

# 2019 SGCHS THOUGHT EXCHANGE REPORT

Parkland School Division 70  
Spruce Grove Composite High School

## Q1 What are some things you appreciate and some concerns you have about our school this year?

**I appreciate how easy Powerschool is to access marks.** If help is required, we know immediately.

4.3  (18 )  
Ranked #1 of 123



**Appreciate the seminar time** Allows students to catch up on work; get assistance if needed

4.0  (22 )  
Ranked #2 of 123



**I like that I can view current marks/attendance on PowerSchool.** I feel like I know what is going on in the classroom, and would know right away if there were any problems.

3.9  (27 )  
Ranked #3 of 123



**Powerschool is very helpful.** I'm finding it even more so as my child has begun looking at post secondary options.

3.9  (24 )  
Ranked #4 of 123



**like that the grade coordinator moves with the class for all 3 years** they get to know students better and can thus better guide them

3.9  (24 )  
Ranked #5 of 123



**School is over-crowded** Daughter is graduating ... son is coming in 2 years ... this school is too small for the wave of students coming its way.

3.9  (20 )  
Ranked #6 of 123



**The building needs major renovations.** When you enter the building, it should look and feel like it's the 21st century.

3.8  (28 )  
Ranked #7 of 123



**I like the idea of seminar time. Unfortunately, it seems that more often than not the teachers are very busy.** It is great the students are given this time to study and finish up assignments. When they need help or clarification it isn't available.

3.8  (23 )  
Ranked #8 of 123



**Vaping** Unhealthy habits are formed at this age.

3.8  (23 )  
Ranked #9 of 123



**appreciate the focus on learning, and having dedicated times when students can seek out individual help.** allows time within the day for students to meet with teachers and teaches them to advocate for themselves

3.8  (23 )  
Ranked #10 of 123



**The amount of drugs and fighting is frustrating.** Cat Marshall is very needed and appreciated Safety

3.8  (22 )  
Ranked #11 of 123



**I like that the students have access to seminar where they can ask specific teachers questions** If the students are struggling with a concept, they know they can always find a teacher the next day to help them figure it out.

3.8  (12 )  
Ranked #12 of 123



**Parent Teacher interviews is a complete and confusion with long line ups and difficulty to chat with the teacher.** Allow sign ups to meet with teacher and cap the time to ten minutes, or even five minutes. Finding the teachers and waiting in line is not productive

3.8  (11 )  
Ranked #13 of 123



**Seminar is great.** Please keep using it, right from the first week of school.



**There needs to be more exploration & guidance of possible career paths based on the skills and interests of the student. Most students don't know what would be best suited for them or what they want to pursue after high school. More exposure to different career options is needed.**



**Took a while for this parent to wrap her head around "test rewrites", but now I understand that challenges are obstacles to learn from, not fail from** Kids are set up for continual success. Rewrites are not simply given, they must be earned.



**Seminar is effective!** My son utilizes this time to get clarification/information from teachers. He has run into situations where teachers have not been available.



**Policies about smoking and vaping on school property need to be enforced.** Vaping is taking place in the school on a regular basis, and some kids feel uncomfortable using the washroom around it.



**Seminar should be mandatory and attendance taken.** A large number of students are not attending Seminar and are either leaving or just horsing around in common areas.



**Parking is a nightmare at school and if grade 10 students cannot drive that should be enforced. Students are being harassed in the area for parking.** Please enforce the rules that you set. If they live within a certain area they cannot drive. consider parking passes etc. It is a huge stress.



Thanks for putting up the teachers' email addresses. I like being able to contact them.

3.6  (39 )  
Ranked #21 of 123



Seminar at the end of each day has set my daughter up for even bigger success

3.6  (38 )  
Ranked #22 of 123



As a parent of a gr 10 student, I appreciate all the opportunities available to students for extra help. Seminar time seems to be a valuable tool for those that wish to improve on past assignments, finish current ones or just get extra help from a teacher

3.6  (37 )  
Ranked #23 of 123



progress reporting keep up to date on students progress

3.6  (36 )  
Ranked #24 of 123



I appreciate the communication from the school via newsletters and the remind app. I feel like I'm well informed about what is going on at the school , even if my child doesn't always share this information.

3.6  (28 )  
Ranked #25 of 123



Appreciate having consistent grade coordinators and support for choosing classes My student is unsure of what to do after high school and is stressed by it. The counsellors help her navigate the system.

3.6  (21 )  
Ranked #26 of 123



Overcrowded!! The students need more space to be successful.

3.6  (15 )  
Ranked #27 of 123



**I am concerned about the physical state of SGCHS. It is an aging building with many areas that require attention and renovation.** The physical and mental health of our children and staff is important beyond measure. The physical state of the building will impact this.



**I appreciate the engagement of some teachers in my students education** It is vital for teachers to try and engage students to have a better learning environment.



**Nobody is advising these kids on course choices and schedule problems. Twice my students have been placed in courses they did not choose** Counselors used to go over kids timetables prior to it being set in stone. Telling me there are too many students to do this is unsatisfactory.



**It would be nice to see the school curriculum include more practical issues to prepare the kids for life as an adult, like prioritizing & budgeting**



**My kids tell me there are only two microwaves in the cafeteria, so they go to McDonalds or don't eat lunch. Could you please put up a wall of microwaves like at the University hospital or other large businesses so my kids can eat more than sandwiches daily?**



**I appreciate the academic standards and also the cooperation of the teachers the way they connects to the students.** It is very important for the students and for the community as well for them to develop a great values for everybody



**Concerns about assessment processes and reporting of assessment** Our kids rely on high school teachers to do their best to prepare them for ALL options available after high school.



**Great move to take away the smoking area.**  
That was not appropriate on school property. Too bad though they have just moved down the street and plugged up the walk ways on surrounding streets

3.5  (37 )  
Ranked #35 of 123



**Some teaching quality has been in question this year** Students rely on quality teaching to achieve what is needed to graduate. When subject is taught properly or incompletely, the students are who pay.

3.5  (37 )  
Ranked #36 of 123



**Report cards** They really do not say much. If any parent is involved in their child's education then the reporting process does not provide information

3.5  (36 )  
Ranked #37 of 123



**Parent teacher interview format** Don't like how it is in the public, no privacy.

3.5  (34 )  
Ranked #38 of 123



**Mazy** What a wonderful idea to have such a beautiful dog interact with the students. Wish she was there everyday.

3.5  (32 )  
Ranked #39 of 123



**More life lessons would be helpful for the kids to learn** As they will need to know to balance a check book Pay rent

3.5  (32 )  
Ranked #40 of 123



**Parents are the third wheel in planning of their children's futures** I think the parents need to be more involved if they so choose to be. As they know their children better than the school does.

3.5  (31 )  
Ranked #41 of 123



**Choices to change/ drop classes need to be discussed with parents before the changes happen, rather than decisions being made only with the counselor** Very few high school kids know what they want to do with their lives. Encourage them to keep their options open so they have choices after graduation

3.5  (25 )  
Ranked #42 of 123



**appreciate the remind app from the grade coordinator** helps me know what is going on

3.5  (25 )  
Ranked #43 of 123



**Appreciate the care and attention from teachers regarding academics** Concerned about safety and threat of harm or harassment

3.5  (24 )  
Ranked #44 of 123



**staff that follow students throughout their time at the high school**

3.5  (21 )  
Ranked #45 of 123



**I think the inability for students to be able to change their schedules at the beginning of a semester is a disservice to them.** Selecting courses so far in advance doesn't always work in reality when the time comes. They need to be able to change their choices easier.

3.4  (39 )  
Ranked #46 of 123



**My daughter has found very supportive teachers who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure her success** Builds relationship, builds trust, teaches learning through engagement and self-reliance

3.4  (39 )  
Ranked #47 of 123



**Having a grade coordinator makes a huge difference - it feels like my daughter has an advocate in her corner**

3.4  (38 )  
Ranked #48 of 123



**The options available to students for classes and extracurricular activities** To keep students engaged and active

3.4  (37 )  
Ranked #49 of 123



**Love the variety in things to learn.** The mechanic shop has sustained my son throughout his high school experience.

3.4  (36 )  
Ranked #50 of 123



**No paths are readily available for kid that are willing to work harder. They sit idle with free time while the rest of the class catches up.** Continuous idle time is more likely to opens the door to lower drive over time.

3.4  (36 )  
Ranked #51 of 123



**I appreciate that there are choices on education levels as well as CTS.** All people are unique and this allows for everyone to be successful on some level. Success helps with confidence and doing well as an adult.

3.4  (35 )  
Ranked #52 of 123



**I would like to see more shared information about what subjects are required for university faculties.** Kids can take courses that aren't necessary for the career path they're choosing

3.4  (32 )  
Ranked #53 of 123



**There needs to be mutual respect between teachers and students. Stereotyping and belittling is unacceptable.**

3.4  (27 )  
Ranked #54 of 123



**Heating system** My daughter wrote her one diploma in a freezing cold gym. The teachers had hats and coats on and she wasn't allowed to cover up or move. BAD!!!

3.4  (20 )  
Ranked #55 of 123



**crowded hallways!!** hard for students to get around

3.4  (15 )  
Ranked #56 of 123



**No contact was made as issues arose re coursework after in person meetings requesting contact be made if issues arose.** NO contact was made and it questions leaves one to think about how much they are really invested in student outcomes. frustrating.

3.4  (9   
Ranked #57 of 123



**Great Guidance councilor** It is great that my child has access to the help she needs. She struggles with anxiety and depression and the time that is made for her is so import

3.3  (39   
Ranked #58 of 123



**Study skills** Would like to see a "study hall" where study skills/time management are taught.

3.3  (39   
Ranked #59 of 123



**Appreciate how clean and well maintained the school is.** Encourages students to be respectful of the building.

3.3  (38   
Ranked #60 of 123



**Available CTS courses** My son is a hands on learner - waitlists for construction/mechanics were high. Would like to see CTS offer more trades related courses.

3.3  (38   
Ranked #61 of 123



**The school is quite dated looking.** My son and his friends talk about how depressing the school is except for the newly renovated bathroom.

3.3  (38   
Ranked #62 of 123



**Communication on student progress with Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Spink and teachers.** The transition to Grade 10 has been a big learning curve and appreciate the willingness for staff to let us know what is going well/what to improve

3.3  (37   
Ranked #63 of 123



**Support for alternate learning needs (ADHD)** Appreciate the availability of EA's to facilitate learning. Would like to see more strategies offered to address "needs to focus more."

3.3  (37   
Ranked #64 of 123



**The school's willingness to work with students to help them achieve their goals**

3.3  (36 )  
Ranked #65 of 123



**Young and new teachers** Are they getting support from colleagues about correct practices.

3.3  (36 )  
Ranked #66 of 123



**After school drama - plays.** My son thoroughly enjoys participating in school plays. Provides an after school activity. He's proud to be part of the group.

3.3  (35 )  
Ranked #67 of 123



**At times not all learning styles are acknowledged. This may result in a student being graded lower because they don't process the information the same** The student(s) understand the material and know the answer, but are unable to verbalize or "show" their work the 'right' way.

3.3  (23 )  
Ranked #68 of 123



**Appreciate sports teams opportunities** My student values the ability to participate in various sports

3.3  (21 )  
Ranked #69 of 123



**truly appreciate the wonderful work that Mrs G and Boomer give to the musical theatre program** the skills that the students learn, both in acting but more importantly in working together to achieve something big, are skills for life

3.3  (21 )  
Ranked #70 of 123



**Parent teacher interviews are done in the public, offers no privately at all.**

3.2  (41 )  
Ranked #71 of 123



**Appreciate the variety of options offered.**  
Helps students learn more about future areas of study.

3.2  (38 )  
Ranked #72 of 123



**My child, who suffers from Social Anxiety has had a fairly seamless and easy transition from Middle school to High school** It's important because the stress level has been quite low, which we appreciate.

3.2  (38 )  
Ranked #73 of 123



**Appreciate the extracurricular opportunities.**  
Motivates engagement among students.

3.2  (37 )  
Ranked #74 of 123



**Daughter thinks student services is well-resourced. Feels supported, lots of counsellors, LOVES Maisie the dog, and the fridge.** Connection to community and safe places

3.2  (37 )  
Ranked #75 of 123



**Student being treated fairly by all adults** If we want students to become adults, then we need to model correct behavior

3.2  (35 )  
Ranked #76 of 123



**Parent-teacher interview** Most of the times we as parents don't know how good or bad our kids are doing at school, so it's important to meet with the teachers once in a while

3.2  (19 )  
Ranked #77 of 123



**If a student is struggling nobody will do a thing about it until they are below 65. I tried to be proactive...my kid was at a 67 so ...** If you can reach a student before they are below a 65 they have a better chance of success. Seems there is more weight put on comfort dog than grades

3.2  (9 )  
Ranked #78 of 123



**Parking is causing kids to be late for class. There is no way of knowing if there will be a spot and trolling the neighbourhood takes time.** Why so much of the lot is blocked off for staff is beyond me. How about cutting a deal with the church across the road. Pay to park for the season.

3.2  (9   
Ranked #79 of 123



**The parking lot** With all the freezing rain we had this fall, shocking that little sand/gravel was put down so the people walking into the school could do so safely.

3.1  (39   
Ranked #80 of 123



**Great selection of options at the comp**  
Something for every interest

3.1  (38   
Ranked #81 of 123



**Admin Staff easy to approach** Able to open a dialogue with admin staff to try to put accommodations in place for students with different needs.

3.1  (37   
Ranked #82 of 123



**Great Vice Principles** To stay on top of our son education and make sure he is in the correct classes

3.1  (35   
Ranked #83 of 123



**Parking** my son is required to have a vehicle due to being in rap program and register to park however there is no parking kids that do not register park there

3.1  (35   
Ranked #84 of 123



**Support and follow through from the staff.**  
Amazing support from Admin and Mrs. Stewart!! Both parties have supported my child since they first arrived and I believe they truly care.

3.1  (29   
Ranked #85 of 123



**Kathy mann is awesome. The time she takes with students, the patience and the understanding is amazing.** There are kids in that will graduate because of her relationships with them

3.1  (21   
Ranked #86 of 123



**There is a rumor that they are considering cancelling the Musical Theatre Program THIS WOULD BE DEVASTATING!** The impact it has on over 100 kids every semester is life changing ... this program has saved lives.

3.1  (20   
Ranked #87 of 123



**I appreciate the care the coordinators take to ensure student advancement and success.**

3.1  (16   
Ranked #88 of 123



**I appreciate the athletic programs at SGCHS and the support and opportunity they provide to students.** It is so important to encourage team work and learning through friendly competition. This also encourages the idea of being active life long.

3.1  (12   
Ranked #89 of 123



**Drama program** I've loved the after school drama program and hope it continues in the future

3.1  (7   
Ranked #90 of 123



**The bullying is a problem** As in every school there is no real way to combat it.

3.0  (38   
Ranked #91 of 123



**Instead of encouraging full post secondary, encourage students to explore activities that they like to discover possible career paths.** Full university is expensive and may not be what the student really wants to do with their life. 15,16, 17 is a young age to determine all of life.

3.0  (37   
Ranked #92 of 123



**The bus ride is incredibly long. 6:50am pickup and get to school at 8:15am.** Over the years the transportation department has refused to address long bus rides. Four other buses go by at 7:40am but they cannot change route.



**Temperature in the classrooms** The temperatures in different classrooms seems to remain an issue from previous years. Some are very cold and others are hot.



**PD days** Consistent with district and attached to holidays



**I appreciate the Drama department at SGCHS. I appreciate the effort and dedication that goes into this program.**



**Like that we can see as parents my students progress. The PowerSchool unfortunately doesn't update properly.**



Teachers are approachable.



**Would like to see a driver training course, even if offered from external provider, but have the information available** Would be easier to have the information for registration of driver training.



**fine arts program** staff go above and beyond to support the development of the students



**Great sense of community** Engages students and families

2.9  (37   
Ranked #101 of 123



**Theft seems to be a large issue** My son's wallet has been stolen along with friends stuff rummaged through and locker rooms have been closed due to theft issues.

2.9  (37   
Ranked #102 of 123



**I love that my daughter is loving high school.** Her grades a great and she is working hard.

2.9  (35   
Ranked #103 of 123



**Final exams** PAT & Diplomas get double the time to write then all other finals should follow. Difficult fir Gr 9 to get double time then go to Gr 10 and no extra

2.9  (34   
Ranked #104 of 123



**Love the athletics at the high school but I wish there were pep rallies etc.** The stands were usually packed at away games. Not so much for home games

2.9  (24   
Ranked #105 of 123



**cell phones should be banned** they are such a distraction and hard to control

2.9  (16   
Ranked #106 of 123



**Lots of great options for students. Would be nice to bring back a typing class to maximize time spent at the computer.**

2.9  (13   
Ranked #107 of 123



**Teacher Involvement with Parents** I felt brushed off during the open house and the teacher was in too big of hurry to talk to my wife and I.

2.8  (38   
Ranked #108 of 123



**Communication from Coaches to parents** It is very difficult to coordinate work and our children's needs when the school doesn't provide proper communication.

2.8  (36   
Ranked #109 of 123



**I have concerns that the curriculum is stagnant at SGCHS. Students do not have access to a variety of subjects from year to year.** The world is changing and so are students' needs for a more diverse curriculum that is within the AB Edu accepted guidelines.

2.8  (32   
Ranked #110 of 123



**More parents attending school council meetings would be fantastic.** It enables parents to get to know each other and share different perspectives.

2.8  (28   
Ranked #111 of 123



**I wish the comp would use more technology-based classwork.** My daughter came from Prescott where there was better use of Chromebook and Google classroom for assignments. Now in highschool we are back to paper.

2.7  (38   
Ranked #112 of 123



**peer pressure by teachers not appreciated** teenagers are very vulnerable/sensitive

2.7  (34   
Ranked #113 of 123



**MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM ONLY REASON MY CHILD WENT TO SCHOOL** My A+ student only continued at SGCHS because of Musical Theatre. She would have completed high school through outreach if it did not exist.

2.7  (19   
Ranked #114 of 123



**Call the school and always met with a grumpy response.**

2.6  (40   
Ranked #115 of 123



**Concerned about lack of regular communication.** Need more than monthly newsletter to stay informed.

2.6  (39   
Ranked #116 of 123



**I think that seminar at the end of the day is a waste because there is no way to determine whether the students have attended.**

2.6  (38   
Ranked #117 of 123



**Handing out the wrong exam - final exam instead of mid term exam given.** Students being given the wrong exam and the students are the ones who figured it out. Where are the safe guards to ensure this doesn't happen?

2.6  (36   
Ranked #118 of 123



**MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM IS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE REGION!!!** Truly appreciate the care and dedication of Mrs G and Mr. Boomer this past year. This program is a shining star at SGCHS and should be praised!

2.6  (19   
Ranked #119 of 123



**Lack of focus on IPP's. Find teachers are not following or willing to following ammondations.**

2.5  (35   
Ranked #120 of 123



**These thought exchanges are BS** There's only 300 characters to explain what we think. This is as stupid as the surveys that were sent home last month. No space to communicate

2.4  (36   
Ranked #121 of 123



**I really do far have nothing else to add. She is thriving.**

2.2  (36   
Ranked #122 of 123



**French Immersion at high school Social Studies 10 seems to be a joke to students**

2.2  (32   
Ranked #123 of 123



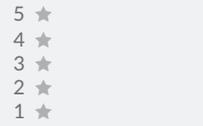
**Continued support for art and drama programs.** There is a perception that sports programs get preferential funding over drama and there are drama cuts coming. All kids need a place to thrive!

3.4  (3   
Not enough ratings to rank



**Different options** Some kids don't find any options they enjoy

0.0  (0   
Not enough ratings to rank



**Frustrating that kids tend to have to upgrade many grade 12 classes to get into university.**

2.9  (2   
Not enough ratings to rank



**The French immersion program is not as strong as it could be** Since only two classes are offered in french, both should be taught by strong committed teachers. The deficit in Soc is a big problem!

2.8  (3   
Not enough ratings to rank



**The range of options for students** My child is thriving with the options and opportunities she has, especially with the drama productions

3.1  (4   
Not enough ratings to rank

