

Advisory Board Meeting:

Superintendent's Report



Tuesday, October 29th, 2013

Agenda

School Climate Survey

Status of Listening Tour + Upcoming Events

Public Commentary

Superintendent's Agenda Items and District Highlights

School Climate Survey: Overview

To provide an objective view of the state of our schools, we provide survey findings for Camden City School District

We conducted surveys across all schools in early June of 2013, gathering feedback on the following:

- Physical Environment
- Emotional Environment
- Teaching and Learning
- Relationships
- Community Engagement
- Staff and Student Morale

We received responses from:

- 5,458 students in grades 3-12 (95% response rate from students who were present during the in-school survey administration)
 - 2,529 elementary school students
 - 1,756 middle school students and 1105 high school students
- 936 educators, including 636 teachers, 93 administrators, and 207 classroom and school support staff (41% response rate from online survey)

School Climate Survey: Overview

The Camden City School District is at a critical point in its history

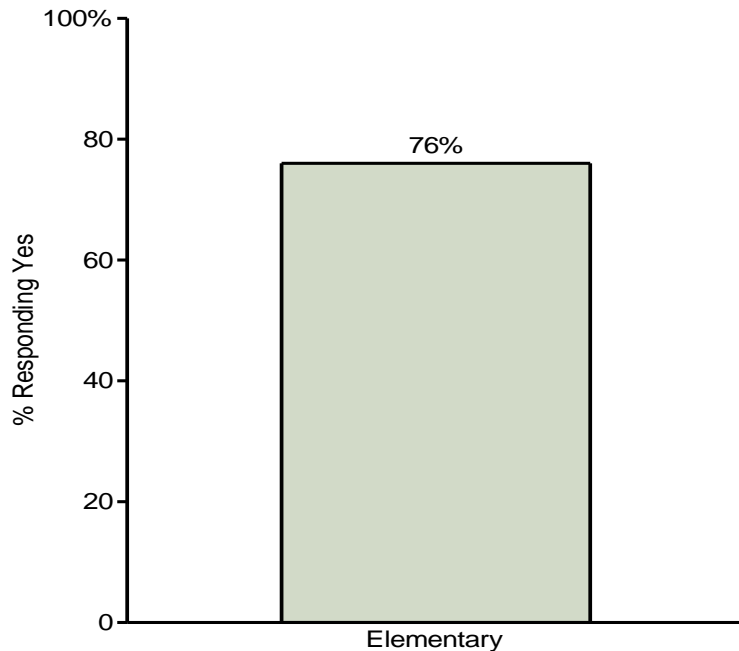
- A recent survey of our students indicated both a strong desire to learn and a high level of support from both parents and teachers
- At the same time, students identified serious issues with our schools, including:
 - Lack of challenge and academic rigor
 - Lack of respect among students
 - Unclean and unsafe school environments
- Moreover, these challenges are echoed in school staff member surveys
- We must change the course we are on by tapping into our students' desire to learn and better channeling parent and teacher supports

School Climate Survey: **The Opportunity**

Most positively, students articulated that they are excited to learn new things and they try hard to succeed

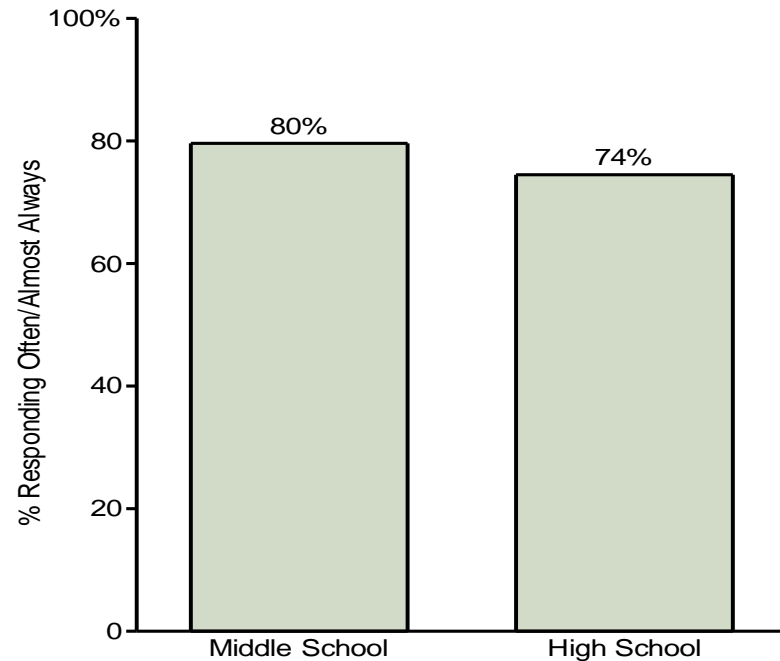
Elementary School Students:

I want to explore and learn new things



Middle and High School Students:

Thinking back over the past year in school, how often did you try to do your best work in school?

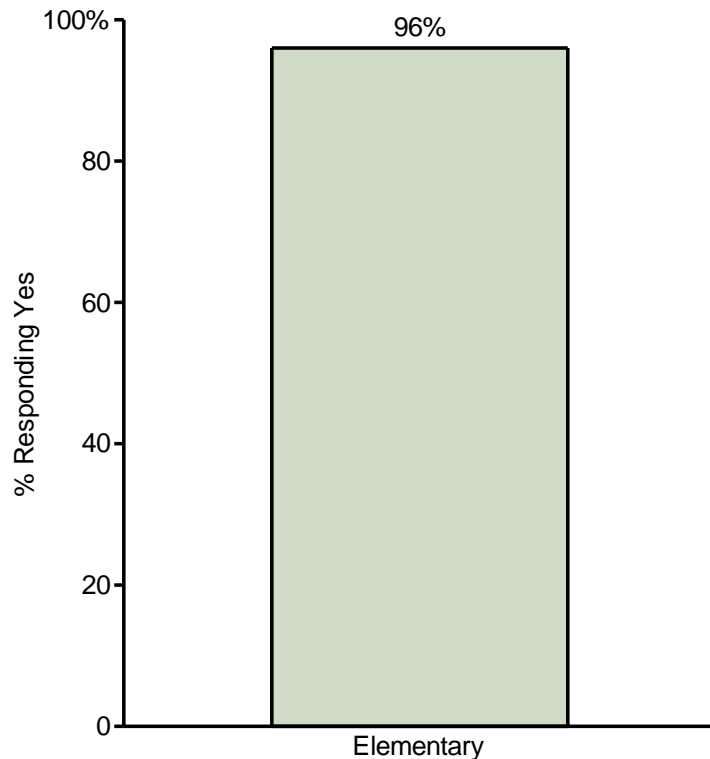


School Climate Survey: **The Opportunity**

Moreover, family support is strong for students in all grades

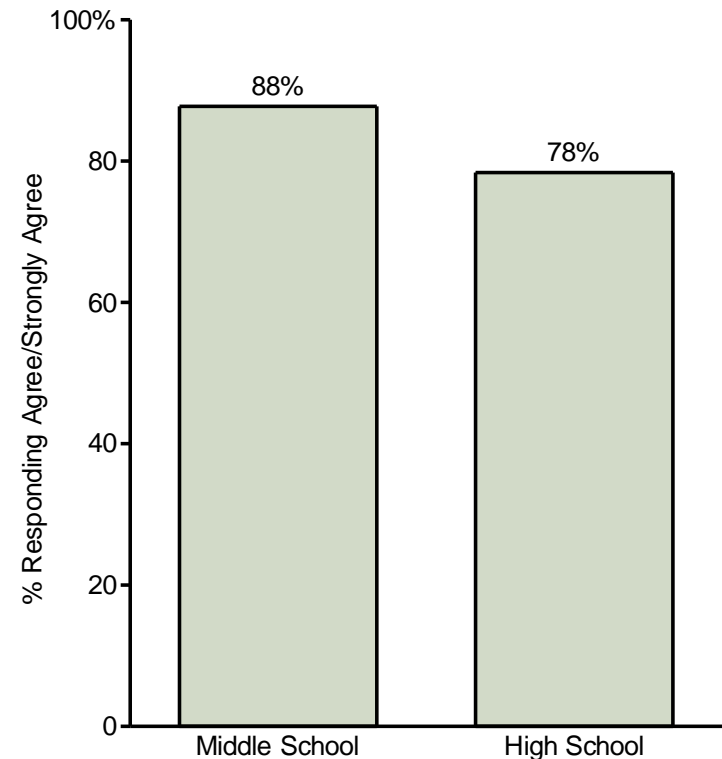
Elementary School Students:

My family wants me to do well in school



Middle/High School Students:

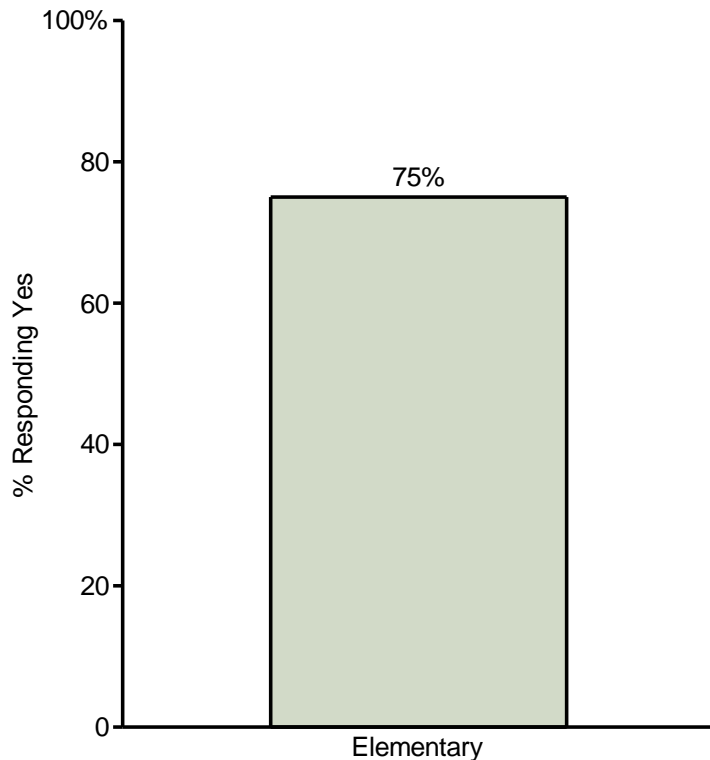
My family wants me to do well in school



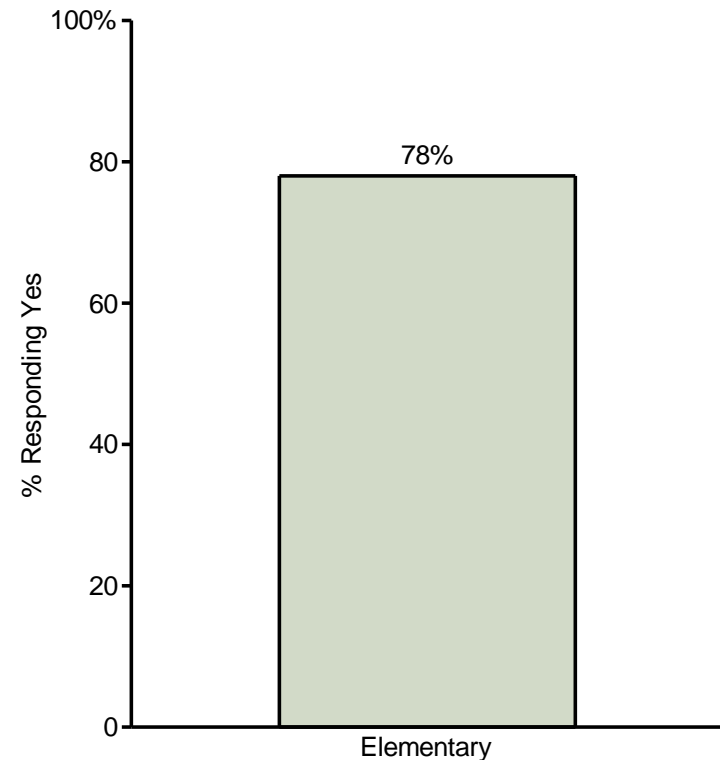
School Climate Survey: **The Opportunity**

Students also believe that their teachers care about them and provide help when needed

Elementary School Students:
My teachers really care about me



Elementary Students:
My teachers would give me help if I needed it

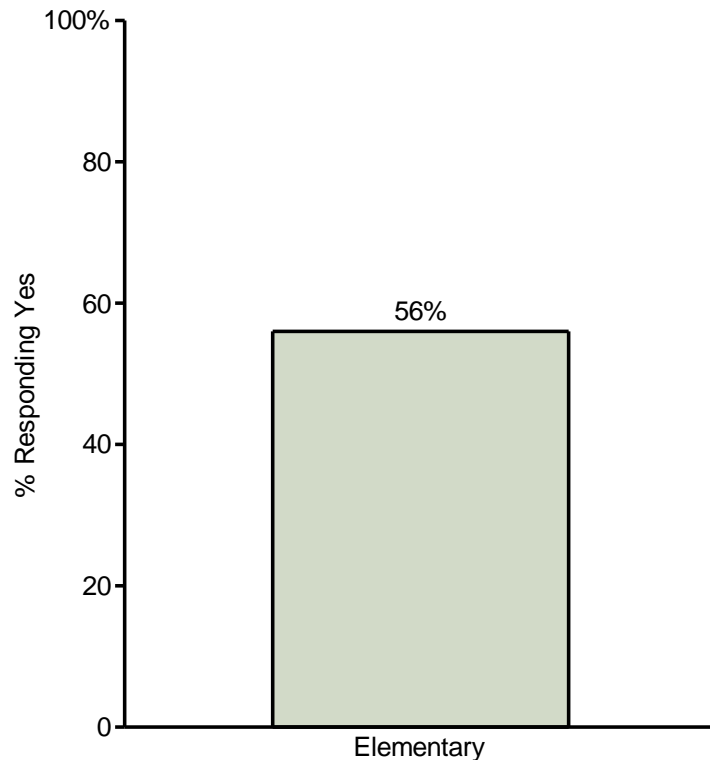


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Despite this enthusiasm and adult support, many students do not find their school work engaging or interesting

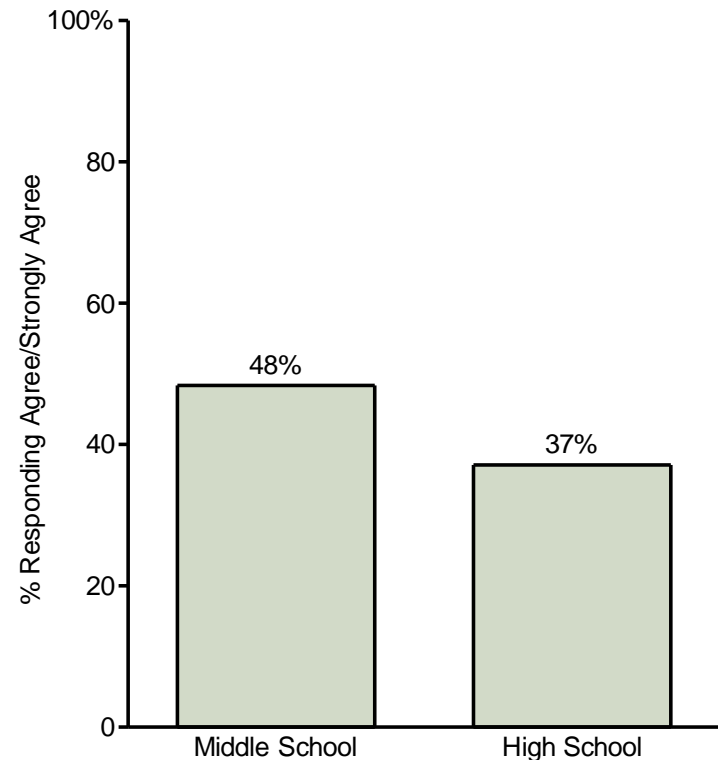
Elementary School Students:

My teachers make learning interesting



Middle/High School Students:

My teachers make learning interesting

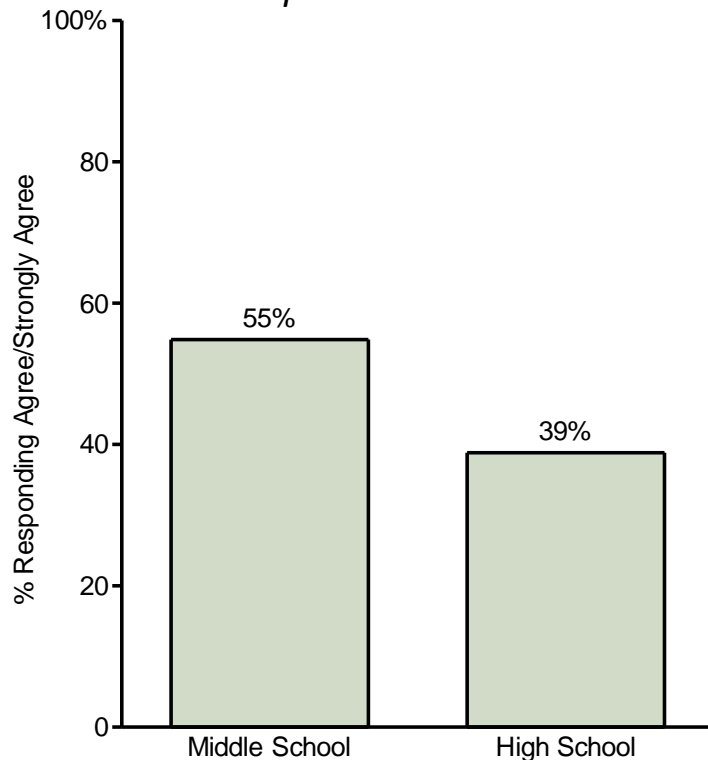


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Additionally, students do not believe their homework helps them learn or that their schools prepare them for college

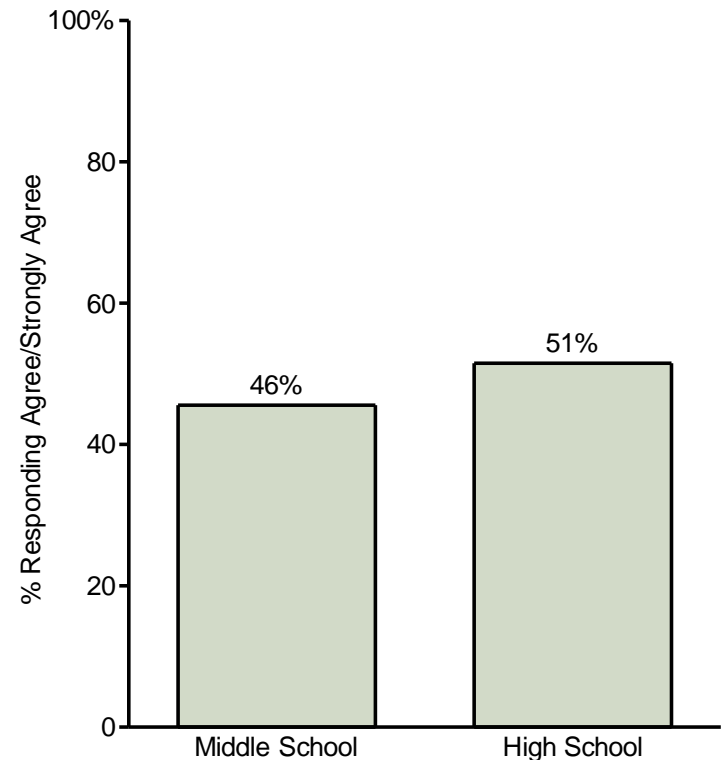
Middle/High School Students:

My teachers often assign homework that helps me learn



Middle/High School Students:

My school is preparing me for college

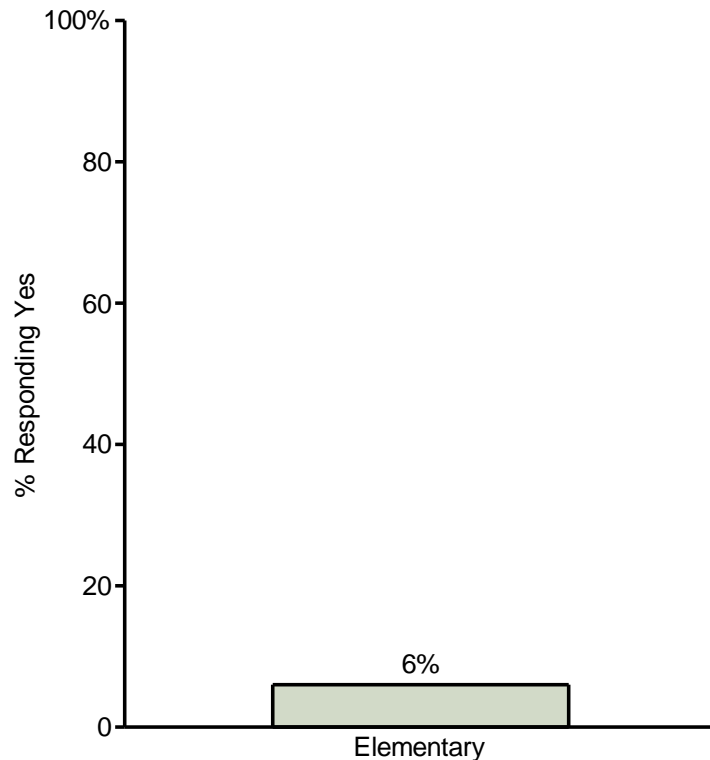


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Students articulated various deficiencies with their school, the most prominent of which was poor student behavior

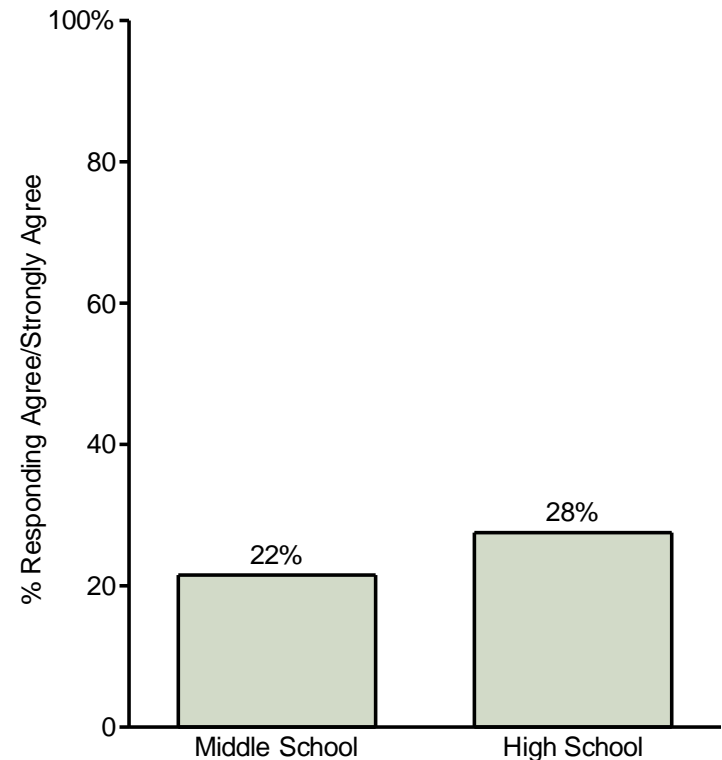
Elementary School Students:

Students at my school are well-behaved



Middle/High School Students:

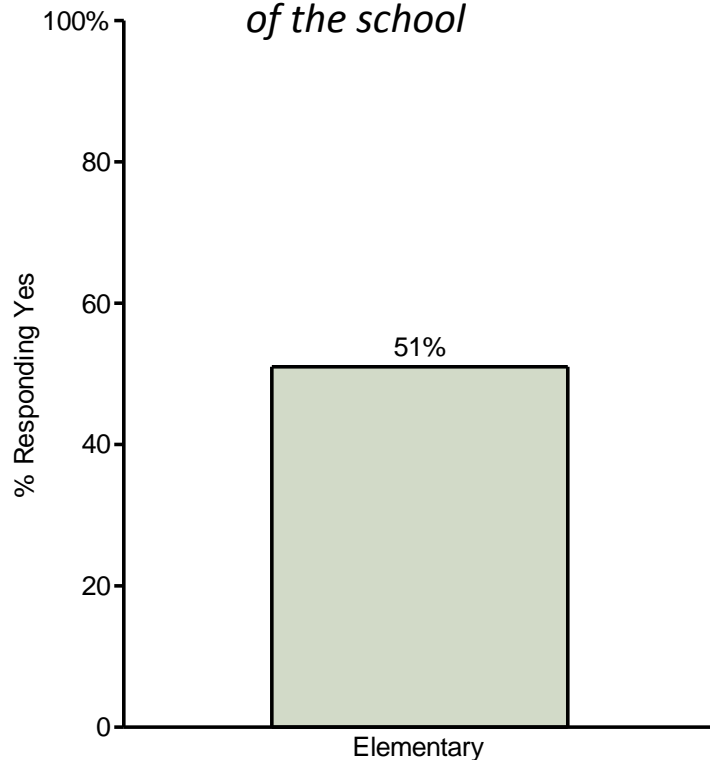
Most students in my school are well-behaved



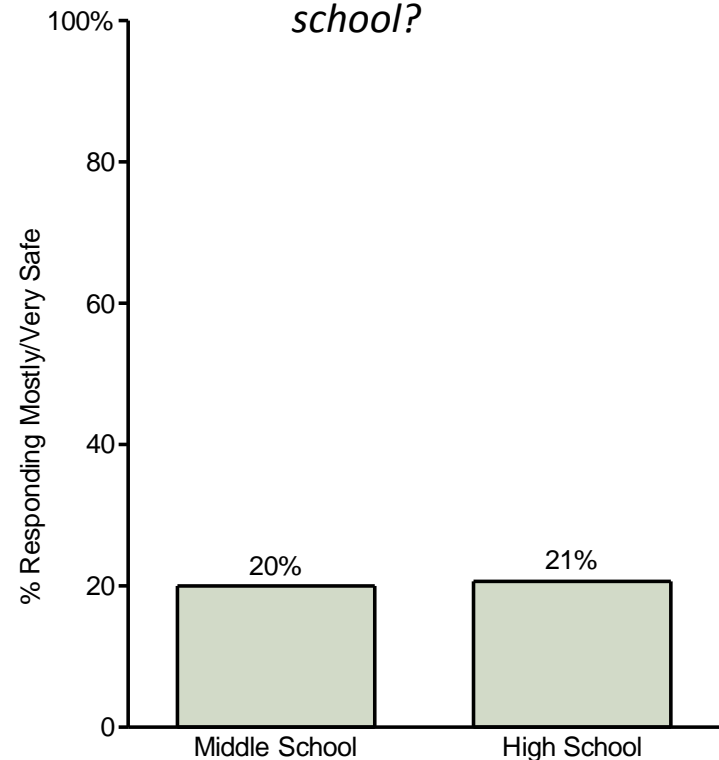
School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

In addition, many students report not feeling safe both inside and outside of their school...

Elementary School Students:
*I feel safe in the hallways and bathrooms
of the school*



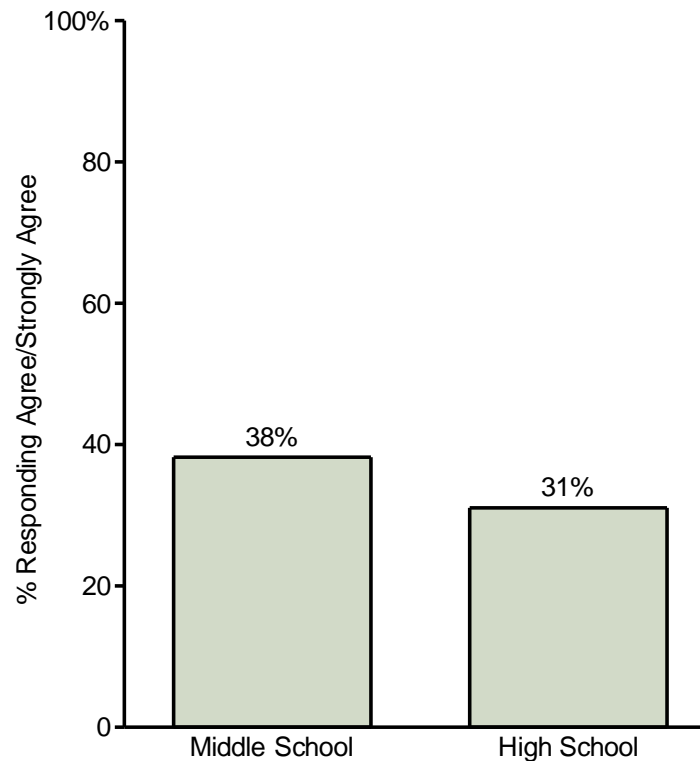
Middle/High School Students:
*How safe do you feel outside around the
school?*



School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

...that violence is a significant problem in middle and high schools...

Middle/High School Students:
Violence is a problem at my school

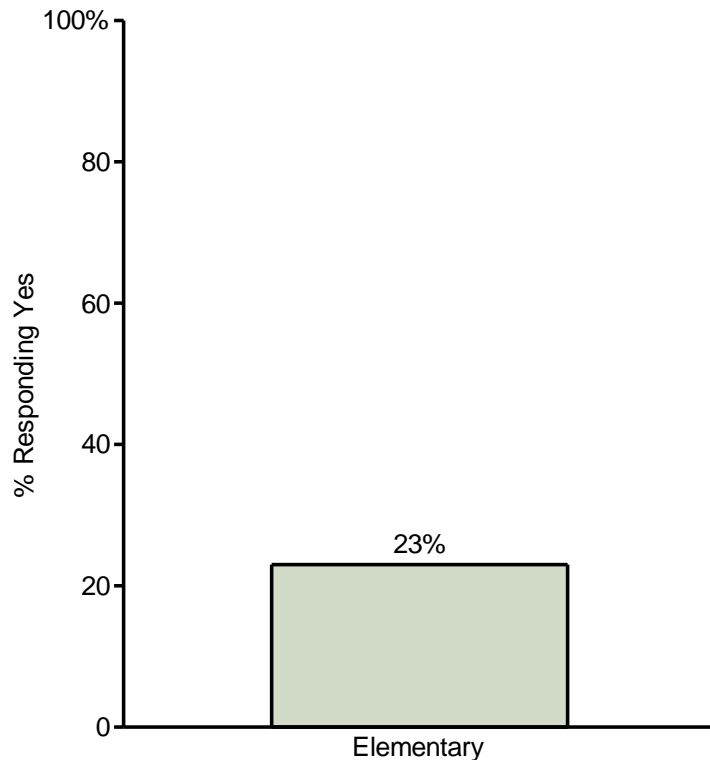


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

...and that buildings are not clean.

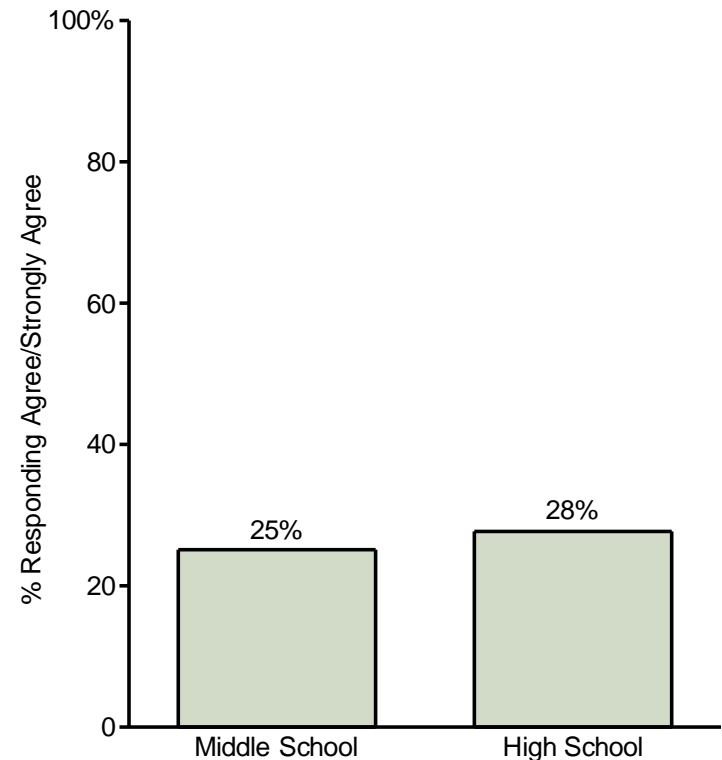
Elementary School Students:

My school is kept clean



Middle/High School Students:

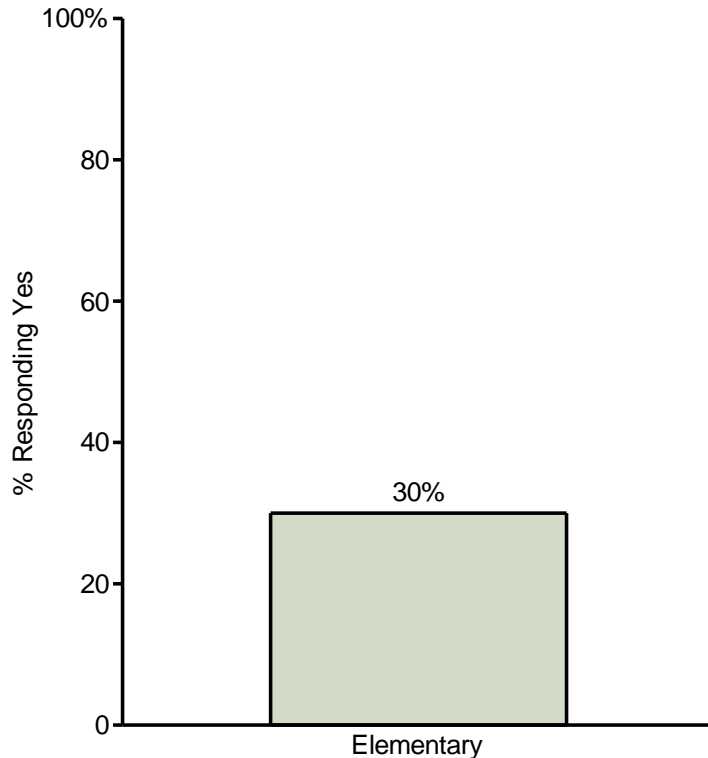
My school is kept clean



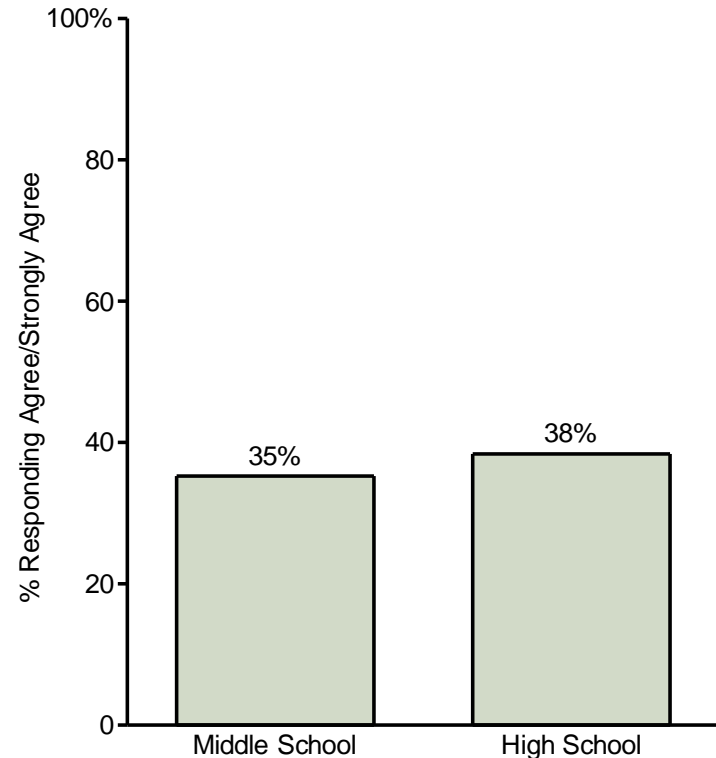
School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Perhaps most disconcerting is the finding that almost a third of students wish they went to a different school

Elementary School Students:
I wish I went to a different school



Middle/High School Students:
I wish I went to a different school

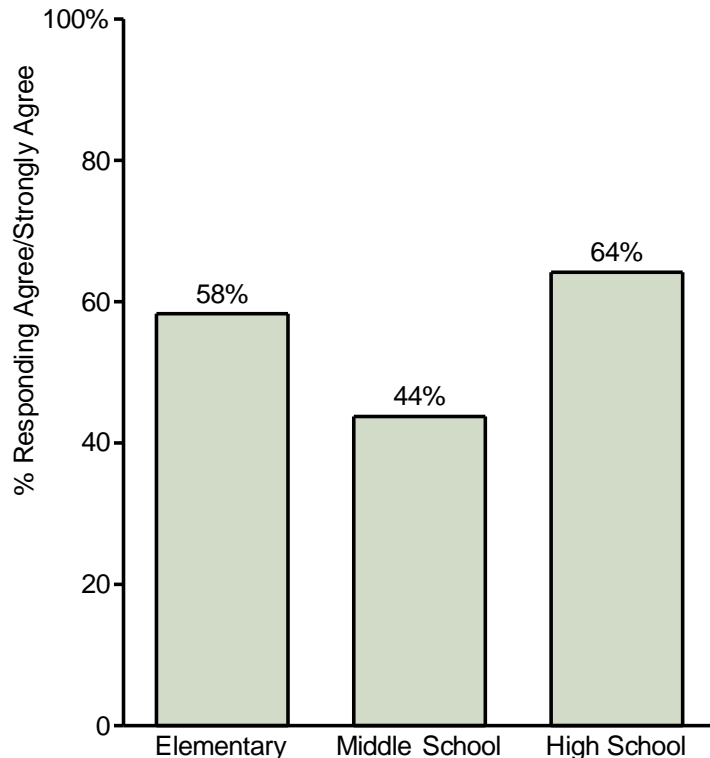


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Staff members echo these challenges and report that schools lack the necessary ingredients for a culture of achievement

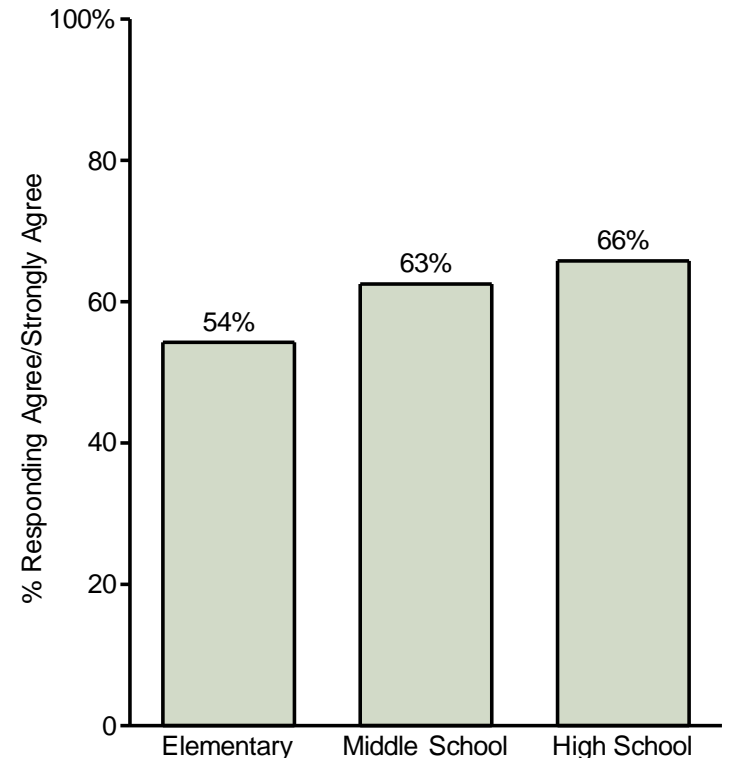
Staff Members:

The school community has high expectations of all students



Staff Members:

Teachers have close working relationships with each other

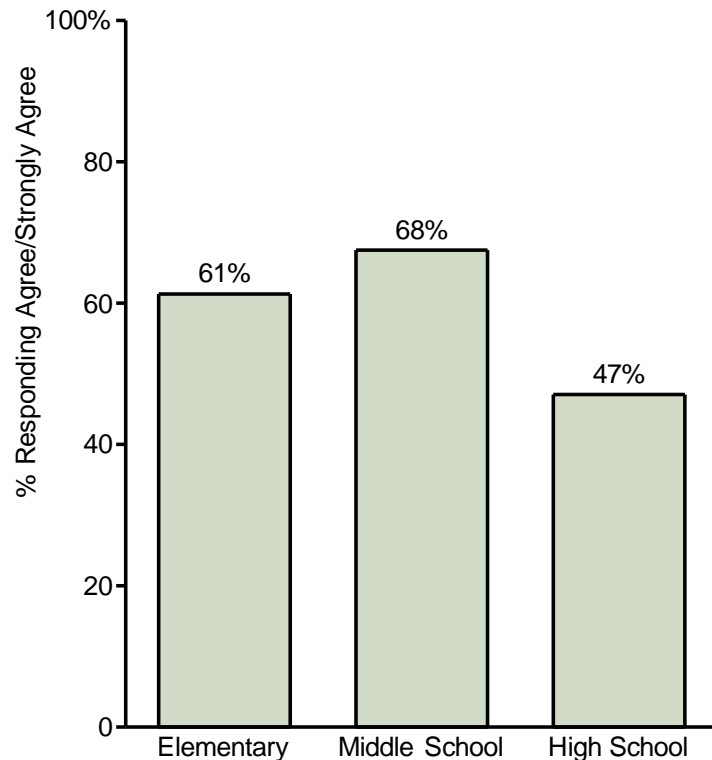


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Moreover, staff members spend a lot of time attending to student emotional needs and have difficulty motivating them

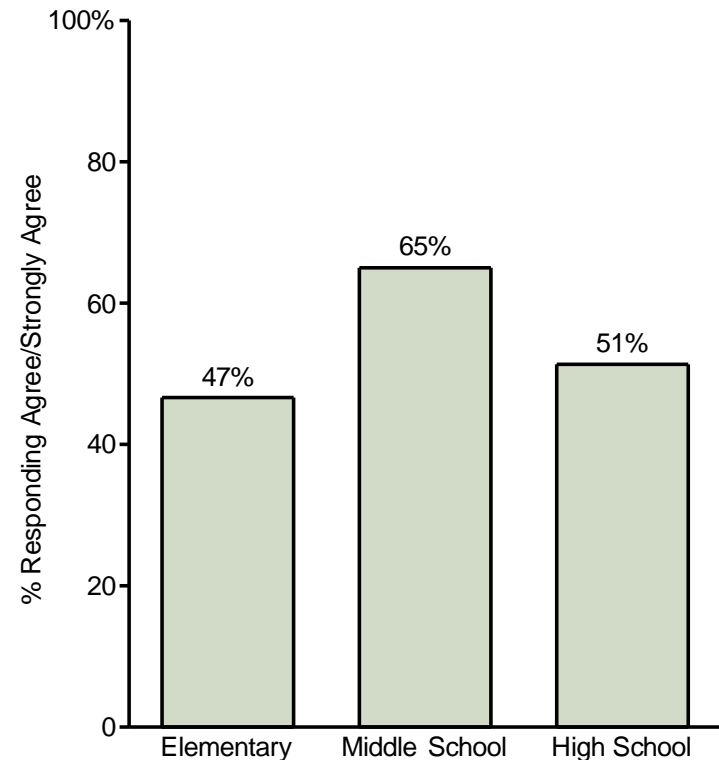
Staff Members:

I spend a great deal of time dealing with students' social and emotional troubles.



Staff Members:

Some students at this school just cannot be motivated to do the work.

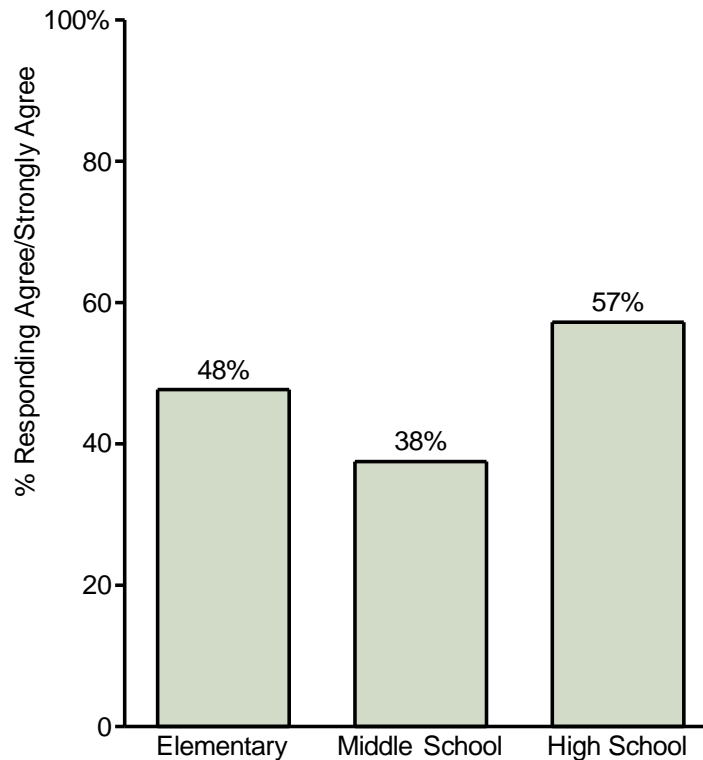


School Climate Survey: **The Challenge**

Presented with many challenges, school staff report that they do not have the tools required to do their job

Staff Members:

I have access to the tools I need to do my job.



Immediate Actions Taken

The district has taken immediate actions to address these concerns, but much work lies ahead

- School Safety
 - Safe Corridors: partnership with Camden County Police Department, Mayor and local community
 - Updated school safety plans
 - Added over 100 new security cameras
- Lack of Resources
 - ~\$5 million of investments made for new textbooks
 - Technology pilot @ Woodrow Wilson, East Camden Middle School and Cream Family School
- School Cleanliness
 - Enhanced preparation for the start of the school year

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100-Day Listening Tour: **Events Held**

School Visits

Faith-based
Events

Homeowner /
Neighborhood
Events

School Programs
(e.g., Early
Childhood Night)

Community At-
large Events

Listening Tour: **Upcoming Events**

Town Halls

The purpose of the Town Hall events is to provide an opportunity for us to listen and address questions and concerns from concerned Community members across Camden.

Focus Group Events

The purpose of the Focus Group events is to ensure that we have an opportunity to listen and address questions and concerns from the people who directly play a role in the lives of Camden students.

Listening Tour: Town Halls



**Creative Arts Morgan
Village Academy**
Tuesday, November 12th
6pm

Bonsall Elementary School
Thursday, November 14th
6pm

**Woodrow Wilson High
School**
Wednesday, November 20th
6pm

Molina Elementary School
Thursday, November 21st
6pm

Listening Tour: Focus Group Events

Student Chat
Monday, October 28th

Teacher Talk
Tuesday, November 19th &
Tuesday, November 26th

Parent Roundtable
Monday, November 25th

Support Staff Huddle
TBD

Annual Preschool Night & Parent Fireside Chat



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District Highlights: “We Can Do This”



After a successful kickoff celebration that took place on Oct. 11th, the “We Can Do This” committee is one step closer to providing high quality athletic facilities to Camden High School students!

A huge shout-out goes to Mr. Stan White, the Mayor, the Advisory Board – particularly Ms. Davis, Committee members and the entire community for their hard work and support.

District Highlights: **Breast Cancer Walk**

The Camden High Marching Band participated in the annual Breast Cancer Walk this past Sunday. We congratulate on a job well done and will continue to support their community service efforts.

District Highlights

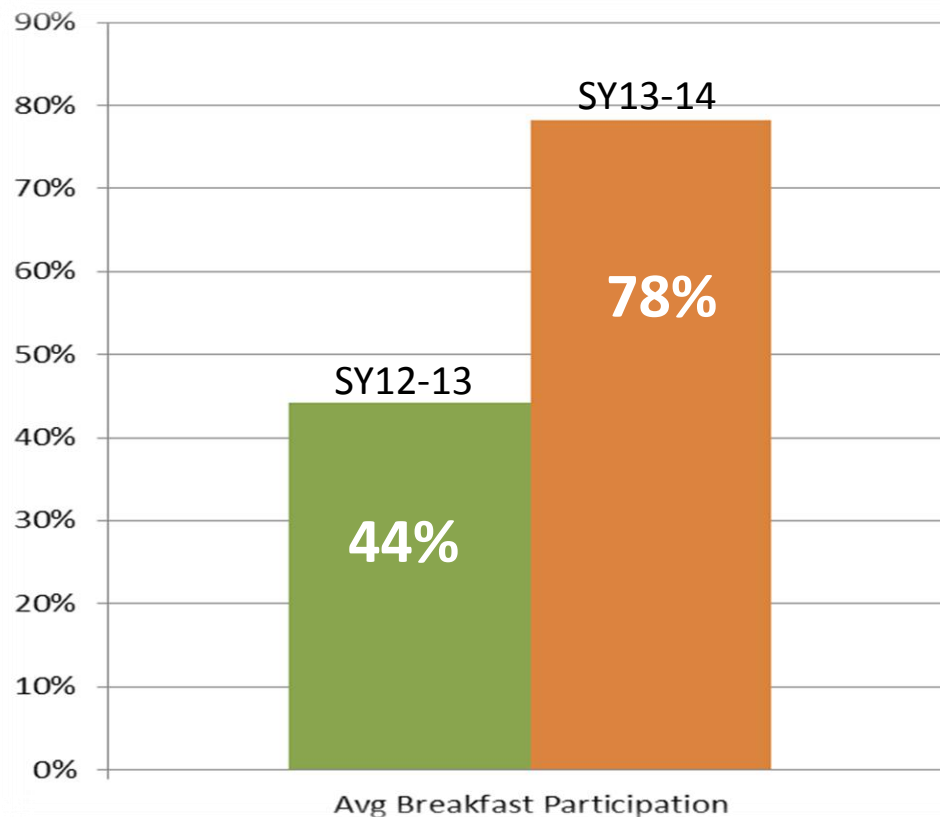
- Student Growth Objectives (SGO) training on October 2nd at Catto Family School to ensure teachers are setting ambitious goals for their students (pg. 10)
 - All principals and other administrative staff (e.g., Supervisors, Directors, Vice Principals)
- Math & Literacy Afterschool Program @ Woodrow Wilson (pg. 18)
 - November – January
- Extended Academy Program @ Cream Family School (pg. 28)
 - Principal, 10 teachers, 3 paraprofessionals, 2 school security officers

District Highlights

- School Based Youth Services (pg. 43)
 - Cultural Cohesion Awareness focus @ Woodrow Wilson (4 events)
- Health Services (p. 44)
 - Free flu shots: flu clinic for pre-school students (December 4 & 11) @ ECDC
- Fundraisers (pg. 57)
 - Woodrow Wilson, East Camden MS, Pyne Poynt, Bonsall, Catto, Davis, Sumner, Cramer, Forest Hill, Yorkship)

District Highlights: **Breakfast In the Classroom**

District Breakfast Participation % Current Year vs. Prior Year



District Highlights: **Leader Ledger and Teacher Times**

Leader Ledger

We launched our first issue of the Leader Ledger last week! Leader Ledger is published every Monday and contains helpful information for principals and vice principals

Teacher Times

The Teacher Times will be used to communicate helpful information to our teachers

We will continue to explore innovative and meaningful ways that enable us to disseminate information efficiently to school leadership and instructional staff

District Highlights: **October District Retirees**

We would like to thank the following people for their contribution to Camden students and community at-large:

Othello Berry, Drop Out Prev Officer - 26 years

Marva Gatlin, Clerk @ Creative Arts - 26 years

Deborah Johnson, Supervisor of Research & Planning - 37 years

Rosalind Hunley, Clerk @ Sumner - 30 years

Luther Long, Custodian E Mechanic- 26 years

Harry McCoy, Teacher of Computer @ Wiggins - 34 years

Paul Mulle, Teacher of Science @ Wiggins - 41 years

Anthony Oglesby, Custodian E Mechanic - 12 years

Gladys Schneider, Early Childhood - 40 years

End of Superintendent's Report