



As we plan for the next school year, what are the most important things we should consider in order to support all of our students? ⓘ

Transportation My daughter is having a great experience at school, which is tarnished by the bus ride. She rides route 7, and got bad after the route was merged with route 1. The kids curse, scream, and kick. I was just informed the afternoon route is changing so the roudy bunch can get off the bus earlier, but now she is one of the first kids on the bus in the morning, and last off the bus in the afternoon. I understand there are budget limitations, but I hope some \$ can be allocated to resolve these issues. Add a bus for the afternoon? Hire an adult to sit on the afternoon ride? Give red cards for bad behavior directly to parents at pick up/drop off? In her evaluation this month, when asked how she would remember the school year, she said poorly. When asked why, she said because the bus ride. With the new transportation plan, she's now on the bus longer and dealing with even more cursing, screaming, and kicking. It's heart breaking and isn't an experience that represents the district as a whole. We could drive her to school, but I work south down Hannegan and can no longer turn left to go to work. I hope the bus ride can become a better experience in future years.

More electives that would help the students thrive in choosing college options and career paths

Increase teacher salaries that are comparable to districts around us. It's difficult to maintain staff when we are one of the lowest paying districts in whatcom county.

After school support

Staffing levels that support smaller class sizes at ALL levels

Better education for our failing schools!

New middle school!

More support for our youngest learners. We have no Early Childhood Specialist and our youngest learners ITK-2nd grade need more support! Our kinder classes are too large.

Increase funds available for remote students. The cost of everything is more expensive and this includes curriculum and shipping. Please increase funds for MP3 remote students.

Support staffs at both schools! Definitely need more paras to help with behaviors and also to support students who need extra educational help!

I would love to see us get updated projectors at the middle school. Additionally fixing the staffroom copier so that it can staple pages for us without jamming would be great!

For sports, better score display for watching on the app, equipment updates, add tennis as a sport (add courts). More foreign language options. Philosophy class

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Try to arrange tours of BP Cherry Point, Lynden Door, and the County jail. Also, substitute trips to County and City Council instead of trips to Olympia. Finally, require attendance of every student in a Q&A session of how to respond to police officers.

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Several students are scared to use the bathrooms because of the activities that occur in there. They do not feel safe so they avoid using the bathroom all day long. We need to find a solution. Security guard? Someone to get a chair and sit in the bathroom all day long? I don't know what the solution is, but the kids need to feel safe enough to use the bathroom.

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social emotional and learning support for all students.

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The middle school desperately needs better and more challenging curriculum. They need teachers who TEACH - not computer lessons. They need paper and pen work - not computers! They need to learn - not stare blankly at a screen. Our academic scores are plummeting and the state assessments are proof that what you've been doing thus far in 2022-2023 is NOT working. Scores went DOWN for the mid-year iReady exams. This is unacceptable. We're pretty close to pulling our kids from the public school system. Your priorities should always include high quality education.

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Keeping the integrity of what MP3 has been and is continuing to be for the homeschooling families. To make sure that the school does not become politicized but maintains the integrity of an educational facility, not a political or media soap box for agendas. School is school, not political social justice tug of wars. Keep the integrity of education as a place of learning for students as they develop and grow.

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It would be nice to have more variety at the middle school for after school activities that are not a sport. Especially at the start of the school year. Like an art club or game club or even dance (is that considered a sport?) or middle school cheer. Thank you!

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Small class sizes and highly qualified teachers with the supports they need.

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Keeping class sizes small. Maintain and or increase support staff. Building maintenance for student safety. Continue excellence in current special education programs, music PE counseling and community support programs! Meridian does it Best!

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Teachers and paraeducators know my kids better than any administrator or diagnostic test. Their insights are most valuable. There is too much value placed on over paid specialists that are never in the classroom and don't know the students. And too much time placed on diagnostic tests that have more flaws than my kids. The most important thing you should consider in order to support all of our students is putting more money and value to the teachers and paraeducators that work directly with my kids in the classroom everyday.

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When you are considering the budget about personnel, please be proactive not reactive. it is hard to do the job when we are short of staff.

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All of our students are individuals. School districts tend to only have one model for teaching their students. Classrooms with a teacher giving a lecture and research/assignments on a computer. There needs to be more options to engage our students in the learning process. More hands on labs, collaboration between classes, bringing in experts from the community(including the trades) are just a few ideas to expand the learning process.

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Removing all CRT leaning nonsense. Removing common core math. Removing all LGBTMAP+ paraphernalia.

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We need smaller class sizes for the 4th and 5th grade students. Behaviors are a real challenge.

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A program to allow students that are falling behind to have extra help after school. Supporting and encouraging and enhancing after school clubs, sports to get students involved. Students who are involved in clubs, sports and other extracurricular activities with fellow students have an easier time fitting in and having a sense of belonging.

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Middle school needs more enriching classes like food science where they learn to actually cook and have access to kitchen appliances to learn. What ever happened to life skill classes? Financial management, wood shop, Home economics, etc??? Elementary kids I feel are fine actually should spend less time electronics and more time Learning to hand write and cursive which enhances fine motor skills and creativity....

Having additional adults to support grade levels in providing all the needed supports for students. Having additional adults would make it easier to be proactive in meeting students needs. For example, students with behavior needs could have built in breaks. Students who need additional academic support could work 1 on 1 while the rest of the class is still being supported or groups from each class in the grade level could have a group that works together. Additional support is extremely important for the younger learners who have had limited school experience and are receiving the foundational academic and social skills to be successful in school and life beyond the classroom.

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#1 Priority-Budgeting for a second elementary school! IRE is understaffed for the number of students and population we serve. A second cafeteria and gym would be helpful until we get a new elementary school. #2 Budgeting for a full time principal for Building B at IRE, and for more paraprofessionals, nurses, sped teachers, counselors and certificated staff at IRE A and B. #3 Budgeting for chromebook carts for all classrooms at IRE so student devices can be stored at school.

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Supporting teachers with a good salary and having enough paraeducators to help the kids who need more attention (whether behind or ahead of the main class), so the teachers can focus on teaching instead of classroom management.

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Adequate special ed staffing

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I appreciate the great work you all are doing in making it a safe and fun place to learn. I honestly have no good ideas to advance the schools in ways you're not already doing :)

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We need after school programing to support students with homework, missing assignments, and skill deficits. Many parents have requested this support as well because they may be unable, for a variety of reasons, to provide the support students need at home. This is especially true for ML students whose families may speak languages other than English or did not receive formal education. Individual and small group tutoring is one of the most effective ways to bring students up to grade level. Additional para-educators to support students in the classroom. In the 7th grade, there are only enough paras to support half of students with IEPs and 504 plans. Para educators are essential for supporting students in the classes and ensuring students receive all of their accomodations, especially, but not limited to, working in a small group, having assignments read to them, receiving frequent checks for understanding, etc. Creating a full-time position for the reading specialist at the middle school. Students who are three or more grades below grade level only receive additional reading instruction 2 times per week. These are students who have 1st/2nd grade decoding and vocabulary skills. They need reading instruction every day because these levels of skill deficits are not met by general education instruction. With investments into reading interventions at the middle school level, these students may not need additional interventions at the high school level. Paying teachers for their time managing after-school clubs and activities. Teachers have been encouraged or asked to start clubs to foster a sense of "belonging" in our schools (which is the district's number 1 priority) but they are told there is no money in the budget to pay them to do so. If the district cannot pay a reasonable wage/stipend for teachers, the district should find creative solutions to pay for these important opportunities, such as partnering with WWU Compass2Campus or other outside organizations who would be willing to volunteer their time. More funding for the arts. Sports are a huge part of the district and community, but the arts are under funded, under promoted, and under appreciated. Extending elementary band to younger grades, offering orchestra classes, and providing additional funding to expand drama opportunities for elementary students would provide important extra curricular options other than sports.

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Small class sizes - we see more positive behaviors in smaller class sizes. Students also feel more included, seen, and connected when the class sizes are small. 17 or less in the lower grades, 20 or less in the upper grades would be ideal.

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I think there should be more funding for more elective class options.

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Curriculum is more expensive and MP3 funds for remote families cannot be reduced. MP3 funds for remote students needs an increase!

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Reading and math intervention.

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Middle school fields - meals for children in need - decreasing class sizes - teacher's salaries

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Small class size, space in buildings for all grades they serve

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Supporting and retaining great teachers.

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Facility improvements for Middle School

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Solid basic curriculum. Address mental health issues in a compassionate and effective way. Opportunities to serve each other and their community.

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Makesure that electives like bands and art programs are well funded. Those subjects keep many students interested in school.

A chain is only as strong as the weakest link, so please keep supporting our most vulnerable students. No child learns while hungry, or cold, or scared about where they can sleep next. And while the burden of social ills shouldn't have to fall on our schools, unfortunately, they have in some cases. Most vulnerable also includes our LGBTQ and trans students - thank you for your continued efforts to protect them from the dangerous attacks, physical and emotional, coming from some members of our community. Meridian is welcoming for all, and when considering potentially tight budgets, do not eliminate programs that protect our LGBTQ students.

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I would love to have an additional gym built at IRE. One that could host youth sport events and most importantly serve the 740 students that attend our school. Our current situation is less than ideal as we are having 50-55 students sharing one small gym. Additional space is needed to best support all of our students in P.E.. This is just one area that needs attention here at our school. Thanks

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Provide classroom space for each teacher

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Lower class sizes, adequate staffing - Title/LAP as well as behavior para support in classrooms that can be consistent. We need to consider returning to covid protocol classroom size counts. It has incredible impact on learning and growth and is more equitable.

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More Paras for teacher support in classrooms. Teacher raises

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up-to-date educational materials and supplies (textbooks, tech, consumables, etc.) salaries for all as well as program budgets need to consistently, routinely keep up with inflation

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Greater support for LGBTQ+ students and staff, including the availability of gender-neutral bathroom facilities. Accessibility for mobility-impaired people. Supporting activities for all students not just those who can afford to pay.

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The extra help certain students receive to make sure they maintain themselves caught up with the rest of the class.

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Additional admin for IRE. It's a lot of staff, students and families to support as IRE continues to grow. Another counselor or possibly even two. Again a lot of students and families to support. Perhaps one of the counselors could even provide mental health services within the school as mental health for many families is a barrier (transportation, waitlists, etc)

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Adequate adult support for younger classes - specifically developmental preschool and ITK. 2 adults for each TK classroom MINIMUM (and adequate coverage when a para or 1:1 is pulled to a different room), with at least 1 additional adult available to float between the classrooms.

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We should make considerations to reduce class sizes to a max of 20 students per classroom to ensure each student is receiving adequate support from their teacher.

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Keeping them safe at school

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1. Frame off the downstairs lounge to create more classroom space. 2. Some sort of lunch time activities to give students an option of burning off some energy. Hoops, games, etc. Similar to a middle school lunch. 3. Turf athletic field. 4. Automotive program NWCTA.

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I have concerns regarding the expectation of the nursing staff and special services, as well as the physical atmosphere of the middle school. I'd like to see some funding provided to spruce up the hallways and make it a place our students are proud to call theirs! Also, support staff - which will include para educators and the potential need for wage reviews. Thank you!

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Smaller class size

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I think there is a need for student planners, especially after student conferences and hearing feedback from parents and students about planning and organization having an effect on their success in school. I also had many parents ask why they were not given one this year and I could not provide them with an answer.

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After school support for homework and clubs to strengthen sense of belonging.

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Money should be spent to ensure student success. We need more staffing support for tier 2 and 3 academics (Title, LAP, SPED, ML), and tier 3 behavior supports. Paraeducators are critical to student success, reducing the achievement gap and making our schools safer for everyone.

Extra curricular activities! Having enough teacher assistance in classrooms and during lunch and passing time.

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Small class sizes and para-support is the core of what we do to support all students.

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Provide professional development to teachers on how to modify assignments for ML, IEP, 504 and LAP students. Provide opportunities for teachers and paraeducators to meet, discuss, collaborate and develop strategies on how best to support students needing accommodations.

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Technology support- devices, instructional support, Build maintenance Instructional support

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Small class size, equipped classrooms, happy educators

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Students need more support with their reading levels, many students are well below their grade level and this impacts every other class they have.

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Mental health and SEL support for students.

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Student safety, assistance for teachers who need support, inclusive and open environment for all types of students

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Adequate staffing to keep class sizes as low as possible.

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The cost of a looming recession is hitting all of us hard. Maybe looking at costs for extra circular activities and keeping up the awesome job you are all doing at mental health.

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More field trips. Outdoor learning opportunities. Garden partnership with Common Threads Farm. Lummi Reservation field trips.

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Students have time to get and enjoy their meals, specifically getting breakfast at IRE and having time to get to class before school starts.

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Staffing. Ensuring that we are hiring and retaining staff to support student needs at all buildings

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Student supervision by staff during meals @ all schools. Allowing students off bus @ IRE @ 8:45 or as arriving to enable students to have adequate time to eat and allowing a "hot" breakfast/ cereal to eat in cafeteria Middle school really need new reader board. Kinda feel like we're the School on wrong side of tracks 😞

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MTSS, foundational reading instruction, PD for staff around behavior management strategies, hire more SpEd teachers for coteaching model at all grade levels, tech class at MMS

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Do we have electives or extra curricular opportunities at the middle school and high school that open kids up to STEM careers possibilities? Or even something like debate or model UN. It would be great to see some of those academic options expand in our district!

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We need to prioritize our staff and contracts. Many of us are non-continuing or are "temp" positions. Tyler told us they are moving away from that but I am still a temp position and have no knew contract for next year, yet and dont know if there will be one. Not only is this important for our staff but it affects our students as well as you need your staff to be focussed, prepared and feel wanted and appreciated. And then I can prepare for next year. Tech also needs to be priority. Stable, consistent, working and quicker turn around time for repairs. Also classrooms need to be updated so they all have the same tech and its consistent room to room for our subs. IRE is lacking staff. Need more one on one para support. Behavior support. Our admin is run thin and often in emergencies the response time is not quick enough to handle behaviors. Lastly, we need subs. More subs, perhaps better pay for them or contract a few subs for the year?

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Professional Development that supports staff in addressing racism and discrimination in the classroom and school. PD that also focuses on self-examination in regard to biases and prejudices.

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The possibility of before school care

Having enough staff to support health services department.

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Offer more class options (staffing), technology that works in the classroom and for the students

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Having enough staff to have small class sizes and enough paras to support the students in class

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Students need consistency and stability. The constant rotation of substitutes in the classroom this year has shown to be incredibly disruptive to the students and staff. We have so many teachers working part-time and on leave. I know that it is a struggle but it would be nice if we had more consistency with teachers and not so much back and forth.

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Projectors in building B are really old and need updating.

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New projectors in building B

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Purchase a complete phonics curriculum for K-2, ARC toolkits are not sufficient

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I think funding for a larger variety of clubs and more funding to existing clubs at the Middle School would be my top priority. Sport are doing alright, but we could step up the arts. Students thrive when they are involved and more variety makes everyone happy, especially since the Middle School does not have a lot of elective choices. And increasing the incentive for people to lead these clubs would also help morale, especially since inflation is so bad. Another high priority for me would be increasing the amount of time students can spend off campus. We desperately need more field trips. There are so many opportunities in our county-- it would make a big difference if we could take advantage of them. For instance, Mount Baker Theater has shows especially for students, etc.

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IRE building B desperately needs new projectors with boards/screens. They are extremely old and have a huge negative impact on student learning on a daily basis due to their age and poor quality.

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Fully fund special services, more staff for students with IEPs. Lower class sizes in k-2 classrooms.

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More support staff for kids with special needs

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NOT cohorting students at the middle school. This is extremely inequitable for all students. It groups "good" students who are usually white and affluent together all day and overloads the other groups with students with special needs and robs them of good role models. Behaviors often interrupt teaching and cohorting exacerbates this issue.

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Smaller class sizes, increased student support

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Sufficient paraeducator support and accommodations for ML, IEP, Lifeskills and LAP students.

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Equity and safety

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We have a rising amount of medical and mental fragile students. I believe we need to have staff to address these needs.

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Inclusion of ALL students no matter gender identity, color, religion - that any hate will not be tolerated. Full stop.

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Appropriate staffing and SMALLER class sizes

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I believe that we need more para support. Extra adults in our classrooms is incredibly helpful for student support. They can manage behaviors that would require the teachers full attention. And they can support student learning. Many students now need one on one support to start assignments and a para in the room would increase productivity and learning.

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quality headphones with microphones