What Are GFSS Students Telling Us?

2025-06-30 Spring Voices from Grade 8, 10, 11, and 12

Introduction

At Grand Forks Secondary School, we believe that listening to our students is one of the best ways to make our school better. This spring, students from Grades 8, 10, 11, and 12 shared their ideas through group discussions and through surveys about what they love about GFSS, what needs to improve, and how they want to be involved.

This report brings together their thoughts and experiences so everyone (parents, students, and staff) can understand what matters most to our students.

What does the ideal school feel like?

Students want GFSS to be a **safe, welcoming, and fun place** where everyone feels included. They imagine a school filled with:

- Bright colors, art, plants, and natural spaces like gardens.
- Lots of activities and clubs where students from all grades get to know each other.
- Comfortable places to relax, like cozy chairs and quiet music during breaks.
- Great sports teams and new equipment for everyone to join in.
- Courses that teach real-life skills like cooking, money management, and driving.

Surveys tell us that most students feel they belong here and feel safe meaning the school is becoming a friendlier place to learn and grow.

What's going well at GFSS?

Students told us they like:

- The wide range of clubs and sports, like band, art, and basketball.
- Friendly, helpful teachers who care about them.
- Fun school events like Pancake Fridays and dress-up days.
- The improvements in safety and school spirit that many students noticed.

What could be better?

Students also shared honest thoughts about what's hard right now:

- **The building**: Some facilities need fixing: washrooms, lockers, and heating or air conditioning.
- **Schedule**: The bell times and lunch breaks could be more flexible.

- **Health and safety**: Students want stronger rules and support to stop vaping and drug use.
- **Classes and learning**: They want more variety in courses and more hands-on projects.
- **Mental health**: Students want more education and help for mental wellness.
- **Climate change**: Many feel they are not learning enough about what they can do to protect the environment.

How can we make GFSS better?

Students have great ideas for improving the school:

- Let students give input on important decisions and give feedback through surveys.
- Find more money to buy new equipment and improve school spaces.
- Make it easier to get involved in student council and clubs.
- Host more school events where everyone can join the fun.
- Add safety measures like vape detectors and bathroom supervision.
- Offer more clubs and make meeting times easier for everyone.

What does this mean for us?

Our students want GFSS to be a place where they feel safe, happy, and proud. They want to learn new things, connect with others, and have a voice in the school.

We are encouraged by the growing number of students who say they feel safe and included. But students also remind us that there's more to do. For example, supporting mental health and teaching about important issues like climate change.

By working together (students, parents, and staff), we can keep making GFSS a wonderful place to learn and grow. Please contact Tom Eccleston, GFSS Principal, for more information about this report.