

# Thriving Schools Assessment Comments



DEMO SCHOOL

July 2016

## Preschool - 3-yr olds

## What do you love about the school?

Martha Johnson is an EXCELLENT teacher! She has made this first year of school so wonderful for my son, he can't wait to go to school EVERY single day!

## What can the school do to improve?

Being a busy mom, business owner, etc having information (and specifics) sooner rather than later is VERY helpful. I realize many parents have 'done this all before', but for us completely new parents, I needed information a bit earlier than I had it (and sometimes just more thoroughly explained).

## Preschool - 4-yr olds

## What do you love about the school?

Angie  
Brickman

Mrs. Jensen has endless energy and patience and knows how to maintain classroom control while still allowing the students age-appropriate freedom for learning through play.

## What can the school do to improve?

I wish more could be done to challenge the kids who are ready for more advanced learning... Some opportunity to read, specifically.

## Kindergarten

## What do you love about the school?

Ms. Sorenson is good at getting the kids to listen and follow instructions. very nurturing

Bill Bruner

The other kids are friendly and generally well behaved. It's a great group of kids. We will miss them.

## What can the school do to improve?

Once Ms. Harding gets more experience, Kindergarten will improve. She is unable to balance the diversity of highly advanced kids from extremely slow learners. It's a mere matter of experience. She is a lovely person, otherwise. In addition, a classroom that does not continually change would help the kindergarteners. They are far too scattered to endure so much movement within the main structures of the room. Again, new teacher mistake.

## 1st Grade

## What do you love about the school?

John Salley

I'm not sure - the emphasis on religion is nice and varied activities are good.

## What can the school do to improve?

DISCIPLINE POLICY - it's horrible and it's not flexible and makes no sense.

Darcy Smith

We have really enjoyed Mrs. Kellogg's balance of love, care, discipline, openness in communication, knowledge of the child, respect of the children and parents alike. She has been very available to talk when we need to! We also love the camaraderie of the parents in this grade - it is such a joy to know other parents and form a friendship with them. We also enjoy how the students are encouraged to work out differences and given tools to solve problems.

In general if there was more parent involvement it would help the teachers out more.

Mrs. Cramer can handle her class fantastically, great teacher, challenges the students

field trips

Ms. Boswell is an amazingly great teacher.

Nothing that we can think of.

I believe that continuing education for teachers needs to be a primary focus. I believe that classroom management and parental communication needs to be a lot better.

The instructor was warm and caring and genuine. The teachers teaching techniques were very successful and the progress and growth my daughter had this year was profound.

More thorough and more frequent communication to the parents would have been helpful. A little more organization and structure could have also been beneficial to parents and students.

Leaving on time.

## 1st Grade

## What do you love about the school?

The sense of community. The fact that the parents know which other well. Some of the more in-depth programs like their projects on the countries. The music program.

## What can the school do to improve?

This teacher really struggled this year with classroom management and stress. We explained several times that we did not understand the phonics program and she was NOT helpful and basically said it was too complicated to teach us and there were no available resources. She was not responsive to emails and did not keep us informed.

## 3rd Grade

## What do you love about the school?

Mr. Weiss, the principal, is very approachable and kind. I like how involved he is with all the students. Mr. W. is an excellent teacher with a well-structured class; he is especially adept at bringing out the strengths of each student and being encouraging while holding them to standards. He truly seems to care about his students.

## What can the school do to improve?

We were a bit confused or uninformed about volunteer opportunities. Some options were given, but only a few matched what we could do and when we were available. Perhaps a board of opportunities could be posted with multiple volunteer options?

*Maxine  
Randolf*

Mr. C. is extremely well-organized and communicative. His expectations are so clear, each student knows exactly how to succeed. He is also a caring and dedicated educator.

The curriculum is presented in a fairly 'rote' manner. While there are many supplementary activities, it seems very 'fill in the blank' worksheet centered. But because of the classroom organization a lot of material is covered!

I like that there are different academic levels for the children, study guides and review sheets, text books.

Mr C. is great at pushing kids to succeed and challenging them. level of homework is a bit much but its good

## 4th Grade

## What do you love about the school?

Individual attention from all the staff.

## What can the school do to improve?

More inspiring/challenging STEM curriculum

## 5th Grade

## What do you love about the school?

that there's a great teacher and that it's like not all teachers that are really don't watch my kid and get hurt from other kids

i really don't think that they can improve because that's in really fine but really not safe

*Ashley Warren*

Mrs. Caldwell is the best. She needs to be a full time teacher. Mrs. Jones needs to care more about student's feelings.

love them

*Emily Dickson*

I think the teacher is nice and i love her but I think all the teachers should teach full time

My student feels very connected with the 5th grade teacher and has had a pretty good year academically, but could be challenged a bit more.

There are some areas that are a little inconsistent. As I mentioned in the previous answer, more challenging academics, plus I feel there is a need for teaching more studying and writing skills.

*Amber Crouch*

It's a really friendly place with so many fun events and fair rules. The food is great and the amount of work is balanced and fair. I love almost everything at Demo School! I just hope they don't give a lot of work in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Thank you everybody and I hope you don't get worried about me and everybody else during Summer Break! Just sit down, relax, and eat some fast food!

More food and more friends!

## 5th Grade

	What do you love about the school?	What can the school do to improve?
<i>Malcomb Rudolph</i>	My teacher makes it easy to learn things if we don't get it and makes sure we get it. Our principal is involved with a lot of stuff at our school and he always comes into our classroom and sees what we are doing. I love Demo School.	I don't think they need to improve any thing.
	I like that our teacher is nice and that we have a good school.	I would have liked less computer homework.
	the teacher and all of the activity what we do	
	I love that I do not have to worry about any bullies, and i get to do really fun things because of my awesome teacher and principle.	literally nothing, I cannot think about anything that would make this school better.
<i>Omar Cruz</i>	the teacher is awesome, all the kids are very nice.	have Mrs. Goldston full time
	Are teacher is awesome which makes 5th grade really fun and are school is so cool	Nothing because are teacher is awesome and the classroom is up to date
	I love that Demo School prepares 5th grade students for middle school.	
	Mrs. Goldston has been a great addition to the staff this year. If she continues on in a full time role we look forward to seeing more of her involvement in extracurricular activities.	
	I love the learning provided by the teachers, classroom teacher, music, library teachers. I love that all teachers seem to be receptive to constructive criticism. They are also there for parents any time needed.	Have each grade level with its own full time teacher. Be consistent with discipline, if you are going to warn students, follow through your words with actions that reflect your "warning". There are discipline rules for a reason, mainly it should be as less disruptive as possible for the other students behaving properly. This goes for All teachers involved with 5 th grade.
<i>Carl Cameron</i>	our teacher mrs. mathews is a good teacher.	their memory
<i>Anne Bright</i>	our teacher the students here	heave mrs. Brewster full time bigger lunch room

## 6th Grade

	What do you love about the school?	What can the school do to improve?
	We couldn't ask for a better teacher than Mr. Jindal. There is great variety of instruction.	Nothing that we can think of.
	That Mr. Jindal really understands each kid and their personality.	
	Teachers	Improve Administration communication Have Pastor more involved in classroom at least 2xs a year.

## 7th Grade

	What do you love about the school?	What can the school do to improve?
	That the school and class welcomed my child with open arms and helped him feel welcome. He is succeeding now, where this time last year he was very unhappy with school. Thank you.	

## 7th Grade

## What do you love about the school?

The whole middle school program is exceptional, I would hate to see it change!

Teachers

quality peer relationships

The small class size, good relationships among students and supportive faculty. Our son is having a very good experience in 7th grade, and we are very satisfied with our overall Pilgrim experience.

## What can the school do to improve?

Be consistent and strictly have the students follow dress code at ALL times, during school and during after school activities. Make sure to keep the middle school program at its best, meaning keep the students in their own classrooms without combining and have a teacher for each level. We cannot sell a program we don't have.

Improve Administration communication Have the principal more involved in classroom at least 2xs a year.

minimize student distraction during work times

Provide a bit more challenging curriculum. I worry about whether my son will be prepared for high school. He rarely has more than 15 minutes of homework. Study skills need development.

Penelope  
Rivera

## 8th Grade

## What do you love about the school?

I love that the middle school has the same 3 teachers for 3 years. I feel this really helps with the learning process in terms of the teacher really getting to know each student and their individual learning styles.

I love that Demo School prepares its 8th grade students well for high school.

The class is size.

I love the genuine care and concern expressed by the teachers, and the high expectations for both behavior and performance.

I think students are prepared for the work load for high school. Students also have an excellent opportunity to bond during their trip to Washington D.C.

The teachers at Demo School are excellent. I think they make a world of difference. I also think the families and kids in the class are great people so there is less concern about discipline and more focus on learning.

The middle school has done everything to ready our child for high school. If anything needs to be strengthened it is in the area of language arts.

## What can the school do to improve?

I feel that classes should be taught during the portion of the 7-8th grade year.

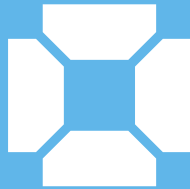
Always treat the children with respect during and after class.

You are really doing a great job! That said, math has been a struggle for my daughter, and I sense others have struggled too. Perhaps Ms. Schwartz could assess more timely if the kids are getting the concepts.

School can improve communications with parents. If a teacher recognizes a problem, a meeting should be called to discuss issues before end of grading period. Replies to emails would be appreciated. Observation by Principal of newer teachers at random times of the day could reveal potential problems with teaching methods. Positive school atmosphere would encourage students. Communication is invaluable.

Stronger language arts program.

BE SMART



MAKE IT HAPPEN