

Jeremiah Rhodes Middle School

Parent SPF Focus Session (Thursday, March 7, 2019, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM)

What Makes a School Great – Questions for Parents

(At the parents request, this document will be published on the website for parents to continue to give their insight.)

Rhodes Middle School. 15 participants in English and Spanish.

1. What are your hopes and dreams for your child(ren)?

For them to:

- Finish high school
- Be college ready
- To achieve their highest potential.
- Recognize and be aware of their highest potential
- Have an idea of what they want to do when they graduate college
- Have an idea of what they want to study in college
- Have a life and/or career plan
- Be helped to recognize their interests
- Be exposed to a variety of careers
- For them to be supported in their life goals
- Have the ability (and push) to experience things outside of their comfort zone
- Develop an innate confidence to take risks (**Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval**)
- Have the skills to be competitive in high school and college
- Develop pride and dignity in no matter what they choose to do.

2. What should schools do to help children achieve their dreams?

Schools should:

- Motivate students more
- Encourage student voice and participation in decision-making
- Provide community mentors
- Connect students to local businesses
- Develop strong community partnerships with the local business community (**Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval**)
- Offer smaller classroom sizes
- Provide more individualized attention for students
- Develop lessons that are interesting to students
- Move from a compliance atmosphere to one that facilitates student choice and increased engagement (**Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval**)
- Have teachers teach where kids are. Don't make it too hard, but don't make it too easy

- Recognize the optimal level of instruction for each student (***Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval***)
- Challenge students to engage in productive struggle without unnecessarily stressing students (***Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval***)
- Provide training for parents to provide tutoring support for students
- Provide and train parents on resources to assist students in completing their work
- Offer peer to peer mentoring program
- Recognize social problems early on and develop solutions
- Field trips to colleges
- Connect parents and students to community resources
- Offer hands-on internships
- Provide students to learn what to do when they are upset
- Teach students social-emotional strategies and coping skills (***Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval***)
- Provide classes on breathing strategies and yoga
- Offer recess and unstructured time
- Offer more STEM programs
- Provide degreed and professional substitute teachers who know what they are doing

3. How do you know a school is doing a good job?

A school is doing a good job when:

- Kids are excited to come to school
- Kids make good grades
- Students want to participate in general (class, extracurriculars, community)
- Students are happy
- Students are motivated in multiple activities
- Students are telling parents not only the bad things at school, but also the good
- PR is not only negative but also positive (***Admin Paraphrase with Parent Approval***)
- They are consistent in rules and expectations
- Students have a positive attitude
- Schools offer multiple wrap-around (support and enrichment) services
- Students are taught the soft skills necessary to be successful in the workforce
- It has a positive principal
- Administrators are visible and accessible to parents