








The following questions are for parents of high school students only: High School Language Arts teachers will be meeting this year to review and select new instructional materials for adoption. As partners in your student's education, we are requesting your input in the adoption process through this survey. Your responses will help guide the committee as they work through the High School Language Arts adoption process.





13. How would you describe your high school student's interest in, and enthusiasm for Language Arts?

My student is keenly interested in and enthusiastic about Language		92	33%
My student is moderately interested in and enthusiastic about Language Arts.		134	48%
My student is not interested or enthusiastic about Language Arts.		41	15%
My student does not care for Language Arts.		14	5%
Total		281	100%





14. How would you describe your high school student's skills and abilities in high school level reading, writing and communicating?

My student is an exceptional reader, writer, and oral communicator.		132	48%
My student has an adequate grasp of reading, writing and communication skills.		112	41%
My student struggles with reading, writing and communication.		29	11%
Total		273	100%

15. How satisfied are you with the Language Arts instruction your high school student(s) has/have received in the Issaquah School District?

Very satisfied		56	21%
Satisfied		148	56%
Dissatisfied		51	19%
Very dissatisfied		10	4%
Total		265	100%

16. How satisfied are you that adequate time and attention is given to reading, writing and communication in your student's high school?

Very satisfied		59	22%
Satisfied		146	54%
Dissatisfied		55	21%
Very dissatisfied		8	3%
Total		268	100%

Middle School/High School Parents Survey 2010

Results Overview



Date: 11/18/2010 12:33 PM PST

Responses: Completes

Filter: No filter applied

17. What is most important to you in your student's high school Language Arts education?

#	Response
1	Provide additional resources for students who need help with writing
2	I would like to be sure that my student can communicate effectively, both in print and in speaking before others.
3	writing, vocabulary
4	That they learn proper grammar and rules before focusing so much on the creative aspects. Fundamental mechanics should trump personal voice at first.
5	Feedback to student to assist in understanding and improvement of talents.
6	Given lessons that apply to life after school. Readin the correct material and providing instruction to learn from not just lectures and grades with no thought behind why.
7	Innovation. If the "status quo" isn't working, teachers need to have flexibility and training to try to reach the students with other methods.
8	Written work..essays, etc.
9	Day to day happening, issues need to be discussed. More intageration with Government. ASP should be 0 period or as after school club.
10	Writing skills-ability to write competently for various situations
11	Proper writing technique taught with high standards, difficult vocabulary, deeper analyzation in literature. My child sometimes complains that her teacher is much harder than the others, but her class's writing skills are also significantly better.
12	Communication skills - writing and verbal. Reading across wide genre.
13	My son loves to write and getting constructive feedback and encouragement from his teachers has been invaluable.
14	Writing and communication skills (includes oral presentations).
15	An engaging teacher
16	An egageing teacher. HS is a tough nut to crack. It is hard, but it also can be great.
17	Having an open mind to freely express opinions.
18	Exposure to classic literature as well as new, and offering opportunities to allow students to actually write to express themselves.
19	Teachers that take an interest in each student.
20	plenty of reading and writing
21	1. Reading 2. Writing 3. Oral communication
22	good writing skilss and able to communicate in the 2010 world. This is not the problem for us it is the math program and the math curriculum Math is not for every student.
23	English NOT Spanish.
24	Developing reading and writing skills

25	That he be able to read and communicate effectively.
26	Preparation for college and life. LA education should be reading and discussions of books as well as learning the basics of grammar, vocab, writing. I am not a fan of annotating the classics. I think it takes the pleasure out of reading, ruins the book and is a waste of time.
27	Honing skills in analytical interpretation and writing.
28	Great writing skills
29	Personal attention from the teacher
30	Being able to communicate both written and verbal is becoming a lost art. With the age of texting kids don't know how to talk or write....
31	The teacher should give timely feedback on all graded writing assignments. My child's teacher gave six in-class timed writing assignments, then at the end of the year, had the students number the papers 1-6, roll a die, and the corresponding paper would be graded and counted six times. This is in an honors English class. Unconscionable.
32	Since students are required to pass the WASL (or whatever it is now claed) I would think that you would make it of the utmost priority that ALL students meet the goal and if they do not that a class is in place without parent prompting to ensure they have the same opportunity to meet the requirements as you have set forth for math. Seems that because there are more student with Math issues that you focus on them and leave the reader and writing kids behind as though they are unimportant.
33	Being able to write well!
34	That the teachers remain consistently good. My daughter was upset that [redacted] and she got an unsatisfactory substitute, who would have been better-suited to be a middle-school substitute. There was a vast difference in expectations between her and [redacted] -"She had rock-bottom expectations." 2) because [redacted] " My daughter felt her education was compromised. But this is not the first time that has happened to her in the Issaquah School District. [redacted]
35	The teacher makes a big difference in the student's learning.
36	Mastering excellent writing skills, exposure to classic works of literature
37	exposure to lots of different topics and writing skills
38	Understanding the required curriculum
39	Being able to write well for college.
40	Variety in literature genres
41	Consistency throughout
42	Reading variety of genres, combined with writing essays, grammar and language arts skills such as reading comprehension.
43	Higher level writing and oral dissertation skills in preparation for college entrance tests and challenging college classes.
44	keeping students interested with engaging novels and discussion of what they have read and written
45	I explained above.
46	The mechanics of writing a paper and being exposed to literature that they would not necessary choose to read on their own.
47	That she can continue to grow and not have to stay at the average level.
48	I appreciate the variety of curriculum that is incorporated into the the LA program, but I believe the Issaquah District lacks sound teaching in the grammar department.
49	Teacher's who do not let their bright students wither on the vine. Meaningful NOT rote work.
50	Reading comprehension and variety of literature and discussion
51	Opportunities to express themselves in various forms.

52	If a student is struggling, maybe they could be introduced to a book that would actually engage them. Most books picked are not achievable for all students. To some degree, learning should be fun - engaging for the students. You catch more flies with honey than vinegar.
53	The basics, unfortunately once your child falls behind with a poor teacher (my sons 10th grade teacher left and was ineffective when there) and the next year it was assumed he knew things he did not and no one took the time to fill those missing gaps in his learning.
54	creative and challenging curriculum
55	He is very good with grammar. His writing skills have very much improved over the last few years.
56	Writing skills and presenting skills
57	Interesting and informative teaching styles so that the content is absorbed by the student(s) and they build on their knowledge each year.
58	I actually think too much time is now spent on LA and more should be spent on math and science.
59	I want them to have a large variety of experience reading from all genres. It is also important that they learn to communicate clearly in their writing in many different forms.
60	It prepares my student for college.
61	developing strong writing skills to meet the standards for college level writing.
62	Students read many books and discuss them in detail. They are also encouraged to think about literature independently. Last year my child learned 1000 SAT words in her LA class. This greatly benefited her manipulation of the English language (English is her 3rd.)
63	It's the basis for success in all the other classes
64	enthusiastic teachers
65	variety of genres
66	foreign language
67	Feedback. It takes six weeks for my son to receive back an essay that he writes. My first son put a fake paragraph in every essay (I have proof)...teachers never, NEVER, NEVER noticed. Again, A student on tests, D student on homework. They didn't read the essays - they knew he was a D and gave him a D - when I first figured this out I talked to other parents....some of them had the same experience.....what the heck are we doing here????????????????
68	Preparation for college and career expectations. Wide exposure to literary and non-fiction works. Support of my student's creativity and independent thinking.
69	Learning to write well. Use the college prompts earlier as topics for writing; maybe more political topics, things more current than always about literature. I am not sure kids read the classics anymore. And not sure they should have to? Sorry, but the Twilight series, not well written, is still going down in history and so is Harry Potter.
70	Learning how to construct meaningful reports, letters,... written documents.
71	Teaching them proper english and sentence structure.
72	That they learn reading comprehension and communication skills.
73	Grammar, spelling
74	That she stays interested in her AP English Lang and Comp.
75	Since high school is prep for college, I want my student to be able to write effectively (through the writing and editing process) and speak well in front of classmates etc.
76	Writing skills, general knowledge of history and increased reading skills.
77	Harder foreign language classes.
78	The teacher, the curriculum
79	Getting Help

80	meet her needs and help her succeed out of high school
81	To learn the ability of communicating across various mediums, such as reports, blogs, and oral presentations to a variety of audience, such as students/teachers, parents and community leaders and members outside the school.
82	I think it is important that books and assignments are selected that INTEREST the child, rather than filling the interests of the teachers or district curriculum. If the student is given relatable material, he/she will take an interest and have a better learning experience.
83	Emphasis on writing
84	My problem with reading and writing was that it was well taught in elementary school(Clark) and then ignored (reading requirement)in middle school (Maywood). The requirement was more demanding at the other middle school(Issaquah). So it was hard for my kids to get back into it in High School. I also feel they weren't taught in middle school how to write a paper properly.
85	Practice and coaching. Make the students write more and provide feedback. In one case a student's request to evaluate went completely unanswered.
86	That they learn how to be proficient writers. The honors English classes were good, but the regular classes were a sub par. There is a huge difference between the two when there should only be a minimal difference.
87	The she feels inspired by her teachers to explore aspects of creative writing and quality literature.
88	Critical reading skills, learning to write (technical and creative). He has had some good experiences with oral presentations/debate, and I think that's important, but not quite as important as the first two I listed.
89	My child struggles with Language Arts because he doesn't want to do the work. I believe this is common in boys. Getting boys involved would be a good start...tough job.
90	It's important that students communicate their ideas effectively in writing and have exposure to a variety of types of literature/reading material.
91	I want my son to be an effective writer in preparation for college and beyond.
92	My son is already bilingual in mandarin chinese and english but he won't get credit for this. He meets the UW second language requirement but not ISD.
93	Focus on the basics.
94	My high school student works very hard at challenging herself. Though I found your LA question a bit biased because my daughter is an above average reader, but her writing skills are seriously lacking. She has been in Honors block for the past 2 years and the teachers in this block can't seem to provide her with the attention that she needs. They provide her 10 mins here or 10 mins there with an appointment only. She even went in to speak to her SS teacher about her Soph. project grade and he wouldn't discuss it. He told her that there wasn't anything she could do and sent her on her way. She later found out that the same teacher listen to and changed the grade on a friend of her's paper. She purpose was not to have her grade changed but to have a conversation with this teacher about why he gave her the grade he did. There was no conversation. It was a very dissatisfying lesson for my student.
95	Inspiring reading and writing. Skilled in written and oral communication
96	develop critical thinking and ability to write cohesive paragraphs
97	Dyslexic training
98	What is most important to me is to be able to communicate in writing and orally, be ready for entrance exams to college, and be thoroughly prepared for college.
99	Emphasize reading, effective writing (to include all types of writing and correct grammar in all writing pieces) and effective presentation skills.
100	Focus on skills, not content.
101	To be like US citizen. To know how to make a very successful presentation...
102	Integrating history and English--often it seems that one area overshadows the other. Providing a variety of materials to attain a good grasp of literature and history would be best and also placing more emphasis on the importance of history and civics.
103	My daughter needs to be better a more competent written communicator - I would like to see her more aware of the importance of this school in modern business and professional situations.

104	Provide less social language avenues for the student to express understanding of curriculum. Teacher romeo and juliet shut him down to a non working mode. His teacher was more involved in extracurricular sports than teaching the class.
105	My son has special needs and thus is not at grade level in Language Arts. He is receiving some individualized attention with his writing and is in a small group working on reading and writing in the LRC 2.
106	I would love for my student to get extra help with writing, but he has to want to get extra help in writing.
107	Need to learn to write, lots. Not so much grade emphasis but how to actually learn to write.
108	x
109	Fostering a love of reading and of expression.
110	Students find some teachers boring and teachers don't connect with the students making it harder to learn.
111	Each year we want our daughter to improve her reading, writing and oral communications skills. Which she has been doing.
112	The IB program allows him to give input and learn in an interactive manner.
113	Preparing my child for college, particularly in writing.
114	time taken to develop writing skills in a non-threatening atmosphere
115	Learning how to spell correctly and write an essay.
116	That she learn to communicate effective through writing.
117	The student needs to learn to write cohesive papers without overloading them on research papers.
118	regular practise and drill from school
119	He will be prepared for college
120	that he can put his thoughts into words in a coherent way
121	Writing ability
122	Comprehension and critical thinking skills. Excellent writing/communicating ideas abilities.
123	Up to date literature that interests everyone.
124	Being able to communicate well, and having a chance to read/write about a variety of topics.
125	That he continues to enjoy and take classes that will get him into his college of choice.
126	That the pace moves along. Some things take weeks and students lose interest while others are barely addressed before they have to move on. Multiple methods are needed to teach and engage. L.A. is a good place to develop public speaking skills. More emphasis needs to be placed on writing - multiple methods of writing, not just one formula that is right or wrong. Jane Schaffer is horrible. It would be good to have more writing assignments of varying length and that equated more to real life
127	Focusing on the basics of good communication skills would be my primary focus. Ability to read and analyze a variety of writing would also be important. Reinforcing grammar and spelling in this "texting generation" would also be important.
128	More gifted teachers who truly know how to teach kids a foreign language
129	Students should graduate from high school with excellent writing skills.
130	I found that the methods/approaches used were good for those students who were already very good at language arts but not good for those students who are not as strong. I have 2 sons - one is very good in language arts and the other is very good in math/science. The math/science son has a harder time in language arts and I'm not sure the current curriculum is helping him improve. The curriculum is fine if language arts is one of your strengths.
131	"How to write an essay." quote from my college student who said the best thing was "when [redacted] grilled them on essay writing.

132	Bring back the opportunity to read for the "love of reading." Too many times great books are dissected while reading and the enjoyment is lost.
133	Ability to write a persuasive essay and research paper. Good vocabulary and grammar. Very few people analyze literature after graduation.
134	That she is taught proper writing skills - essays, papers, analysis, critical thinking
135	teach them how to read critically and write well
136	Teachers that love to teach not teachers that verbally insult the students and are place holders or waiting for retirement.
137	That my children be able to effectively communicate with others in a variety of settings as appropriate so as to be successful in any and all future pursuits.
138	Broad selection of literature that includes non-political literature in addition to the political lit. that they get all the time. More emphasis on grammar, there is virtually none. Instruction on writing, how to write well. I have had to teach my child how to write, and fortunately I am able to having majored in History and Minored in English Lit, and am a member of Phi Beta Kappa.
139	being able to express oneself in a professional manner
140	We are very impressed with the quality of teaching that is being offered in the language arts in SHS. We hope the new curriculum that is adopted will continue the tradition of excellence that has characterized the teaching/course offerings of subjects which have been offered in high school in the language arts up until now.
141	Good communication between the teacher and parent
142	Different class choices (more variety)
143	Communication is clearly the most important piece of the equation. Reading plays a roll but quality over quantity is better in my opinion. Writing skills would be 2nd on my list here - it will prepare the kids to succeed in an higher education setting.
144	Grammar, proper thesis writing, read newer books there has got to be a better curriculum than Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre, etc. try the last 50 years
145	Emphasis on reading books.
146	read some classical things, such as, Old Man and Sea.
147	In order for my student to even have a high school education I would like him to at least be able to know the basics... I have learned that most students do not really grasp the basic concepts.. wow typing here sucks.. why did you make me type this mom?
148	It would be benneficial to have more reading, writing and communication.
149	Writing
150	My student needs to be taught in ways that work with his special learning challenges. I felt that _____ did an outstanding job last year of challenging my son and teaching in a way that he could be successful. He went from hating language arts to thinking he was good at it. He improved significantly this past year. I can't say that was the case for all of his years in the district, but last year was really great for him.
151	I would like to see him improve his reading comprehension and continue to enjoy reading for his own enjoyment and success.
152	Comprehension and writing skills
153	Please see earlier comments about the school.
154	His grasp of communication
155	With having a good base of understanding of our language, enunciation, and intelligent speech.I do not like the acceptance of slack languages that our children are learning, ie..text, email shortcuts and slang.
156	The ability to communicate effectively in writing and to think critically about what he reads
157	Keep the kids interested and don't completely turn off the student with books that are horribly boring or so difficult to get through that many kids give up and don't read it at all.
158	composition ability to express themselves in writing

159	Make it interesting. If it's boring they won't learn anything!
160	That he is well prepared to go into college.
161	Teaching the students to write well and to teach them oral and written communication skills.
162	Not all students will be writers and that is ok. However, they should be able to have at least the basic writing skills that will enable them to be successful in the future. Reading is a great way to expand minds and have fun! I would hope that my student and others discover a love for reading!
163	My daughter has very little reading and writing homework. She was in 9th grade last year and I rarely saw her read books at home for school and write papers for her Language Arts class. We were so disappointed we thought about enrolling her in a summer on-line writing course but the summer flew by and we did not get around to it. We did turn off all electronics from 10AM -5PM and our daughters spent a lot of their down time reading which was great. However, they chose the books they wanted to read not necessarily the more challenging or thought provoking books she would be assigned in school.
164	More reading of quality literature. With the internet they can get the substance of everything everywhere. I want them to want to read the entire book looking for their own pearls of wisdom.
165	At this point, with my student entering 9th grade, I do not know enough to comment.
166	Prepare them for College level classes.
167	Knowledge enrichment and diversification
168	College Prep.
169	Inspired teaching. I feel that Pine Lake and PCFC had the more inspiring LA teachers.
170	Content, expression, critical thought
171	Getting the basics so she can read, write and understand the material and be able to discuss it verbally and in writing.
172	grammar and spelling
173	I think the district, in general, and the schools, in particular, need to return to the basics. After completing a summer school packet with my student this summer, I was more than dismayed to learn my student could not identify basic parts of speech. He didn't know the difference between a verb and a predicate. Do you? If a teacher cannot answer that, he or she has no business teaching.
174	Communication Skills are most important.
175	Learning to write in a well formed, concise manner.
176	That my student learn to communicate in multiple systems and develop a love for reading to learn new and exciting things - whether it is about relationships, news, etc.
177	Oral communications.
178	I think the academic caliber is excellent. I was very impressed with the curriculum my son had in 9th grade. It was a stretch for him but I appreciate that he was challenged.
179	Being able to excellently communicate to particular audiences verbally and in writing.
180	My student's writing skills are dreadful. Because he has an IEP (for ADHD), he was in a SAIL class where he improved very little. This year he will be in a mainstream class and I am very concerned that he will fail. He receives very little individualized instruction.
181	.
182	The right teacher makes the difference.
183	Experienced teachers & support staff; availability of materials.
184	Writing & Speaking
185	Learning to write well.

186	promote critical thinking
187	Reading and analyzing classics such as "Romeo & Juliet", "Lord of the Flies", etc. Continuing to work on their writing skills, punctuation, etc...
188	That student's learn to communicate effectively. Both written and verbally.
189	That students are taught to be critical readers and thinkers and that they are taught to communicate clearly both when speaking and in writing.
190	College prep/college readiness and leaving high school with the skills to survive in the work world.
191	A passion for the topics, support for all their other learning, and relevance to their lives and the world around them.
192	Providing teachers that engage the students and give them opportunity to reach out and try things. Having a teacher that CARES about the success of the student in their class.
193	Learn to write
194	That they enjoy the teacher, if they enjoy the teacher everything else will follow
195	I wish more emphasis was placed on spelling. Its most important to me that they know the difference between formal and informal writing and can write well (grammar and spelling) each way.
196	Making it relevant to STEM. Straight A student who really doesn't understand the importance of or connection of LA to success in other programs, college application process or future career success.
197	I would like to see the Language Arts program focus on grammar, punctuation and spelling. By 11th grade, I should not be seeing incomplete sentences and grammatical errors on a paper graded "A".
198	It's the quality, not the quantity, and that can vary with the instructor.
199	An emphasis on grammar and proper punctuation. The written word is becoming badly diluted and undermined by reliance on electronic media.
200	Writing skills, and being able to speak in front of a group of people.
201	reading comprehension skills prep for SAT
202	Preparation for college and the workplace. Increasingly, the students use of technology is getting in the way of clear, thoughtful communication. Language Arts is critical for their future and somehow they need to learn to take the time to critically read, write and communicate -- beyond the Twitter mentality. I don't know how this translates into curriculum though.
203	An appreciation for written language as a communication tool, a way of understanding other cultures and times, and for enjoyment.
204	There should be requirements added for foreign language and addition of more foreign language classes. To advance our students as citizens of the world (see ISD objectives/mission) and to prepare our students for college, foreign language should be added earlier beginning in Middle School, such that all students can take these classes based on interest (versus based on GPA).
205	Special ed teachers should have high expectations of their kids and expect them to achieve to the best of their abilities.
206	That my student is learning, will be prepared for writing papers in college, and is engaged in the subject matter.
207	promotes written, verbal communication, expands the imagination, helps student be creative

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18. What else would you like us to know as we begin this process?	
#	Response
1	Students should have other choices for AP English classes as seniors.
2	All books provided for students rather than having to go out and purchase them. Annotations could be done on post it notes so books can be reused. Or possibly purchase them electronically and notations could be made electronically.
3	There is no reason that Skyline teachers instruct and grade in such a manner that our students are at a disadvantage. We don't even have top talent but perhaps that is the problem.
4	I would like to see the implementation of a writing program in high school that goes beyond the Jane Schaffer instruction given in middle school. There is a HUGE gap between the writing assignments in high school and the writing requirements in college.
5	As we know, students are not cookie-cut images of one another. They learn differently. We need to reach them where they are so that they all have a chance for continued learning.
6	Boys learn differently...it's been documented. Have they considered separate gender classes (or) current research in "Boys Adrift?"
7	encouraging debate during the class time regarding current issues and internation issues.
8	Math curriculum/teaching methods needs to be improved (although [redacted] was fantastic)
9	No idea what is going on....so some background would be great
10	My daughter learns very differently from my son. I hope that the new curriculum you choose will cater to different learning styles.
11	The honors teachers first and foremost should be engaging. They should consider it the first priority to love the students.
12	Empower the teachers to inspire. Also, recognize that matching teachers and students is tough, and be more open to changes when the match isn't that great.
13	Be more attentive with grades (i.e. have counselors set up meetings for students who are doing poorly in class and see what they can do to address the problem). Announce drop dates for classes somehow, be it in an email or phone calls to parents. Additionally my student was censored by a teacher for an assignment that specifically gave instructions to act as a character. My student used mild language in his presentation (the book had expletives) and the teacher unfairly reprimand my son in front of the class and in his grade for the presentation.
14	.
15	Read more novels and have more class discussions on them. Have more time for writing instruction and practice.
16	Do not judge a book by its cover.
17	Don't change things if they are not broke
18	Please pay attention to the weakness of the math and foreign language depts at Skyline.
19	Students learn best when they are involved - read the books, discuss the books, write about the books. Nice when there is a link between LA and SS (reading books from the era they are studying...)
20	Although I know that time is always the limiting factor, it would also be nice to include a greater breadth of reading materials/novels.

21	You should be asking this question of parents who have had kids graduate...
22	Nothing
23	Please pay heed to parent feedback on teachers.
24	The staff that we have had at Liberty for Language arts have been excellant and without them our child may not have graduated. You just need to make sure that there is a class in place for student who may need to submit a portfolio and make sure that it is in their Junior year so they have time to augment or make other arrangements. Also...please make sure that all students know that they do have the option of using their SAT scores for writing if they need too.
25	Core subjects (Math, English Sciences) need to be taught more intensely. "B" students should have no trouble in colleges. That is not the case today.
26	I think I've said it all.
27	The PCFC 9th grade language arts course was fantastic. My child learned and improved a tremendous amount.
28	Consider all levels of learning abilities. Not all students can absorb information the same. It is important to observe each student individually and not the masses as a whole.
29	Nothing.
30	
31	My student is in Honor Society yet cannot pass reading comprehension - symbolism, big point vs. little point, author purpose, theme, etc. on the HSPE. If it's missed, teachers don't have time to review this again and students miss out. That should be part of every curriculum throughout high school.
32	While I realize that parsing a sentence is not a regular exercise past the lower grades, I am finding a lack of firm basic knowledge of nitty-gritty sentence structure in both of my students. I am filling in these holes as I assist with some homework assignments, but I'd love to see a little more fundamental grammar review in all middle and high school language arts courses. My oldest daughter has actually acquired a much firmer grasp of basic parts of English grammar as she studies a foreign language. I would also like to see a little bit more emphasis on vocabulary enrichment. I have assisted in scoring all-school writes, and I am not seeing the depth of rich vocabulary that our students will need to write/communicate well. Other than these two small areas, I have been very pleased with all of the Language Arts instruction that my students have received.
33	what novels/topics are being considered in the curriculum
34	I think it would be great if we could get more communication via email.
35	There are so many bright kids who don't try and bright kids who do try that are burned out. They loved having the Shakespearean theater people come in. They love activities that allow participation. A lot of the work is just make work. Creative writing is stifled if "off prompt". Teachers don't acknowledge good work enough. Please make the new material meaningful and interactive.
36	Keep communication open and honest.
37	You need to open up contribution for school newsletter and other publications to all students (not just the ones who take specific subjects)
38	Teachers and curriculum need a lift. It would be great if students could actually study instead of skim through. Too many don't have a solid foundation when it comes to education!
39	I feel like teachers on email to tell me behavior problems and dump if my kid was a stress to them that day, but I don't hear about how my student struggles (fails all his tests) and suggestions on how to help my child. It seems there are skills they should master each year and teachers should know who is deficient and help develop those skills within the curriculum they are teaching. Sometimes the teachers seem so set on their plan, that if a student does not fit into their plan they fall behind or try to do extra credit to make up points rather than learn the skills needed for reading comprehension and writing papers.
40	Keep encouraging reading.
41	I would not change the program much. We have loved it the way it is.
42	Even those students who do well in reading, sometimes struggle with the writing...and may have missed the help they needed earlier.
43	Learning vocabulary is well encouraged. If students read an even larger amount of book - my kids would be even more satisfied.
44	AR in middle school did nothing but turn them away from the enjoyment of reading. They read the books, then couldn't pass the tests. They received NO help with this from the 'teacher' or the school. Since then their reading / comprehension ability has dropped. One child had problems keeping the planner. Instead of the 'teacher' helping him.... SHE

	FLUNKED HIM! When we requested an IEPC... he didn't qualify because he wasn't far enough behind. We needed to pay for outside help to get him back on track. THIS IS THE JOB OF THE SCHOOL!
45	demand more writing -- I don't mind that not all of it is graded or graded for one specific skill
46	That the district is resting on the fact that we have a very high income community. Bellevue has more free and reduced lunch, has more minorities and yet they accomplish more, a lot more, not just for the struggling but for ALL kids. Mercer Island, same thing....the type of kids my boys are...their entire teaching staff has been trained to deal with ...Issaquah? When I go talk to a teacher they "don't believe" that he has issues, and could use support and they DO NOT DO THE ACCOMMODATIONS IN HIS 504....unbelievable.
47	The amount of homework given in this area was ridiculous.
48	
49	Overall the district is doing a better job of listening to parents and students. That is good. Even though we are all hard to please. Cant wait to see our new high school. It looks amazing from the outside.
50	There is a great contrast between have students read "the classics" and works that are more relevant to today's world. A new mix of literature is called for.
51	That you are hiring some people who only come for the pay check and not the future of our society.
52	Kids would benefit highly in speed reading where they are taught reading comprehension as well as the skills to read better.
53	Busy work homework is not needed or appreciated by either the students or parents. Fewer but more in depth projects that do not involve spending entire breaks working on would be better.
54	(weekly) Personal e-mail progress on my son class work of homework and test grades.
55	nothing
56	I am very uncomfortable with the fact that it appears papers are minimized because it is too much work for the teachers to grade frequent papers. Ditto for Lab reports in Science (I don't think my HS student has EVER had to write a formal lab report). Reading curriculum is not considered as a whole---example---the tenth grade reading list is entirely depressing---each piece of literature would be fine by itself, but who ever decided that 10th graders (in the midst of teenage angst) should be given an entire year's worth of depressing (Macbeth, 1984, Tale of two cities, Night) literature should have their head examined.
57	I wish the same high standards applied to all the schools equally. Average students can get behind at Maywood/Liberty because they are put in classes with kids that aren't motivated.
58	Your standards for math and science are deplorable.
59	Issaquah High Schools website really needs to be overhauled. It is very hard to find any information on it. News and information about school events and clubs needs to be updated and added to. For example on the club page, there is no information about what the club is about
60	I do enjoy variety in the curriculum, however I've questioned some of the writing prompts and book choices. Many of which seem to be downers. I know that depressing stories often create award-winning pieces, but teens have enough to be depressed about and I had to emphasize this in class. There are plenty of other adventure-filled books and writing exercises which can inspire rather than depress kids.
61	My son like many has raging hormones and can be unruly. I believe that teachers should be allowed to provide a certain level of punishment without worrying about being sued. It is time to roll back the clock and re-empower teacher to control students. Corporal punishment worked when I was a kid, a good paddle on the butt works wonders for a bad attitude. Sending a boy home only proves to him that if "I am bad I can get out of school". Work with unruly kids don't dismiss them (of course this would require teachers to care about those they choose to educate).
62	Rigorous does not mean voluminous. Improve quality of instruction and materials without piling on endless hours of additional homework.
63	I would like to see more teacher feedback including grammar on my students work. My son would appreciate constructive critiques.
64	Don't forget to teach them how to spell, use cursive and use proper grammar. Don't let them rely so much on computers.

65	What I would like you to know is that I find your LA dept very uneven. It's emphasis is not a well rounded Liberal Arts type of student but one that will be taught to a standardized test. I am having to seek outside help @ the UW High School program to help my HS student improve on her writing before she enters her IB block. Not satisfying as a parent that I have to spend \$350 of my own money that my prestigious HS should be covering and it isn't. What do you have to say about this process to us parents?
66	My daughters do not spell well and got no support for spelling in classes. The entered school in grades 3 and 7 (from China) and it seemed there weren't efforts to help them with spelling and grammar they missed earlier or as they went along. Frustrating.
67	Look into the Susan Barton reading program
68	Develop and appreciate language arts with a global perspective.
69	Hope give me all information about my kids.
70	With IB only offering integrated courses--their is little opportunity to take advanced history without English. Offering AP history would be nice.
71	I don't think the teachers have asked me over the past few years about whether I think my kids' writing skills are sufficient.
72	I am hoping that as the 10th graders return to IHS, that my son will be able to be in a LRC 1 setting for his reading, writing and math. This seemed to work well for him at IMS. Most of the students in LRC 2 were not at his level academically, and so he was either by himself or in small dyad,
73	Need to encourage and find better books to engage this generation in reading.
74	x
75	It would be nice to have communication from teachers and the district using correct grammer.
76	Our daughter's language skills improve each year.
77	give equal opportunity to all students to do advanced humanitites plus based on the intrest of the student and not judge by 4th grade performance.
78	I think what system you have been using is working - so stay the course. Everytime the district tries to "make things better" it seems to get worse. Just keep up the good work - it is working just fine.
79	Honors English was excellent at PCFC...very impressed with
80	That the focus will help all students be able to get into college and enjoy LA throughout their lives
81	For both of my kids it seemed the literature they were most interested in and excited about came later in the year and at a time when the teacher was trying to rush through things to get everything in before time ran out.
82	I often find some of the materials they read to be filled with sex and violence and that is not important in teaching them language and communication skills. Many classics are interesting without a focus on sex and violence.
83	Language Arts education should reflect the way this generation uses and will continue to use technology. Simple example - if something is read on a computer and it is underlined, that means it is a link. More significantly, language arts curriculum needs to create the ability to effectively communicate via websites, email, social media, texting, Twitter, and a myriad of technologies yet to be created. The committee should include at least a couple of people with a real vision of how language arts will be used in the technological mediums of the future.
84	Look at options and approaches that help and work for a broader range of students.
85	reading, writing and communication your focus at this point or will mathematics be reviewed as well?
86	Let students choose books some times during their LA block. A well rounded approach including many ways of learning would inspire many more readers.
87	Sorry different subject. Please start school after Labor Day Please don't bother with Middle School graduations unless you are going to include all students in the ceremony - some how. So many of us took time off work to watch about 20 kids graduate. Thanks!
88	That you need to start thinking differently. Not in the way you have up 'til now. there is such a narrow view of the world in the field of education in this part of the country. You need to open your eyes to other viewpoints letting the students draw their own conclusions. And finally begin to think of other solutions to our problems by looking at how other districts outside of WA state handle these problems. It's the same thing year after year and nothing changes. It needs to change now!

89	Ensure teachers have enough time/guidance/support to become familiar/master the curriculum before they start teaching it to students, so students are able to receive appropriate guidance/instruction by knowledgeable teachers.
90	What other school districts have the best results in the nation and what program they have.
91	Clearly you need to address the issue about the health extra credit - I see no connection between learning about health issues/topics and wearing Spartan gear. If there is an opportunity for extra credit in any class to aid kids in lifting their grades then it should be subject appropriate. I think there needs to be an open door policy of communication with the Administration and a student review of the current higher levels of Administration (somewhat like a 360 review, if you will) and then the District may get a better understanding of this. Based upon speaking with many other parents, I believe currently there is clearly a very socio-economic element that plays into a parents' ability to communicate with the current Administration, to be blunt if you don't have deep pockets then you can't get the attention you may need or desire. Also, if your child isn't in the IB program or taking some IB classes then you don't truly have a voice with this administration either. I would like to see the District address this.
92	Keep the student interested... get away from group projects... I am tired of having my student be the leader and taking on the project so her grade is not affected by the slackers she is assigned with. What does that teach the student? -to be a slacker and someone will earn the "A" while the slacker rides the coat-tails of the worker? Hmm
93	This is not related to the Language Arts section but please make the registration process more intuitive.. it was TERRIBLE..
94	I think kids in this generation are more comfortable with reading from screens and researching/learning from internet sites. I'd like to see more focus on navigating and sorting this type of information.
95	I feel reading instruction is better than writing instruction at this time.
96	While I understand the emphasis on grammar is in order to prepare the students for the SAT, I would hate for this to replace the priorities stated above.
97	I wish more time was spent with the students so they can pick out what is important in their reading since that is an important part of the SAT.
98	Language Arts is not the only subject that is important in a student's education. It is also very important to ensure that the students learn Mathematics and Science. The science curriculum in middle schools is very watered down. There is hardly any substance to it. Ensure that students are prepared to compete in math and science with students from around the world.
99	I would love to see an expectation from my daughter's Language Arts class that she read daily and assign more creative writing assignments about thought provoking issues.
100	Keep up the good work
101	Boys learn differently than girls.
102	A drama teacher can't always act her way through teaching a subject she isn't qualified to teach. An inspiring LA teacher is crucial for the love of learning. Please evaluate your LA teachers carefully.
103	How much will it cost and who will do it and what is the goal
104	That the talk around town is that students will be promoted, under 'No Child Left Behind,' until high school. Then, and only then, will those very children who have been promoted to their level of incompetence, be addressed, and then, only to the point where those students choose to drop out of school. The high school dropout rate is the true indicator of the wellness of a school district. That's where the district needs to focus its attention.
105	Grammar seems to be left out of the process. A firm grasp of English grammar, like a firm Math foundation, helps in the development of skills in other languages.
106	I cannot stress the importance of teaching our children to write well.
107	Don't receive much information about what is learned so it is difficult to answer whether the results are satisfactory. The slow feedback on materials turned in is frustrating for both parents and students.
108	No comment
109	Again, please encourage teachers to have up to date websites with downloadable documents for the students. That would be the #1 thing that would help my child succeed and for me to help him.
110	.
111	Need more SAT vocab prep in school like when I was in school. The basics are the best.

112	More classes on communication and the importance of oral and written communication in the real world.
113	It wouldn't be bad to ask the students to read a certain amount of pages of a specific type of book, such as a biography, a classical piece of literature, a non-fiction piece or a collection of short stories. These students are so immersed in their electronics today, they're losing sight of the value of a good book.
114	I think students should be broken into smaller groups than a whole class size when being taught these critical language arts skills. I think students should be in groups with other students who are at their ability level so they learn well and are not intimidated if they need extra help.
115	Return to starting school the WED after Labor Day. Support the HS Dance Teams. Have a later start time for higher grades. Value balance and lighten up on the homework loads. Give the coaches, etc. a reality check when it comes to demanding sports schedules required to participate at all.
116	The classes my student had were quite difficult (grading by the teacher). Not sure if this is true but everyone says that Skyline is more difficult than other high schools. I was wondering why?
117	Math teachers are critical and we need some better ones in this district! _____ is incredible, get more like her!
118	People move here for the great education ISD provides. Keep up the good work
119	Again, my daughter is graduating this year so none of this will help her. She has had difficulties since 2nd grade with reading comprehension and she received little to no assistance from the school district because she "tested too high". In addition, the basics of grammar and punctuation never seemed to be a focus in this district. If these issues aren't addressed in elementary and middle school, it really doesn't matter what curriculum you use in high school. The student is already unprepared and will not receive assistance to improve (unless the parent pays for a tutor).
120	Way too much disparity between schools; in quality of instruction, in equal offerings, in classroom resources, etc. It's a big problem.
121	I'm not sure why in these difficult budgetary times new curriculum is needed.
122	My student's primary frustration has been working on group projects where the grade is dependant on the whole groups' participation. She enjoys working with other students that are similarly motivated, but when the grade rests on her doing most of the work because others aren't doing their share, it's agravating.
123	This survey should be split for Middle School versus High School. The questions are geared towards high school. The needs of high school students versus middle school students are vastly different. Parent concerns between Middle School and High School are vastly different. I have kids in both middle school and high school and would answer somewhat differently if the surveys were separate. I would be happy to discuss my survey results with Maywood, Liberty, or ISD. You may reach me at _____ or their: _____ I have 6 kids attending ISD schools currently (Briarwood, Apollo, Maywood, Liberty).
124	There should be more accountability in the effectiveness of the teachers in the classrooms. My child had a special ed math teacher that put more emphasis on his coaching activities than teaching my child math. The teacher was away from the classroom more often than typical. There are also a lot of "catch up days". To my knowledge, there is little teaching going on and I am not entirely sure if my son learned anything in this particular class during the whole year. I had good experiences with his other special ed teachers.
125	Not everyone is interested in picking apart Shakespeare for such long periods of time. For someone that does not see the value in that and is not interested in it, it is a very LONG year. My son disliked it so much that he decided not to be in the honors block in 11th grade this year. He now dislikes language arts because of his experiences in that class. So now he is in with a group of students of which most are not at the same academic level as him in his block class and that is not positive either.