



BAHAMAS CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION (CBE)

2016-2017 PARENT SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

September 2017

On behalf of the Catholic Board of Education (CBE) I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all parents that took the time to participate in the CBE Parent Survey. In total one thousand sixteen (1,016) parents responded to the survey.

The survey responses have been analyzed and shared with CBE Principals and Administrators. Your responses will be used to help us to better serve all stakeholders and ensure the growth and sustainability of our system now and for future generations.

This document outlines the key findings from the survey and the actions CBE will take to address the issues arising most often from the responses. A full analysis of the survey results can be found on the Catholic Board of Education website (<http://cboe.cec.edu.bs/>).

The Catholic Board of Education acknowledges and values the trust and confidence you have placed in us to educate your child. We look forward to partnering with you towards his/her growth and development.

Claudette A. Rolle
Director of Catholic Education

Key Strengths (Where 60% or more parents strongly agree or agree)

It is extremely pleasing that parents largely agree that the school is performing well in fundamentally important areas key to the mission and vision of the Catholic Board of Education (CBE). We are delighted that Catholic Board of Education (CBE) parents feel that the curriculum & instruction of our schools are of a high quality.

In terms of administration & teachers the majority of parents surveyed agreed that their school's teachers and administrators are easily accessible. Parents also agree that CBE teachers are respectful and courteous. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of parents agree or strongly agree that CBE teachers provide frequent feedback to parents on the academic progress of their child. CBE is delighted that many of our parents agree that our school facilities are neat, clean and safe. Parents also concur that CBE schools provide adequate outdoor space.

In terms of school values the majority of parents agree that Catholic identity is understood and visible on the campuses. The majority of parents feel that the schools set and maintain standards for good Christian behavior. Parents also have a favorable outlook relative to extracurricular activities at their child's school.

The survey revealed that school communications with parents are effective. Parents agreed that goals and priorities of CBE schools were clearly communicated, curriculum and assessments information is given and the school's newsletter keeps parents informed.

Here is a small sample of the many positive comments received. (Note: Comments coded by school colour)

- I love that Aquinas College teaches morals and respect for all. Even before my daughter attended the school I was impressed at how helpful the students are. They are willing to assist you even holding the doors open, really commendable.
- Aquinas College does an excellent job in academics and has a general focus for the students to achieve their goals.
- Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy has a family-like atmosphere where teachers are genuinely involved and concerned with students.
- MSSCA provides a solid academic education. The school challenges students, therefore pulling out the best in them.
- St. Thomas More School is good at identifying issues with the child very quickly. The school then acts very quickly in order for the child to stay on stream with class.
- St. Thomas More provides an overall high quality education.
- The teachers at St. Cecilia's are some of the most skilled educators I have had the privilege of observing. They work closely with the kids and have brought out the best in my kids. I review his books diligently to see his progress and I am in awe. I am proud to have chosen this school. I hope the new teachers are as dedicated as the ladies who are here.

- St. Cecilia's provides extracurricular activities that help the children become well rounded. I receive a sense of mentoring; driving the children to not only do well in academics, but to become good citizens.
- I love the attention that is shown to my daughter at St. Francis de Sales. As a parent, you want/expect the utmost care is given to your child. She is learning discipline, good Christian values and a strong education. I'm a pleased parent.
- St. Francis de Sales maintains high standards for academic excellence. The school communicates any areas in which my child is lacking/falling behind and suggests ways to work with the child at home.
- Xavier's has done a fantastic job with foundational skills. My children have an appreciation for learning and knowledge and have displayed solid critical thinking.
- Xavier's has an excellent plethora of extra-curricular activities. I love the academic excellence I've seen in all students thus far with the school and love that the school has a reading after school program.
- Sts. Francis & Joseph's quality of education is excellent. They also teach the child to be independent.
- I love the fact that Sts. Francis & Joseph is a well rounded school, they are interested in academics and sports.

Areas for Improvement (Where more than 10% of parents strongly disagree or disagree)

In terms of 'Curriculum & Instruction' eleven percent (11%) of parents surveyed disagree that the homework demands of their child's school is appropriate.

Relative to 'Administrators & Teachers' fifteen percent (15%) of teachers disagree that their child's teachers provide frequent feedback to students and parents concerning academic progress.

Thirteen percent (13%) of survey respondents disagree that the classrooms at their child's school provides an acceptable level of comfort for their child.

Several parents, fifteen percent (15%), disagree with the statement "I am familiar with the profile of The Bahamas Catholic Board of Education Graduate." Twenty percent (20%) of parents do not know about the CBE Graduate profile.

Under the 'Extracurricular Activities' section of the survey several parents expressed three areas of concern. Twelve percent (12%) of parents disagree that the Physical Education curriculum meets their child's needs. Sixteen percent (16%) of parents disagree that their child's school offers sufficient extracurricular activities and afterschool clubs. When asked if they agree or disagree that the majority of parents at their child's school supports and attends extracurricular activities (parents' nights, PTA meetings, sports events, school plays, etc.) sixteen percent (16%) of survey responders disagree.

Fifteen percent (15%) of parents stated that they disagree that they received information about programs, curriculum, assessments and proficiency levels that their child is expected to meet. Overall most parents feel that the school newsletter is effective, but when prompted to provide other mediums through which their child's school could better communicate, seventy percent (70%) would like to receive newsletters via email.

A sample of comments on issues within the CBE schools which need addressing follows: (Note: Comments coded by school colour)

- I believe the lack of focus on athletics at Aquinas College does not allow for the full development of the whole person.
- Aquinas College needs a better lunch program.
- At Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Academy the teachers need to communicate better when your child is falling off with their lessons or if they are seeing a trend where the child becomes isolated from other children; they need to reach out to them along the way.
- I would want the kids at MSSCA to be able to learn in different ways and not just notes and test. I would also like more assistance for children who are struggling.
- St. Thomas More can place more emphasis on writing and reading skills, e.g. give a book to read every week and require students to give opinions on what was read.
- St. Thomas More should add more green space (grass) for the little ones to play. The space can also be used for PE and to play soccer and/or t-ball.
- St. Cecilia's could have a better lunch menu.
- St. Cecilia's needs to find a way to structure the parking so that more vehicles can access the grounds and find a way to resolve the flooding during rainy days.
- I would like to see St. Francis de Sales have more extra-curricular activities/clubs at the school such as art clubs, cultural and language arts, community clubs, sports & recreation and music to help my child succeed in more than just academic endeavors.
- I would like to see St. Francis de Sales become more involved with sporting activities; etc. basketball, softball, baseball, track & field.
- Xavier's could improve its communication to parents, schedule exams and quizzes and stick to the schedule.
- I would like for Xavier's to add more technology in the classes, like whiteboards, since these kids thrive when learning is interactive.
- Sts. Francis & Joseph needs to be consistent with creative writing and reading comprehension from grade 1 to 6. Some grades focus on it and others don't. If the children can't do reading comprehension how well will they do in other subjects.
- Some of the teachers at Sts. Francis & Joseph can communicate more about my child's progress.

School Development Projects

School development projects was not an official category on the survey, but in the 'General Comments' section many parents made reference to school facility developments which they feel are necessary. In terms of school development the chart below shows the proposed development projects, by school, mentioned most frequently in the CBE Parent Survey.

The Director will review these suggestions along with the proposed development projects submitted by teachers and administrators. CBE will identify short, medium and long term development goals for each school. These goals will be shared with all CBE stakeholders.

PARENT PROPOSED SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

AQUINAS COLLEGE

- Campus beautification initiative (tree & flower planting)
- Build swimming pool
- Implement air quality monitoring system
- Upgrade sporting area

MSS CATHOLIC ACADEMY

- Purchase school bus
- Campus beautification (more trees & vibrant murals around campus)
- Upgrade classroom furniture

ST. CECILIA'S

- Establish proper library
- Work on school driveway (expand parking in school yard & resolve flooding))
- Campus beautification (playground & landscaping)

STS. FRANCIS & JOSEPH

- Install cameras in parking lot

XAVIER'S

- Upgrade bathrooms
- Outfit every classroom with smart boards
- Upgrade pool showers
- Repave parking lot
- Resurface cabana area

ST. THOMAS MORE

- Upgrade restrooms
- Campus beautification (upgrade playground and increase green spaces)
- Build swimming pool
- Increase technology in classrooms
- Install covered area for assembly

ST. FRANCIS de SALES

- Improve bathrooms
- Upgrade track & field facility
- Upgrade computer lab
- Fix the shack
- Expand library
- Classroom interior upgrades
- Build science labs
- Improve playground
- Purchase school bus
- Computerize classrooms
- Construction of teacher's lounge
- Fix upper primary building

Next Steps

Overall, the data from the survey was very constructive. Members of the Catholic Board of Education, the Director of Catholic Education and CBE Administrators are grateful for the time taken by parents to complete the questionnaire.

The issues which arose most often throughout the CBE Parent Survey as requiring further efforts were:

1. School Lunch Program

Catholic Board of Education Response:

- The Director will meet with vendors to discuss parents' concerns.
- Parents are invited to submit menu suggestions to cathboed@coralwave.com

2. Development of Stronger Sports Program

Catholic Board of Education Response:

- Conduct a review of the Physical Education curriculum.

3. Creative Writing Curriculum & Integration of Language Arts

Catholic Board of Education Response:

- Conduct a review of the Creative Writing curriculum.

4. School Fees

- **Catholic Board of Education Response:** The Catholic Board of Education recognizes the sacrifice many parents make to send their children to Catholic school. We are committed to using our financial resources wisely and keeping tuition affordable for all families. CBE will produce and distribute a school fee comparative analysis. It will show that our Catholic schools are comparatively priced and that our fees are reasonable. When you choose a CBE school you get value for money and return on investment in the holistic education of your child.

5. Frequency of Fundraising Initiatives

Catholic Board of Education Response: It is necessary for CBE to fundraise to supplement tuition. Fundraising helps CBE to provide an education above & beyond what tuition pays. Based on the current budget expense numbers v/s projected enrollment CBE's approximate cost to educate each child in our system is four thousand five hundred and seventy six (\$4,576.00) per year or one thousand five hundred twenty five dollars (\$1,525.33) per term. Fundraising helps us to keep increases in tuition as low as possible. To address the concern of the frequency of fundraising initiatives CBE will:

- Ensure that at the beginning of the school year parents are informed of the projects school fundraisers and PTA initiatives will fund.

6. Distribution of Newsletters

Catholic Board of Education Response:

- All schools will post current newsletters to their respective website.
- CBE encourages all parents to join the Catholic Schools Bahamas Network. As a member you will receive updates about your school and important CBE updates and developments. For details email jalbury@cec.edu.bs.

7. Request for Air-conditioned Classrooms

Catholic Board of Education Response: Many parents have expressed concern about the school fees; this has been addressed in points aforementioned. If CBE installed air conditioners in the classrooms school fees would have to be significantly increased. CBE cannot provide air conditioned classrooms at this time. We will do our best to ensure that classrooms are well ventilated and that fans are operable.

Note: In addition to the Catholic Board of Education's responses, individual schools will implement specific initiatives and programs in response to survey results.