

Beckerstaff 2017			
Category	Title	Idea	Pairwise Ranking
What could Becker Schools do better?	Allow Staff Members to be True Stakeholders	While surveys like this may serve a purpose, where I see our school lacking is in developing a relationship between staff members and administration where teachers and other staff feel like they can give input that is valued and considered in the decision making process. I feel that too many decisions are made without receiving input from those that spend their day in classrooms working with students. If they felt their input was valued, staff members could provide important insight into students' weaknesses, strengths, and what could be done to improve student achievement.	1
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	Mental Health Help	I can really only speak for the high school, but over the past 5 years I feel we have made leaps and bounds in progress towards getting identified students more opportunities to meet with someone concerning their mental health. We, I believe Mr. Kolbinger should get the credit, have built a room in the H.S. where mental health staff have a great spot to work with these students. I hope that in addition to this, we will get more help for those not identified by adding another counselor from the previous "Big Dog Challenge" winner. These are certainly steps in the right direction, so lets keep going!	2
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Future Success	Becker students should be exposed to a wide range of skills (math, science, arts, technology) that will allow them to find a career path that they can succeed in. They should also be taught social skills and be held accountable for learning skills that will allow them to relate with others and develop healthy relationships.	3
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	MCA tests are only a small piece of the story	I would like the district to lessen the importance on MCA scores and begin to look at what is best for all students. Yes, MCA scores are important. Yes, they do correlate to the ACT and allows students to help prepare for 4 year degree college. However, this is not the path of 100% of our students. Therefore, that should not be 100% of our goal and focus. We should not be making HUGE decisions (such as the ridiculous notion that science and social are not important) because of this one data point. We should not be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to simply improve a school board/administration goal. We should be focusing on a well rounded student with ample opportunities in Becker.	4

<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Prepare students for the realities of the future after Becker Schools</p>	<p>I am always impressed by my colleagues and my children's teachers in all the ways that they continue to foster learning in our district and re-examine and keep up with the latest in education. Test scores are important...but what other ways are we preparing students to life past H.S. that are not measured on a state test? Can we do a better job "preparing students for a global community?" Do we really celebrate diversity? Do we offer classes that allow students to explore and discuss world issues? Can we do even more to help students manage their overall wellness by managing stress and living healthy lifestyles? Can we expose them to other cultures and ideas respectfully, outside of Becker?</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Keep Students First</p>	<p>I think it's important for the Becker School District to always keep our kids first. We know that data can help instruct our teaching and we know that data can be important to look at, but we should always keep in mind the students we have in our class before the test. How can the administration show parents and staff that we are working on this goal?</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Job/Career Partnerships</p>	<p>It is important for our school district to be active in our community and continuing to build multi-age connections with local employers/residents with experience in a number of fields. We have a number of students that can benefit from opportunities with job shadowing and/or interning in our local area in order to gain workplace experience with career fields. Additionally, it should be noted that we have some high school students that are working nearly 30 hours a week on top of their course studies which sometimes causes academic issues due to their attention to monetary incentives. Expansion of our work experience and OJT programs could be beneficial.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>We're here for one reason</p>	<p>This is my second year here and I have had positive interactions with every staff member that I have come into contact with. It is very uplifting knowing that we walk into a building everyday and teachers are flexible with each other regarding student needs for time and extra work. We have conversations with each other about ways to help the kids. We have each other's backs. When someone has a hard day, they know that there are others they can talk to. This is a great place to be.</p>	<p>8</p>

<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>Collaboration</p>	<p>Being new to this district, I am amazed at the opportunities for collaboration here. It is inspiring to watch educators, administrators, and community members continually meet to discuss ideas, plan, and work together for the benefit of Becker students and the city of Becker! This portal is another example of that. It is exciting to be a part of a district that desires input, listens to each other, and works together to continue to improve for the good of the students and community we serve.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>Physical and Emotional Wellness</p>	<p>Becker students should have the knowledge to be manage stress, develop personal goals for physical activity, healthy eating habits, and maintain overall emotional well being. Students must be able to evaluate the choices they make and how it will impact their overall health and well being. District policies and class/food offerings must support those types of opportunities for all students to be successful.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>Additional Help in Some Areas</p>	<p>Our school nurse wears many hats. Our school has about 200 more students since opening. She is amazing in getting all the things done during the day, that she needs to--sick students, calling parents, gathering materials from lockers for parents of sick students to pick up, maintaining and handling students' medical records, and handling office duties, performing all of the previous when the main secretary is out of the office to make attendance phone calls. She is after school on most nights, past her paid time, for almost two hours to get caught up. She is such a wonderful and giving person that she just does this. I think we need more help, so she does not need to do this.</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Kiln for the Primary School</p>	<p>I would like to get a kiln at the Primary school. Teaching Form is part of my art curriculum. I currently do clay only with my 2nd graders and have to hand carry all of the clay over to the Intermediate School. My colleague has to fire them for me and then I have to hand carry them all back over to the Primary school. It is very labor intensive and physically challenging and that is why I only do clay with 2nd grade. By passing the referendum, Becker has said that arts are important. I believe if we value art, I should have a kiln.</p>	<p>12</p>

BeckerStudents 2017			
Category	Title		Pairwise Ranking
What could Becker Schools do better?	Testing	Becker schools could do better by not putting all of it's time trying to improve test scores. Being prepared for the real world is different than being prepared for a test. I do no think that tests are a true measure of how a person will succeed in life. I think students are feeling like they are more of a number to the school instead of an individual. We need a well rounded education beyond what the tests are looking at.	1
What could Becker Schools do better?	Blocking the wifi is not solving any problems.	It seems like the wifi is not working any better ever since administration blocked every device that isn't a school iPad off of the network. So now when I forget my iPad at home, I literally cannot do anything because my phone is not able to connect to internet. I can't get ahold of my mom during school if something has happened because I relied on internet to communicate with her. Also, blocking random sites doesn't help with research projects. Sometimes we find really helpful information at home but can't access any of it at school because it's blocked. It's not like we're going to sit on our phones in class- I believe that is the teacher's responsibility to ensure we're not distracted.	2
What could Becker Schools do better?	Things that could be done better...	The whole technology side of things could be done a little better. The iPad infrastructure is pretty good, but for those who forget their iPads at home, there should be loner iPads. For the network, it is good, but rather than kicking peoples' personal devices off of the network, the "Becker Wi-Fi" network should be changed to a "Personal Devices" network, and instead of throttling down the network speeds, just let it do whatever, as long as it doesn't mess with the student and staff network.	3
What could Becker Schools do better?	Wifi	They should let students have full access to the wifi. As many students don't have service there is no way for students to contact parientals inside the school. Wifi allows iPhone users to be able to send text messages through the wifi. I have had much trouble not being able to connect with my parents as I need to inform them with information and such. Also, many coaches send out texts to teams and not having wifi on my phone has made me miss some of the meeting due to unawareness because I couldn't receive a text. Not saying it's Becker schools fault that I don't have service. I'm just saying it would be very helpful and greatly appreciated to allow Becker student to be able to connect.	4

<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>Practical</p>	<p>Becker Students should be able to do practical things like being able to cook, clean (not so much practice required here) and being able to solve problems independently. In real problems aren't clean cut, they are more complicated, with nobody to turn to. People can excel in solving math problems, but can be stuck on simple things like balancing a checkbook or moral values. Give kids motivation by giving more reasons to care, give them determination by challenging them, give them values by exposing them to difficult situations, ect... . A person with wrong values and great intelligence can do horrible things. Kids need to see the bigger picture, not words on a page, we are adaptational.</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>No more useless classes, we lost one already with trimester</p>	<p>Becker schools could not have required digital citizenship class such as the 21st century class, which teaches us the same things about online safety which we have been aight throughout our life and most of it is common sense and we should not be wasting a whole trimester on a class that is useless for us it the future especially if we already took that class. With this new class I would have one less elective I could use for Spanish, human biology, forensics, or math, which are all subject she useful to me and will prepare me for college and my future job and for life in general. Especially 11th graders should not have this or even 10th graders because we learned this in 9th grade, yes it w</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>amazing change</p>	<p>on the vending machines i would like ask if we can have credit card swipers because no one carries cash anymore. We all carry a card. It would be great if we could have those other than that i like the way this school is headed</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>No more snow days?</p>	<p>I saw on the news that in the state of Minnesota on snow days because of an online school thing. Is Becker actually not going to have anymore snow days?</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>Doing well</p>	<p>the teachers are awesome i love the ipad 1:1 (although i wish we had surfaces)</p>	<p>9</p>

Becker Parents 2017			
Category	Title		
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	1.) What should becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Students should know the basics such as Math, Science, English, Global Studies, PE, Music, Tech, etc. Other areas that I feel would add value are life skills such as how to handle money, how to do basic home and auto repairs, credit card rules and management, finding a job, healthcare and insurance, and time management. Those are all critical skills, and it would be a huge benefit to our kids if they could learn some of those principals. Many of those skills could be taught through existing subjects.	Pairwise Ranking
What could Becker Schools do better?	question 4	The amount of standardized testing is out of control. There are numerous studies out there showing that there is no change or benefit to these tests. I would encourage you to read the following article as an example. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/05/03/what-the-new-naep-test-scores-really-tell-us/?utm_term=.4f900e0240c4	1
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Life skills are important	Life skills are so important, such as: balancing a bank account budgeting applying for jobs how to succeed in interviews how to interact with older generations (that don't tweet everything) how to problem solve etc. I know many of these are taught at home, but it would be beneficial to work these into a school day, also. I know some teachers already do an excellent job at this, and often the subject they teach lend themselves to these topics.	2

What could Becker Schools do better?	Curtis Hed	I would really like if at the High school students could take part in a wider variety of selective classes. Which is to say more class periods during the day and the year so that the individual student could actually experience those subjects, not simply that we could say that the classes exist, but that more students have a real opportunity to experience them. Also I believe having more of a merit badge system of education would be great, even shorter classes, or independent learning where mastery is the focus, after which the student is able to move along in a given track, as oppose to the everyone moving along together. (I do appreciate the advance classe.s)	3
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Life Skills	Basic life skills and we are not the only district that does not go far enough with teaching this. Balance a checkbook, credit cards, loans, stock market, 401K are just a few things. When I was in school everyone in high school had to take a class that included the above and more. I have nieces graduating high school soon and don't even have an understanding about basic skills like these.	4
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	Question #2	Teaching strong, foundational math, science and reading skills will be critical since a majority of skills sets needed in the future will be technical. Also, I believe teaching how to fact-check and thinking critically will be extremely important in light of all the fake and/or misleading news masquerading as fact. I think our schools do a great job in encouraging and instilling a love of reading in children....I hope this will continue.	5
What could Becker Schools do better?	What could Becker Schools do better?	Less standardized testing. Some children are not good test takers/it raises their anxiety and their grades should reflect how they do in class, not how they do on a standardized test. There was talk recently that classes at certain grade levels were decided based on how students placed on standardized test. If this is true, I would rather the student be viewed as an individual. I would love to see smaller class sizes return. It would also be nice to allow the younger kids to have more breaks throughout the day to recharge. There are 20 minutes allotted for free play and 20 minutes allotted for lunch. It would be beneficial to add few minutes for to walk to the lunchroom/get coats off/get lunch	6

<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>Innovation Driving Success</p>	<p>Driving innovation into the education system. From Mission Monday to utilizing Crowd-sourcing, Becker Schools has been intentional about innovation. I think it must continue and as it does it will become part of the fabric of Becker Schools. Innovation can be people, process and technology. Ensuring students, parents and faculty understand the importance of living out Becker School values, utilizing process like morning class huddles to ensure student alignment and driving digital communication are all examples of innovation. Becker is doing a great job learning from the past to reinvent the future.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>Basic finance skills</p>	<p>My daughter is learning that earning money (virtual) thru daily jobs in class is critical for paying bills (virtual). She is also learning how to use a spreadsheet as a balance sheet. She knows what each job pays and the cost of the certain items she wants, so she can plan for wants after the needs are paid for. Very good lesson! Mr. Tweten is awesome!</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>Writing support</p>	<p>Our student struggles with writing essays. For two years we have tried to get him additional help. In fifth grade he had WIN, but instead of getting help with writing he was asked to help others because he's advanced in math. 6th grade we asked his teacher if SOAR would be able to meet his needs. She said it probably wasn't the program for him. Teachers have shared that they don't have the time to provide additional support during the regular class period. The district levels math, but doesn't group english classes. Could high school students tutor? Could after school help in this area be provided by teachers? Perhaps this would improve scores on ACT + writing & other tests.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>Improved, consistent communication</p>	<p>I love the increased use of technology for teacher/parent communication. I would like to see it used more consistently among teachers. It varies in quality and usefulness depending on the teacher. A centralized system, with website and app, that all teachers use to post homework assignments and due dates, upcoming events, and info about what kids and parents should be doing with stuff that comes home in kiwi packs, etc. would be helpful, including for music, art, etc. A student portal, where kids can review their own due dates, would be useful as well, plus more ongoing assessment. Teacher conferences are too late for us to help our kids when they fall behind. Need to know BEFORE big tests.</p>	<p>10</p>

<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>Amazing teachers/staff!</p>	<p>I am a parent of a 4th grader, 2nd grader, and 1st grader in Becker and could not imagine my children going anywhere else for their education. When my kids started their schooling we were living in the Big Lake school district and we chose to open enroll to Becker. We made this decision because of the huge difference in test scores, the class sizes were smaller and the teacher turn over. We have been blessed to have the most amazing teachers so far. The teachers and staff genuinely care, not just about the education on my children, but also about them as a person. Thank you to the teachers and staff for taking such amazing care of our little ones!!!</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Growth over proficiency</p>	<p>I strongly support a growth model over a proficiency model. Teaching to the test takes time away that could be spent learning rather than memorizing, and age/grade-level benchmarks are meaningless compared to whether a student is improving based on where the student started. Proficiency is a one-size-fits-all model that ignores the reality that students start at different places, with different strengths and weaknesses. Education should be based on this reality, not an arbitrary benchmark. Ironically, focusing on growth will also increase students' ability to reach those arbitrary proficiency benchmarks because they will actually be learning, not just memorizing/learning test-taking skills.</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>PC Skills, Typing, and Office Applications</p>	<p>Students need to learn how to type and use basic office applications from Microsoft (Word, Excel, Powerpoint). My 8th grade daughter is great at doing things on her iPad which is not preparing her for anything other than wasting time. PC skills on Windows computers and MS Office application should be the focus as these are the basic tools for 90% of businesses. Educator focus on Apple products and applications is doing the students a serious disservice.</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>What are we doing well at Becker Schools?</p>	<p>Great job embracing technology</p>	<p>I love seeing more technology-related skills showing up in the classroom and in extracurricular offerings, such as learning how to code. Coding is important to the careers that will be available to our children in the future and is an excellent way to reinforce math and science skills. Offerings like Becker Robotics are wonderful. I would love to see these kinds of programs more integrated and supported (dedicated afterschool space, teacher support, etc.). I am also impressed with the increased use of technology for communication (Seesaw, Reminders, etc.), which help me feel more involved as well as keeping info from slipping through the cracks.</p>	<p>14</p>

<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Using the brain power of our students better benefit us all.</p>	<p>I appreciate the desire to teach the importance of problem solving, both individual, but also how to do that as a group within our schools, but I would like to see more classes focused on problem solving when it comes to real world problems. Be those mechanical, scientific, and/or logistical problems, for them to do case studies and in the case of mechanical and scientific issues make prototypes. I would like to see more students actually being invested in making our schools and community more efficient, both in our dealings with one another as well as being more invested in terms of environmental and economical issues facing our area.</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Science Technology Engineering Math</p>	<p>I believe there should be much more focus on STEM. Mr. Christiansen's 2 liter rocket activity is awesome. Now keep that excitement going from school to school. Parents/Kids/Teachers working together, totally awesome! Funding for labs and equipment should be just as high a priority as any of the sports or arts. Give parents more opportunity to volunteer as the kids move on to the middle/high schools... We're not there yet so maybe this is OK now? I think there should be less focus on the national tests and a higher focus on ASVAB/ACT/SAT scores and tech/university/military acceptance. Where are kids going and what are they doing after they leave our schools?</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>Bullying</p>	<p>I know that "bullying" is a huge buzzword, and I understand that "kids will be kids" but my concern is that when kids have issues with one another, they aren't being supported in working through the problem. It would be helpful if students (at ANY age) are given tools to work out their issues with each other. If, for instance, 2 younger kids were having trouble getting along, instead of a punishment for the "mean" kid we can help teach them how to work out their differences. I know some adults who lack this ability. I know this will not solve everything but it would be nice to see this added to the toolbox for dealing with bullying.</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>Student skills</p>	<p>Becker students need to know: how to look up answers to things they don't know, how to follow deadlines and break down projects for themselves in order to meet those deadlines, how to handle stress and daily life or work pressures (provide skills rather than the stress) and then the basic English, math, and science skills you already provide.</p>	<p>18</p>

What could Becker Schools do better?	Busing	This is something that I just don't understand with this district. Every student in district should be bused before out of district students. We are a community that thrives off of being located on a major highway but that is also a safety concern as a parent. It would take my kids about 40 minutes to walk to school (if not distract) and by the time I or my husband would get the first call that they are not in school who really knows where they would be. Plus you want kids K-12 walking in bitterly cold weather in the winter. I just don't think this is acceptable and something needs to be changed or fixed. Many school districts manage busing all district and out district students.	19
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	Teamwork!	Transferring from another school district and comparing the 2 experiences. I am impressed how Becker holds students accountable, expects their students to do the best they can, and do not make excuses on why a child is not excelling. I appreciate the teachers honesty because it does help address any issues that come up. , I do not feel their approach is to always point out the negative. My impression is has been they look at different options for helping a child exceed. I appreciate the staff willing to work as a team with the parent to help our children. I think approaching any issue with that mentality has helped my husband build a good relationship with the staff at Becker.	20
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	What are we doing well at Becker Schools	Becker has an amazing SR/ECFE program! Every teacher and school employee we have met from birth-grade 5 has been absolutely amazing! They truly care for our kids and are very approachable! The kindergarten graduation program at the PAC is one of my favorites, as is the 4th grade rocket launch, 5th grade having to work and get "paid" to pay "rent" for their lockers, ipads, and desk, 5th graders learning to tie ties before their concert, 1st grade flat stanley and stone soup, kindergarten and 4th grade mystery readers, kindergarten gingerbread houses, literacy night, intermediate school wide book in the fall ...Overall we have a fantastic school district!	21

What could Becker Schools do better?	Better parent/teacher communication	Every teacher should have a website where they post the homework assignments. This seems obvious, but many teachers don't have this. Kids aren't always great at writing their assignments in their planner and many times we wonder whether the full assignment is captured in their little, quickly scribbled note. Teachers should simply post the homework assignment on a website. Teachers should also send out a short, mid-quarter update on how the kid is doing. I am not asking for a sit-down conversation and a bunch of work examples; just let me know if there are any high-level concerns. This year's parent/teacher conferences were after Thanksgiving. That is ridiculously late & unacceptable	22
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Job Readiness	*Be able to use the computer to word process and do other task. They spend a lot of time of iPads but will that really transfer to the work force? **Communicate thoughts and ideas clearly through spoken and written language. In today's technology age I worry about my children's ability to speak in front of groups, meetings etc instead of through a device.	23
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	What students should know?	Students should learn basic word processing. My son is in middle school and still hasn't mastered this skill. Most of us have to type everyday. The middle school lacks in basic project planning. Children need to understand how to layout a project on a timeline and complete it. Students should have a form of a daily planner.	24
What could Becker Schools do better?	Advanced level classes	I would really love to see advanced classes available for those students that would benefit. I feel it needed already at the Primary school level! I don't feel my child is being challenged! Thank you for seeking our input!	25
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Things I feel will help a student be successful in life	They should know how to do quality research. They should be able to speak in public. They should be able to interview well. They should know how to problem solve. They should have a strong work ethic. They should have a well rounded education including music and arts. They should be challenged. They should know what it feels like to fail and then learn from that failure.	26
What could Becker Schools do better?	Music!!!	Becker schools are strong in many areas. But I see a lack in the music (and arts) departments. Granted, music and arts typically do not lead to lucrative successful jobs in the future. But, talents, such as these, can be used in many ways to contribute to society, church, community, family, etc. They also teach children to work hard and develop their talents. These are invaluable lessons. I may be a bit biased in saying this, being a musician myself, with kids who are very interested in music. I do not make money as a musician, but music has given my life more substance and has been a blessing to my family and church.	27

<p>What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?</p>	<p>Invest in skilled trade training/resources</p>	<p>Machinists are in very high demand right now in our area. Companies are looking for interns and coops at the high school level to possibly sponsor thru a 2 year degreed course. It is so hard to find machinists companies may opt to pay for relocation from other states. This is a very good time for Becker to invest in technologies such as CNC mills/lathes/lasers/water jet, 3D printers (plastics/ceramics/metals), CAD/CAM, blueprint reading, GD&T, shop math, shop safety...I haven't seen what Becker has to offer in the high/middle school shops, but I can tell you first hand this is very important in our community. 74 open positions within ~30 miles of Becker today.</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>Finances</p>	<p>I graduated from another school district. I did not receive a practical education that included how to handle my personal finances. I think this is an important life skill that students need prior to graduation. Subject should include topics such as how to choose a college you can afford and plan how to pay for it, explanation of debt and how/why to avoid debt, how to write a budget (and use it), etc. I am a graduate of Dave Ramsey's financial peace university, and I know that the Ramsey company offers a product to use in schools. Some communities have had the class sponsored by a local bank. I would love it if I knew my kindergartener had a class like that in his high school.</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>What could Becker Schools do better?</p>	<p>Teacher communication</p>	<p>Things the school could do better. If a teacher has a website for the classroom they should be expected to keep that website updated. It could cause less confusion. In the middle school teachers should be required to use Edmodo at all times. We have a few incidences where my child didn't come home with a hand out or form because they didn't print enough. You would think at this point in the year they would know how many students they have.</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>Skilled Trades</p>	<p>Four year college isn't for everyone. Guidance counselors need to make students aware of the great opportunities available in the skilled trades.</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?</p>	<p>Critical thinking skills</p>	<p>Students (and adults!) should master critical thinking skills because these apply to absolutely everything in life, from understanding how to evaluate information online, in media, from politicians, to avoiding scams and making good life decisions, based on reality. Learning HOW to think about the world is far more important than learning WHAT to think. Critical thinking tools can be applied to lifelong learning and they can be taught alongside most existing subjects: Understanding cognitive biases, selective thinking, logical fallacies (such as false equivalencies, argument from credulity, ad hominem, etc.--the ideas behind these and how to apply them, not necessarily formal logic).</p>	<p>32</p>

What could Becker Schools do better?	Parent of becker students	I would love to see some more opportunities for kids with advanced skills. There is a lot of money put into special needs, can we put in some more for kids who have advanced intellect?	33
What could Becker Schools do better?	Improvement	1. Busing all students to school safely, budgeting for buses to be added. 2. Drop off zones need to be fixed...if busing wasn't such a big issue I would imagine that it would fix the issue of congestion in drop off zones. 3. Less time with students working on iPads and more real life, hands on activities. iPads are a great tool but learning, doing assignments etc solely through iPads doesn't work for all kids. It has not been a good fit for my daughter.	34
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	question 2	We need to start focusing on the students strengths and interests. A student that doesn't excel in a particular subject will not gravitate to a job that they do not have interest in or are successful in. Yes, students should be exposed to a variety of subjects, but that doesn't mean they have to be an expert in every subject. Lets build off the students strengths and individual interests.	35
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	question 1	I would like students to be able to have opportunity to look at personal finance. There are also some major concepts our students are missing completely or partially that could be developed at a mastery/hands on level. Teaching our kids how to balance all aspects of life.	36
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	question 3	We have a wonderful group of teachers. The time, energy and devotion that these individuals put forth are a rue gift to our kids and community.	37
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	M. parent	The staff and teachers are very supportive and care about our kids. The facilities are spotless, thank you to the staff who work hard to keep it clean!	38
What could Becker Schools do better?	Becker school should do better	My son has had hardly any homework for his entire middle school...He gets his work done in school, which is good, but I'm assuming in high school he will have homework and that will be a shock.....So my opinion is to prepare them better for high school in middle school....	39
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Question #1	From what I hear from my kids, it appears many students have no understanding of cultures and religions other than those prevalent in our community. Fear, misunderstanding and ignorance of other cultures and ethnicities sets a child up for a lifetime of hardship and failure in the workplace and interpersonal relationships. In addition to strong math and science foundations, it's imperative children learn to be comfortable around those who are different. The workforce our children will be entering in 15 years is not going to be homogeneous; flexibility, understanding, tolerance and the ability to communicate is going to be essential. This doesn't seem to be a strong suit in the Becker SS.	40

What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	What students need to learn	Time management, finances, prepare for college	41
What could Becker Schools do better?	Question #4	I wish there were additional resources available for summer school for kids who are interested in attending, specifically in the areas of math, sciences, history and reading. My biggest area of concern is gym class. I often hear about gym teachers playing on their cell phones for the majority of the class or advise girls to watch the boys play football and mimic their actions (this is in the Intermediate school). This is a missed opportunity to teach kids about love of exercise, being outdoors and coordination. In my opinion, gym is the weakest program at Becker. And if that is going to be the standard, I wonder if it's needed at all? Would that time be better spend on academics?	42
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	Basic finance education	I think Becker Public schools all in all have a great staff system. I would like to see teachers be able to have more control...I do not agree with students having their phones and Ipads in class. I know the ipads are part of the curriculum but I think they are a huge distraction to the learning process. I would like to see every student have to take a basic financial class. Nothing too indept but they do need to know how to balance their own check books and monitor their spending habits. Not all parents are good examples in this are.	43
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	I think it's important for Becker to move back towards smaller class sizes. When our oldest started kindergarten there were 17 students in her class. Now kindergarten classrooms are up to the mid 20's.	44
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	technology	I like that I am aware of what my child is learning in middle school. I just wish all the teachers would use Edmodo consistently. The ipads are great but they need to be aware that not all students are proficient with them.	45
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Question 1 - answer	Be able to think for themselves. Have the ability to use their resources to solve problems independently.	46
What could Becker Schools do better?	Ability for advancement	I am the parent of a kindergartener and he has been in school since he was 14 months old. Since he has been attending Becker Primary, he has been uninterested in education and school as a whole. We fight him almost every morning to get up for school, he cries and fights it and says he hates going to school. I am very disappointed, and considering changing school districts because I don't feel that he is being challenged. When I ask him what his favorite thing about school is he answers, lunch and recess. When he was in the Montessori, he would tell me science and math. I would like to see some more diverse learning methods in the future and better opportunity for the younger kids.	47

What could Becker Schools do better?	Recommendations	Recommend that there are less days off during the school year. Students are not being challenged in reading, writing and math. There should also be homework for math and reading in middle and intermediate schools. Also, students should learn cursive and do less on ipads. Potentially options for summer school for students that are similar to a school day. This could be paid for by the parents.	48
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	Question #3	I believe the teachers do a great job of challenging students (exception of the gym staff) in the Intermediate school. My kids seem to be inspired by their teachers and are learning difficult concepts. My kids' teachers are very responsive to any questions I have, as is Dr. Glomski. I think the teachers do a really good job of teaching to all sorts of different learning styles and my kids are excited to work on all the different projects. I believe academics at Becker Intermediate is very strong foundationally.	49
What could Becker Schools do better?	Becker Parent	I feel as a parent that there are several field trips that take place that do not have a good educational purpose. The one that comes to mind is school trips to Valley Fair. I think field trips to places like Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge or other outdoor learning to get our kids involved with the environment and nature have a much bigger positive impact. Not to mention that a visit to the refuge is free and gives the chance for the kids to be "unplugged". Going to Valley fair should be something they do with family and friends. I feel the board needs to look for ways to improve the educational experience of field trips. It would benefit the teachers and other staff as well.	50
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	Movement	There is a lot of studies about if kids don't get enough excersize they don't stimulate the visticular nerve in the ear that promotes body control. I think making sure kids are moving throughout the day and not just at recess or phyed.	51
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	Good job	Love the bulldog tickets. Just and idea to help ignite the excitement of earning one maybe they could save them up to turn them in for a larger prize.	52
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	#1	Personal Finances	53
What are we doing well at Becker Schools?	Mrs.	Some of the teachers are doing a great job. For instance, Mrs. Braun has been extremely helpful for my child in pre-calc. She is always willing to help with questions. She has been a huge support. Also, Mrs. Smude is wonderful. She is very helpful and knowledgeable. She always gets back to me as soon as she can when I have a question for her.	54

What could Becker Schools do better?	annoyed	Keep the kids in school. They get a day off every two weeks. That is pathetic. The only things the schools push to teach is what is on states tests so the schools get more money. Or wanting to put kids in programs oh wait to get more money. The other thing is to start supporting the hockey team. Did you know that 75% of the Becker Big lake eagles attend the Becker school district but only football matters in this city. One day I will get annoyed enough to move but until then my family is stuck at a school district where the teachers have more days off then un-employed construction workers.	55
What is important for the Becker School District in the future (5 to 10 years)?	Growth	Financial decisions and building maintenance and space need to be considered when adding on to our schools. Proactive approach instead of reactive.	56
What could Becker Schools do better?	Kindergarten Breakfasts	First of all, I'm grateful that there is free breakfast for Kindergartners, but I'm concerned about the waste. I've visited a few mornings to help with our son's teacher and noticed unopened food being tossed out. The applesauce cups or other "shelf life" items could be either donated, or put back. Is there is a local food pantry that could benefit from these non-perishable food items that are thrown away? Maybe they could be saved for school trips? This might be out of the school's control, but I would really like to see something changed if possible. I hate to see food wasted - I feel we are teaching children at a young age that it's acceptable to throw away unopened food. Thank you.	57
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	?	Handle personal finances	58
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Parent	Students should know how to be a good person..be encouraging, helpful and honest. great leadership begins with great attitudes and good people	59
What could Becker Schools do better?	Making this input process clearer	Had many problems with logging into this site some items where not working as the should. Also I didn't understand that the title did not refer to my name or position but to the title I am giving this idea. As such wrote a few things which did not get entered because title was already taken and now have to rewrite. Oh well, leave and learn.	60
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Becker Community Members 2017			
Category	Title	Idea	
What should Becker students know and be able to do to be successful?	Choose What's Best For Kids	More than ever students of today must learn to evaluate and sort through the incredible amount of information coming their way each day. We live with a current president who thinks news that does not match his view of the world is fake news. How do we make sense of such a perspective? It is imperative that critical thinking along with recognizing the difference between fact and opinion coupled with the ability to communicate clearly be taught across the curriculum. Also imperative is the ability to relate to others in a manner that promotes connection and team problem solving. Familiarity with the Growth Mindset as taught by Carol Dwek is also worthy of inclusion in the Becker curriculum.	