The views contained herein reflect the views of the individual School Board member who is the publisher of this newsletter and may not reflect the views of the Loudoun County School Board and/or Loudoun County Public Schools.

SURVEY RESPONSES REQUESTED

Last week, I created surveys to solicit feedback from the community on two issues that I hope to tackle over the next few months in office: school lunches and the grading/reassessment policy (see below for preliminary data for some of the questions asked). Please encourage your students to fill out the survey on their school lunches daily to allow me to have a better understanding on the areas of focus.

School Lunch Survey: https://forms.gle/HB5ZbnrcYb7xWXHd9
Assessment and Grading Policy Survey: https://forms.gle/3ymS2rhFFHMN3cbW9

PRELIMINARY LUNCH SURVEY DATA

The survey on lunches will remain open to allow for additional data collection; it will also take me time to take a deeper dive into the data to analyze trends. In the meantime, please find the following stats, based on 242 survey responses:

- 42.3% of students felt there were a sufficient number of main entrees available for them to choose from
- 49.6% of students stated there were multiple fruit options available for them to choose from
- 33.1% of students stated there were multiple vegetable options available for them to choose from
- 17.2% of students rated the quality of their lunch as a 6 or higher (on a 1-10 scale with 1 being inedible and 10 being a 5 star restaurant meal)
- 31.3% of students said there were NOT options available to meet their dietary needs
42.3% of students felt that there were enough main entrees available for them to choose from. Just under half of students stated that there was more than one fruit option for them to choose from. Only one third of students stated there were multiple vegetable options for them to choose from.

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT AND GRADING SURVEY DATA

Over 800 responses have been received over the last 3 days, with the most responses coming from High School Staff Members (26.2%) and High School Parents (16.3%).

This data will take far longer to analyze, as I plan to break down responses by category to better look at the responses.

The raw data includes the following information:

- A majority (66.9%) believe that the current 80% threshold for automatic retakes is too high, with 24.5% believing that the 80% threshold is appropriate.
- 71.8% believe that teachers should be required to accept late work for a deduction in a grade, while 8.6% believe that late work should be required to be accepted without penalty.
- Just under half of respondents believe that a 50% minimum grade for all assignments is too generous, while 37% believe it is appropriate only if the assignment is turned in within two weeks.
- An overwhelming 81.2% believe teachers should be able to count homework as a grade, with 27.8% voting to limit it to 10% of the overall grade.
- 96.3% of voters believe classwork should be allowed to be counted as a grade, though 31.8% want to see it limited to either 10% or 20% of the overall grade.

It is clear that there are discrepancies between what our policy currently requires and what teachers and parents, especially at the high school level, wish to see. As I said, it will take time to dig deeper into the data, and in the meantime, the survey is still open to those who have not yet had the opportunity to fill it out.

A link to the current policy can be found here: https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/loudoun/Board.nsf/files/BTHT497581B4/$file/5030_Current.pdf
BUDGET RECONCILIATION

The County Board of Supervisors appropriated $1,067,759,336 to LCPS for FY23. This amount is $21,515,432 less than what was needed to fully fund the FY23 Adopted Budget. Despite uncertainty with the State budget and its potential impacts to LCPS, staff is recommending proceeding with reconciling the FY23 Adopted Budget to the County appropriation; reconciliation action is planned for the May 24 School Board meeting.

My goal is to avoid cuts that directly affect our schools and school based staff members. A number of the cuts that I proposed in February already passed, saving over $1,000,000 without directly affecting our students.

CONGRATULATIONS!

I’d like to extend a big congratulations to the following LCPS employees serving Broad Run District schools on their recent awards:

- Caroline Brunetti and Elizabeth Coyle, Loudoun New Teachers of the Year, Cedar Lane Elementary School and River Bend Middle School
- Robert Marple, Loudoun Principal of the Year, Cedar Lane Elementary School
- Jordan Markwood, Loudoun Teacher of the Year AND Washington Post Teacher of the Year, Rock Ridge High School

Thank you all for your service to Loudoun and our students!

CONTACT INFORMATION

I will be wrapping up my work training in Dallas this week, and cannot wait to be back in our schools starting next week!

andrew.hoyler@lcps.org  571-410-9780