

Upper School Listening Sessions

We had 15-20 in each session, the same students as back in the fall (to better help see how things changed from then to now).

Notes from SOL Group:

Positives / general takeaways

- Year is going well, much much better than thinking back to being in distance learning. Being able to talk right away with teachers is a huge help - not having to write out an email and wait for response (let alone trying to explain what they're having trouble with via email).
- 6th and 7th graders weren't used to how much work "piles up" at the end of the quarter, compared to 5th grade (7th grade didn't have a "normal" 6th grade year last year).
- Teachers have done really well, they appreciate what they've done. Some have really worked to make classes fun/interesting to keep them motivated.

Areas we can focus/improve:

- They'd appreciate all teachers having a common way to display their agenda/homework for the week. Hard to have to look in a different location/layout from teacher to teacher.
- It's hard to come back and make up work from being absent, especially if out for Covid. Hard to figure out what to focus on first (new assignments, or make up the old work).
- Sometimes it seems teachers don't look over or use the major work calendar, things pile up on certain days/weeks.

Notes from SOR Group:

Positives / general takeaways

- Giving work-time in class is greatly appreciated - even just to get more organized on what they need to work on or plan for their week. Would appreciate having that more often, or at least on a scheduled basis.
- Teachers do a good job of working with students who need help (offer tutoring when it works for the student), and adjusting assignments to help them keep caught up.
- Being in class and with teachers and friends helps greatly to keeping motivated in school, getting help and feeling like "normal" school again.
- Many are trying to balance sports or other activities outside of school. Teachers have shared it's been a motivator, but sometimes held as a "last warning" about losing eligibility if they don't finish what they've given extensions on.

Areas we can focus/improve:

- They'd appreciate all teachers having a common way to display their agenda/homework for the week. Hard to have to look in a different location/layout from teacher to teacher.
- Some shared it'd be easier to know that tests/certain assignments would fall on specific days, like Math has quizzes/tests always on Fridays. Would be hard if everyone always chose Friday, but easier to know when to prepare/study for tests.