

Student Council Response to Survey 1

The Student Council recently gave a survey to every middle school and high school student. We have collected the results and have now responded to them here. We responded to every issue with only a few exceptions. If you said something silly like “more solar eclipses”, then we didn’t. Also we grouped certain issues together for the sake of simplicity. If you can’t find where your issue is addressed, don’t understand or like the response to an issue, or have any other problem or question please *politely* go to Student Council President Michael Hollman and ask him. He will be more than happy to respond to any concerns or questions. If we say “will be presented”, that means that we will present the issue to Dr. Nordman or other relevant parties in an effort to resolve the issue. This does not mean it is guaranteed to be changed.

Top 5 Issues from Respondents

1. Phones at break and lunch will be presented.
2. Hats will be presented.
3. Allowing Facial Hair will be presented.
4. Leggings will be presented.
5. There were many suggestions to offer more classes. Due to the size and capacity of the school (lack of teachers), adding classes will be difficult but it will be looked into. Also it is important to have certain classes that are required for things like TOPs. Class changes can complicate this. We also have access to online classes that may be what you are looking for, so that must be kept in mind. Classes that were suggested included:
 - a. science/engineering
 - b. Home economics

- c. Film (Mixed Media is available for Juniors and Seniors and English IV studies some film)
- d. Music (High School)
- e. Extra dual enrollment (we offer a wide variety of online courses through ULM and Delta; if you would like a list see Michael Hollman and he will get a copy for you)
- f. Honors

Dress Code

1. Hoodies are already allowed.
2. Tank Tops will be presented.
3. Hats will be presented.
4. Gym Shorts will be presented.
5. Allowing Facial Hair will be presented.
6. Jeans with holes will be presented.
7. Sweatpants will be presented.
8. Leggings will be presented.
9. Piercings will be presented.
10. Colored hair will be presented.
11. All rules will be enforced universally.
12. Flip Flops are allowed.

Facilities:

1. Lowering tuition is neither in the Student Council's control nor viable for the school to operate at full capacity.
2. Getting a new track is beyond expensive and would likely take one or even multiple generous donors.
3. Fixing the cafeteria bell will be presented.
4. The Air Conditioning issue is a problem the school administration is aware of and works on often. Purchasing a new A/C would be expensive.
5. Most lockers are in good condition. There are some that are slightly damaged but still functional. If your locker is unsuitable please contact the Student Council.
6. Getting new bleachers will be presented.
7. There is a water fountain near the back gym for use by students in P.E.
8. To our knowledge the football stands are not in bad condition.
9. To our knowledge the lunch tables are not in bad condition.
10. Replacing desks with bigger desks would be expensive. There are desks with more space (open sides and larger top) throughout the school and you could arrange for them to be in classes you have.
11. Having a school bus would be expensive. For morning pickups, the local buses can be arranged to take you to school.
12. The weight equipment is adequate.

Break/Lunch

1. Phones at break and lunch will be presented.

2. The Student Council Store is sufficiently stocked with a variety of different snacks. If you have any suggestions, contact the Student Council Store Manager.
3. The Student Council Store is a main source of income for the Student Council. The prices are strategically determined so that the store makes a small profit. This money is used to plan school functions such as: Spring Fling, Back to School Splash, and Winter Cup. Likewise, the cafeteria prices are determined to make a small profit so that they make enough money to continue to provide snacks at break and lunch.
4. Larger servings at lunch would require higher prices. The lunch servings have been sufficient in the past.
5. If you have a specific suggestion for healthier options at the store, or any other suggestion, tell the store manager, and it will be considered.
6. We will look into what break snacks are popular. Those foods are done by the cafeteria or RO classes to make money. Some said they want mozzarella sticks. Some said they don't want them. Further surveys are required.
7. The reason that the vending machines have diet drinks is because the elementary has access to them and are not supposed to have regular sodas. If there are drinks you would like, please *politely* ask the Student Council Store Manager.
8. Longer lunches and break would mean more time spent at school overall due to class time requirements. It is unlikely this should change.
9. Shortening the time for 6th graders to skip at lunch will be presented. They should have time to adjust to the new school, but many think this should be limited.

10. The lunch ladies do their best to provide a wide and adequately healthy variety of foods.
If you have specific foods you like or don't like, that could be looked into.
11. We will look into more chicken, more mashed potatoes, and more cobbler. However we cannot have any items too often.
12. We will consider replacing McDonald's as a Friday lunch, but we must look into its popularity.
13. We will consider adding Chick-fil-a as a Friday lunch, but we must look into its popularity. It also may be too expensive to only charge \$4 meaning we couldn't have it.
14. Allowing Seniors and possibly other upper classmen to leave campus for lunch will be presented.
15. If you have suggestions for snack options for break, they'd be appreciated. There may be changes to break in the near future and feedback is helpful.
16. We will look into shade for the picnic benches, but it is uncertain much could be reasonably done.
17. Allowing Seniors to alternate working Friday lunches will be presented.

Classes

1. There were many suggestions to offer more classes. Due to the size and capacity of the school (lack of teachers), adding classes will be difficult but it will be looked into. Also it is important to have certain classes that are required for things like TOPs. Class changes can complicate this. We also have access to online classes that may be what you are looking for, so that must be kept in mind. Classes that were suggested included:
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2. Homework can and often is important to the learning in a class. If you believe that a teacher is assigning too much homework, then *politely* ask if it could be lowered or for their reasoning behind it. Ultimately homework assignments and their amount are up to the discretion of the teacher. The same is true for allowing more time for homework.
 3. If we were to have shorter classes then we would need more days in school and therefore the class times will stay as is.
 4. If we were to have longer time between classes then the school day would have to be longer. River Oaks does not have a very large campus and the time should be adequate. The only exception is the art class, but Mrs. Roberts is reasonable about the situation and it should cause no problems.
 5. We will look into the issue of PE and try to see if there are problems with the class.
 6. If you would not like to run on hot days then you should *politely* ask your PE teacher to be excused. If it is a legitimate problem, they will understand. However if you never run

on a hot day in Louisiana, you wouldn't run often which diminish the effectiveness of PE class.

7. To receive a River Oaks High School diploma, you are required to take two years of art. There is no reason to "require" art every year because it's not needed to graduate. We have only one art teacher and one art classroom. Offering art every year would be difficult given our current capacity. If you would personally like to take art every year, there is a small chance it could be arranged. However scheduling and taking the required courses to graduate have higher priority.
8. Most Seniors and some Juniors have a study hall. However it is unreasonable for freshman and sophomores to have one, because they need to take required classes. Secondly, many people unfortunately do not work during their study halls, so it wouldn't be helpful for more people to have them.
9. Using online textbooks will be discussed.
10. We will look into using a college grading scale.
11. Switching to a block schedule would be too much of a fundamental change to the school and last year respondents said they didn't like the idea.

Clubs/Sports/Activities

1. We will look into changes to the Pep Rally, but many groups work hard to put them on already. If there are specific suggestions, they would be appreciated.
2. In order to have a middle school soccer team there must be enough people. If you can get the required amount of players to sign up, we will work to start a team.

3. If you have an idea for a new club, bring it to the Student Council or school administrators and it will be considered.
4. If you would like to put on plays, you should start a drama club and the Student Council will help get it going.
5. The Student Council will be looking into the topic of school pride this year and will see how to make improvements. We would like to hear any ideas, especially from students who formerly went to other schools, on how to promote school spirit.
6. Educational field trips will be presented, but that is mostly up to teachers.
7. If you would like to start a girls volleyball team, then you should have enough people to sign up and it will be considered.
8. Hosting middle school dances are up to the Middle School student council. If you want more middle school dances, talk to the Middle School Student Council President. If you do not like the dances, they are by no means required and you can stay home.
9. The Student Council works hard every week to have a Student Council game that is fun and entertaining. There are some we will always do, like put-out and the dance off. But we have been trying new ideas, like the discipline test done at the Redneck/Camo Pep Rally. If you have any suggestions, we would love for you to tell us about them.