

## 2010-11 Annual Parent Survey

Response rate decreased slightly from last year (about 4%; from 250 to 240 surveys). The response rate for preschool age families was approximately 47%, up from 30% last year (from 19 to 36 surveys). The response rate for elementary school age families was approximately 35%, down from 47% last year (from 186 to 135 surveys); whereas the response rate for middle school age families was approximately 37%, up from 30% last year (from 45 to 69 surveys). Overall, the average rating increased slightly for preschool items and elementary items, whereas ratings decreased slightly for middle school items. SAC believes it is important to point out the MA population grew the most in the middle school grades.

In the SAC review of the findings and comments, some areas were identified for MA to address in the future. However, these issues are not the same across the three levels of the school. Therefore, the main issues to be explored for each level are offered after the general comments.

### A. General comments applicable for all grades:

1. Our whole team (MA employees) is not consistently demonstrating core virtues to include courtesy and respect. The faculty's and administration's behavior is constantly on display and on the minds of students and parents. Given MA's commitment to the Core Virtue Program, more consistent "walking the talk" is expected.
2. Communication could be better. One example is of parents learning a child had been transferred to a reading tutor weeks after the change occurred. Another is related to keeping parents informed about the potential changes happening with Spanish and Technology classes in light of reduced budgets.
3. Curriculum and consistency across grades and faculty requires improvement. Families are concerned about uneven workload across grades (e.g. heavier workloads in the odd numbered grades, intensity of curriculum, the number of hours of homework, amount of rote memorization, etc. Although we identified this issue last year and believe MA is aware of these concerns, families have not seen any changes. There were a handful of negative comments on cursive writing for pre-school and elementary. More is required to help parents understand our decision to introduce and teach cursive in earlier grades.
4. Bullying – Several families believe there is too much bullying considering the 'no tolerance' policy of the school and recommend better training for everyone at MA on how to address it.
5. Class Sizes – Families do not want to see increases in class size and believe spots should not necessarily be filled when children leave the school.
6. Library fundraising is a HUGE hot button issue. The fact that the PTO is behind this initiative is almost completely lost on the parents. With budget reductions, it's unclear why MA is investing to improve the library with other

programs and needs going unmet. This is a problem that stems partly from a concern that we have too many fundraising initiatives. The independence of the PTO from the board and administration is also poorly understood.

SAC suggestion: MA publishes a 'wish list' for curriculum and educational materials so that parents can donate targeted funds for specific needs. Some parents would be more include to help offset those costs if there was a direct link to the quality of their children's education. An example would be purchasing math or science materials.

#### B. Preschool

1. Recommend consideration of a parent-teacher conference in the fall in addition of the spring.
2. Pick-up and drop off – families desire a better system that might include parking in the back of the school if possible.

#### C. Elementary

Loss of Spanish and technology instruction – families heard that these classes will not be offered next year and oppose this decision, as it is a main reason that many families choose the school over other schools.

#### D. Middle School

All key concerns included in the general comments above

### **Summary**

Several comments included feedback on individual faculty and administration members. Although this is of interest to the administration team, it is not material appropriate for a summary of survey comments. Although we've indentified these areas for future consideration, many MA parents are very satisfied with the school, as evidenced by the summary of the response across the survey questions. Specifically question 20, which was a new question for the survey this year, asked, "Would you recommend MA to your friends." The averages across Preschool, Elementary and Middle School were 4.4, 4.29 and 4.26 respectively. (5= strong agreement, 1= strong disagreement)

Question	Preschool	Preschool	% Change	Elementary	Elementary	% Change	Middle	Middle	% Change
	2011	2010		2011	2010		2011	2010	
# of responses	36	19		135	186		69	45	
1 MA is meeting mission	4.49	4.42	1.6%	4.33	4.27	1.4%	4.25	4.49	-5.3%
2 We support/understand the curriculum	4.33	4.42	-2.0%	4.42	4.3	2.8%	4.39	4.29	2.3%
3 MA delivering quality education	4.5	4.42	1.8%	4.52	4.39	3.0%	4.46	4.58	-2.6%
4 MA academic goals clear / reflect high expectations	4.35	4.47	-2.7%	4.39	4.25	3.3%	4.38	4.36	0.5%
5 Teachers are highly competent	4.47	4.22	5.9%	4.33	4.22	2.6%	4.37	4.36	0.2%
6 Effective communication with teacher	4.23	4.26	-0.7%	4.42	4.25	4.0%	4.21	4.11	2.4%
7 Admin is highly competent	4.2	3.74	12.3%	4.01	3.73	7.5%	3.93	3.93	0.0%
8 Admin communicates well	4.11	3.74	9.9%	3.86	3.73	3.5%	3.67	3.93	-6.6%
9 MA has controls for management of financial resources	3.69	3.78	-2.4%	3.75	3.58	4.7%	3.62	3.78	-4.2%
10 Board represents MA stakeholders	3.58	3.37	6.2%	3.67	3.54	3.7%	3.49	3.73	-6.4%
11 Board communicates well	3.54	3.37	5.0%	3.53	3.54	-0.3%	3.32	3.73	-11.0%
12 Changes made to improve academic program	4	4	0.0%	3.75	3.75	0.0%	3.81	3.93	-3.1%
13 Strategies in place for special needs, etc.	3.57	3.42	4.4%	3.48	3.26	6.7%	3.37	3.36	0.3%
14 Discipline handled appropriately	4.03	4.11	-1.9%	3.73	3.76	-0.8%	3.62	3.6	0.6%
15 Dress code consistently enforced	3.85	3.65	5.5%	3.83	3.84	-0.3%	3.58	3.24	10.5%
16 Core virtues modeled by students	4.2	4.26	-1.4%	3.84	3.98	-3.5%	3.87	4.05	-4.4%
17 Core virtues modeled by faculty	4.37	4.26	2.6%	4.09	3.98	2.8%	4.1	4.05	1.2%
18 Core virtues modeled by admin	4.19	4.26	-1.6%	3.91	3.98	-1.8%	3.91	4.05	-3.5%
19 Student(s) have grown and strongly developed at MA	4.44	4.47	-0.7%	4.35	4.22	3.1%	4.26	4.4	-3.2%
20 Would recommend MA as 1 <sup>st</sup> choice for others	4.44	-		4.29	-		4.26	-	

Improvement  $\geq 5\%$

Improvement  $< 5\%$

No change

Regression  $< 5\%$

Regression  $\geq 5\%$

