







This is what's On My Mind Right Now	note	Other	Comm.	World lang.	Innovation	Acad. Ach./ Excellence	Prepare global citizens, students for success	Staff voice, happy staff	Comm. Voice	Smaller class sizes	Fiscal Resp	Safe	Supported	Challenged	Engaged (inc. Happy)	Healthy	1 to 1	Equity across schools, classrooms / consistency	School Choice	Personalized learning	Rigorous focus on academic fundamentals/back to basics	Lower stress/ whole child	Achievement gap	Diversity & inclusive	Future workplace skills/21st century skills	Pay raises/better benefits for staff	Excellent Teachers	Professional development for staff	Need to plan for/accommodate growth-related--manage facilities	
Entrenched inequality in Arlington schools; SB's unwillingness/lack of courage to make decisions in the best interest of our students; concern about the direction APS is heading with personalized learning and 1:1 technology initiatives; excessive concern re what "the community" wants on every detail; SB and Staff's perpetuation of inequalities between schools; excessive emphasis on stats, math and science at the expense of students who are talented and interested in history, art, and literature														x	x		x													
"Is this a survey or a therapist trying to get a session going?"																														
Equity between schools																		x												
*I am hoping that the Spanish immersion program middle school does not move.				x															x											
Equity. Access. Best practices. Excellence in teaching and learning. Action research (I'm interested in working towards this effort). Diversity on all levels - teachers too.																		x						x			x			













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APS has not provided equal opportunity to all Arlington students.																		x											
APS is fully staffed at the recommended levels for all counselors/social workers, etc. With robust programs at all schools to catech and ??? Therapeutically and fully.		x											x																
APS please stops ignoring gifted kids and please encourage more STEM studies at each school!!														x															
APS reflects the area culture that prioritizes achievement over wellbeing. As such, "Whole Child" should become the number one priority. My 11th grader and her peers are sacrificing sleep to get good grades and constantly feel overwhelmed, even though many teachers are now more flexible about deadlines and a couple even give minimal to no homework. I hope this trend strengthens. Academically talented students should not have to choose between taking hard classes and sleep and free time.											x	x	x	x	x														
APS spends so much on instruction - look at the data - we are not teaching students who learn differently well. We need to get all our teachers to truly embrace a growth mindset and work to meet the needs of our students who learn differently.  We also need to teach children how to interact with each other and not screens all the time.													x	x						x							x		











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Every child can do it. No matter what their home life is or challenges they've faced....the 7 hours a day they spend in school is enough to get them what they need and make a difference. Individualized learning is a must to meet students where they are and help them grow academically, emotionally and socially. A one size fits all approach doesn't yield as much learning and success.....a standardized test doesn't show the whole child.												x	x	x	x	x				x										
consistency in all of the above across the county.																		x												
Consistency is great for children, but they are also adaptable and learning to cope with change/being outside of their comfort zones is an important life skill.						x							x					x												
curious and intellectually engaged (at whatever). Its not only about academic achievement															x					x										
Damn all the demographic social engineering. Arlington is a great place to live and work and the cultural melting pot/salad bowl happens everywhere regardless, albeit to different extents. Its not fair to brown kids in Rosslyn to make them travel to a whiter school so some whiteys can feel better. On the flip side of the coin, people shouldn't feel guilty for attending a school that is less diverse than another just because of the neighborhood the parents have chosen to live in.																							x							





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Divisions between N and S Arlington in terms of economic advantages and how these have lifelong impact on our kids. Better and targeted services for post-high school options for poor kids. Paying teachers more so we can retain quality people in this vital field. Treating students with curiosity and care when they're having difficulties. Keeping class sizes small.										x					x								x			x	x			
Do whatever it takes to keep Dr. Natrass. She is the only one who gives me hope.		x																												
DON'T WANT A FOURTH HIGH SCHOOL ON THE CAREER CENTER, PATRICK HENRY SITE. TOO MUCH SCHOOL ON TOO LITTLE LAND																													x	
dramatic inequities between schools demonstrated by test scores																		x												
Drugs, alcohol, assault and lack of parental supervision (parents that do not care) at the middle school and high school in North Arlington (WMS & YHS). WMS and YHS students are lacking in empathy and respect for each other. The way students treat each other is terrible.											x	x				x														
effective and responsive teaching, concerned about our feedback loop for students.													x													x				

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Ensuring that northern and southern Arlington don't continue to move away toward each other, so I would like to see a greater degree of interaction through shared field trips, friendly competitions, after-school playground events, etc.		x																												
Excitement! I'm excited to be part of such a diverse community, with my child attending a school that takes the time to explain on the PTA facebook page what Thanksgiving is and why schools are closed that day. I'm excited our family is part of a school that attempts to bring in the whole family.													x										x							
equality of opportunity, economic pressures and county development driving greater divisions in/between school communities. How do a public school system counter those pressures.		x									x																			x
Expensive school buildings, unhealthy stress for students and faculty due to overcrowding, overly tight scheduling, and the possibility of reduced quality teacher/student time because of the above and change to reliance on electronic devices. Flexible use neighborhood schools for all ages of students. Maybe buildings with several schools in them (including separate staff/principals/etc)																x	x					x					x			x



























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I don't understand why APS is very open to red-shirting but makes it a nightmare for younger kids born after Sep 30 to start early. Oct-Dec birthdays that are admitted to 1st grade via "grade Skipping" are tested at the level of graduating 1st graders rather than rising 1st - ie their future peers. What's the point in testing to see if a child has mastered everything that will be taught in that grade level for them to START that grade level? That is completely unreasonable and unfair.Need change		x																											
I feel that not enough focus is put on providing enriching activities for those learners who are essentially performing above grade level. One gifted resource for an entire elementary school is not enough. Asking teachers to teach to both end of the learning spectrum and do it well is unrealistic. Especially when curriculum changes and electronic devices are forced upon them to be used in the classroom														x			x												







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I remain angry that years of oblivious leadership has guaranteed that my kids will be in overcrowded schools for all or almost all of their K-12 educations. I wish they had smaller classes and less-overwhelmed teachers. I wish their classes could be more adventurous and engaging instead of test-focused.										x				x	x												x			x
I suggest continuing to increase pay for teachers and staff on a yearly basis in order to retain and recruit highly qualified staff who are the ones working with our kids every day.																									x					
I want kids to be happy															x															
I want my child who has disabilities to have the same range of options as students without disabilities. I want more than lip service when it comes to including children with disabilities with typical peers. I want my child with disabilities to have access to quality music and PE, as typical peers do. I want foreign language to be offered to be offered to all children, including those with disabilities. I want teachers to teach all children to their full potential.																		x						x						



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I want the Montessori move to Patrick Henry to be shepherded as carefully as the Drew redistricting. I am concerned that there is no time or budget for adaptation to the building. Will all primary classes have bathrooms in the rooms? Will the Montessori program be moving again or scrapped altogether if there is a high school added to the career center?																			x										x
I want to know, see, how my children interact and are taught. Currently, I must schedule time to visit my child during the day outside of lunch. Develop another option to maintain privacy. Give time slots that parents can sign up to pop in. Not conference with the teacher, or child, just to see.  LUNCH SHOULD BE AFTER 11:30 AM PERIOD! My second grader with services and medicine is starving and aggravated by dismissal. Its ridiculous. A medical note to eat disrupts the day.	x															x													



















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It is disappointing that schools have resources facility-wise compared to schools in other districts, but there is low diversity and less of a community feel in terms of having families feel welcome at school. Given that many students are from families in government that may have to move around a fair bit either to another state or internationally, it also is disappointing that Arlington does not support Common Core teaching methods. Students should be taught how to type. Needs more diversity										x		x										x							
It seems like all the great schools in are North Arlington. Things are so bad in South Arlington in terms of good choices that we are going to move to North Arlington if my daughter does not get into HB Woodlawn. I would really hate to move because I really love my neighborhood, but I feel like sending her to Gunstand and Wakefield would really limit her learning.		x																											
It would be my biggest dream that the decision-makers in APS step back and review all current and proposed policies through the eyes of "best interest of the child." Reasses school start times, recess, lunch, bus times, technology/screen time, homework policies, boundary/transfers, safety, FLES, and others and ask the hard questions.												x				x													







































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See above. This survey is awful. Are you going to just read the open ended comments and expect something measurable out of them? How are so many different needs and opinions going to help with drafting a strategic plan? I pity the person who must collect these "results" and provide something meaningful.		x																												
See above. Arlington loses many of it's brightest to boredom and underachieving, TJ stem high school in Alexandria and private schools. What a loss for all our kids!														x																
Segregated schools :(																							x							
Since most student work is now stored on the cloud, why don't we have a system for students to turn in their technology they are having problems with and then get issued a new one. So they get away from this is my ipad/computer and view it is more as school equipment they are using.																	x													
Social skills and conflict resolution are taught to all kids													x			x														
Some parents in APS are very demanding. Please don't give into the demands of a small, but vocal group. Rather, develop curriculum, policies, and programs that APS administrators feel is best for the system based on their expertise and research. Parents need to respect the training and expertise of those who are involved/employed the APS system. You are doing a great job!						x																					x			































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There are so many overcrowded schools, which hire brand new teachers year after year. The veteran teachers are taxed with sustaining their own classes and providing support for the new teachers in their grade. Most "specials" are being shortened or completely eliminated (in the case of library) as there is not enough time in the day and dedicated space in the school to fit in all grades. Two music teachers are teaching 130 kids chorus without assistance. The arts are suffering.																													x
There are times my husband and I think about private schools, home schooling or moving from the area because of APS.		x																											
There is just a lot of stress from school because the quarter is ending and there are exams and projects. There is just a lot going in at school.		x																											
There should be a greater emphasis on the history of every of subject. So, in math, students would learn the history of math; in science, the history of science, etc. They need this grounding and this perspective more than ever, given changes in our culture that place such emphasis on the now and what's "next."																				x									







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Too much emphasis on testing and competition - winners and losers.		x																													
Too much focus on uniformity across the schools. Overcrowding.																		x												x	
Too much money per student spent. FLES program is a waste of time and money. The number of "valedictorians" at the high schools is embarrassing, not something to be proud of. Stop pushing Algebra by 8th grade to make school system look better. A ton of money is spent for a slightly above average school system.				x							x																				
Too much Tech, testing, stress for the kids. Colleges are actually easier, as there are less classes and deeper concentrated learning. Kids are way too stressed out at times, over things that don't matter. More Counselor Control/Choice in switching class. Relying on a Computer to pick, then not allowing teacher changes if the child needs it, just course changes, is absurd. Colleges let kids change if needed. So, more personal, more common sense as to when to ditch tech, more human control.													x				x					x									
two high schools at each comprehensive high school (AP/IB students and the rest)																			x					x							

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<p>Walk-ability is key for younger children. I would like to see APS investing in programs that are already thriving, such as immersion education, IB and Montessori. Special programs are fantastic, particularly at the elementary level, but I worry about kids having to choose their path too early, such as science-only education in HS. Arlington is a diverse area with many languages and countries represented. Our programs should represent that with global learning and partnerships.</p>						x													x										
<p>We are troubled by the County's proposed school boundary changes. We researched houses and schools extensively before purchasing our home in North Arlington, and we expect Arlington County to honor its duty to our children in respecting school boundaries. The County is changing the rules in the middle of the game to the detriment of hard-working, professional families. If we knew that our children would go to school in South Arlington, we would have purchased a home there, saving \$200,000+</p>																													x

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We have wonderful neighborhood schools where students have many opportunities. However, I am troubled by the number of parents who speak negatively about APS. Some of these parents belong to groups that give advice to APS; this worries me. Any school system can improve, and I know that APS likes to give everyone a voice. I am concerned that the negative voices are creating a poor climate for our wonderful teachers and administrators, and I would like for APS to limit their influence.								x																			x		
We need a 4th Comprehensive High School																													x
we need a 4th high school in the right location yesterday																													x
We need foreign language classes other than Spanish at elementary schools. Would love Chinese immersion or French immersion. Barring that, one class a day would be great.				x															x										
We need more support and understanding in Central Office regarding students and their needs to succeed.													x	x															
We need to hire and keep the best educators that we possible can. This is where the rubber meets the road!																										x			

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We need to raise more empathetic children and we need to start earlier. We can do this through fostering a love of the arts, through exposure to a diverse group of peers and mentors, on the playing fields where we emphasize respect for your opponent in both word and deed. We need to educate staff and parents on what constitutes empathy, why it's important and how to sow its seeds. APS should start here: <a href="https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/about">https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/about</a> and inquire about how we can partner with this organization													x		x	x							x							
well rested students, rest underpins every other goal																x														
what conversations I need to have or resources do I need to read to think different about education. What will make me ???		x			x																									
What else, what more can we do to eliminate the opportunity gap at a school/district level and how do we get there?																						x								
When will renovation of the Arlington Career Center begin now that the Arlington Tech program is increasing in size?  Will the CTE courses at the Arlington Career Center still be available to the home schools once Arlington Tech increases in size?  Why do the home schools duplicate CTE courses that already exist at the Career Center?		x																												
Whole child Inclusion (particularly PreK) Reading												x	x	x	x	x							x							





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Young Scholar's Innovation Academy is a teaching and learning model being implemented at several APS schools during summer school and intercession. This model should be expanded to regular classroom instruction because it is powerful by engaging students in active, interdisciplinary learning.													x	x	x														