I need and deserve to be able to see where she spends time.

3.0  (25 
Ranked #86 of 98





Appreciate the amazing communication and support from admin! Keeping parents informed

3.0  (22 
Ranked #87 of 98



Teach the basics! Reading, Writing an Arithmetics foundation for everything!

3.0  (19 
Ranked #88 of 98





The increased focus on "catching kids up" on literacy and numeracy (k-3) because of covid is I think burning my kids out with too much deskwork. Normally my kids have loved school, but the past 6 months the focus on reading and math has been intense, and my kids have lost the joy in school.

2.9  (27 
Ranked #89 of 98





More support for at home learning. Virtual connection to the teachers & to friends is vital to a student's success Sending home worksheets and parent led activities is not enough. Connecting with the teacher and participating in class activities improves learning

2.9  (22 
Ranked #90 of 98





Some teachers took a lot of days off More disruptions to the kids already disruptive schedule

2.8  (21 
Ranked #91 of 98





When was the last 'active shooter' scenario practiced? RCMP building near the school has moved, exponentially increasing response time.

2.7  (28 
Ranked #92 of 98



Seems the receptionist/office admin have had more attitude this year.

2.6  (28 
Ranked #93 of 98




It's been really tough with the divisiveness the mandates have caused. Please refrain from making it a personal vendetta to police all things. There's nothing wrong with reminding, but shaming or pulling kids aside is unnecessary.

2.5  (21 
Ranked #94 of 98





Concerned about the amount of snow days - a lot of school was missed A lot of school was missed, on top of COVID disruption

2.4  (23 
Ranked #95 of 98



None None

2.3  (23 
Ranked #96 of 98





no masks!!! kids mental health is so important

2.2  (21 )
Ranked #97 of 98



Please stop playing the national anthem. In a time of truth and reconciliation and political discord, it is time to stop promoting nationalism.

2.0  (17 )
Ranked #98 of 98

