

PTA Survey

Burroughs Elementary



Themes

- Academic
 - Accommodations and Resource Accessibility
 - Curriculum
- Communication
 - Barriers & access
- Inclusivity
 - Relationships
 - Diversity
 - Engagement
 - Unity

Academic: Accommodations and Access

Going Well

“Sensitivity to each child's needs, teacher knowing the ability level of their students.”

Great teachers

Meet the needs when needed

Cohesive group like family with good conflict resolution

Needs Improvement (Gaps)

“My child has dyslexia. We tried to initiate a 504, but we were told she did not qualify for accommodations (per MPLS public schools guidelines)...We would like to see some **services available for her during the school day.**”

Large class size

Lack of specialists

Academic: Curriculum

Going Well

“Great teachers, Singapore math, amazing field trips and art, music, cultural activities”

Mindfulness program like meditations are helpful.

Mixed activities to make friends

Teach kindness, respect, acceptance, belonging, cooperation, and empathy

Needs Improvement (Gaps)

“Severely **under challenged in math**, despite having asked for more challenge. Very **poor teacher match** leading to lack of confidence in attempting to write. Being told, “Figure it out” □ or “You’ll figure it out” is not a solution for mentoring or facilitating growth in learning.”

Not all kids have their **social emotional needs addressed by teachers**

Communication: Barriers & Access

Going Well

“A lot of conversations about making things more inclusive, school picnic, PTA newsletter - this are things that I feel are focused on the broadest community.”

“Our new equity and racial justice committees, lots of translated materials coming, the new welcome to kindergarten flyers with great descriptions of things like RAT, great gatherings, etc, good bulletin email communication with more actual info & links.”

Needs Improvement (Gaps)

“I'm not sure. It's hard for me to speak to that. I **don't feel like I received a lot of information** last year about what my son specifically was excelling in regarding academics or struggling with, and how the teacher was meeting his particular needs.”

Better communication between parents and teachers

Inclusivity: Relationships

Going Well

“My son with special needs is getting support in advocating for himself and building self esteem, love the reading buddy program in kindergarten, would like more teacher focus in helping develop closer social relationships.”

Burroughs works at having adults there invested in the children and outside of the normal teacher relationship.

Needs Improvement (Gaps)

“The PTA should serve as a link between parents and the school, building a sense of community and providing support to teachers. I think it does not fully do this yet primarily because **not enough parents attend [PTA]** - I am not sure if they are not interested or are worried about getting over-committed or feel unwelcome.”

Inclusivity: Diversity

Going Well

“Welcome events were planned for Kindergarten families. Facebook Group for Parents and Facebook Group for Diversity Group. Teacher/Staff emails to parents about events.”

Needs Improvement

“Needs to be **cultural competency** taught to teachers so when kids of colors are tainted with racial slurs they know how to handle the situation with compassion and education!! More teachers of color!”

Promote justice and educate parents on empathy and kindness

Inclusivity: Engagement

Going Well

“I feel the biggest strengths are engaged teachers who listen to student needs and parental input and pay attention in the classroom, social worker who cares and is approachable, an overall focus of character”

Needs Improvement

“Being a working mom, it would be nice to have a **variety of options that allow us to participate** too (outside of just donating money).”

More parents **being involved in PTA**

Inclusivity: Unity

Going Well

“Strong communications from teacher and principal, variety of events for kids of multiple grade levels and interests.”

“Teachers are good at communicating with families. Principal is present and available for families. Lots of volunteer parents helping with things like Kindergarten meet-ups, lunchroom waste management, and social justice conversations.”

Needs Improvement

“For parent wise - **working parents are often not always in the "loop"** about everything. There are separations between the working parent and the stay at home parent...Also, please let our school know having concerts and events at night would greatly help families!

Making the **PTA less clique-y**

Other

“Speaking more generally, there should be flexibility in dealing with challenges with classroom behavior. Each child's unique experiences should be considered when addressing discipline. **Punishing a student for not following the rules by having them sit out of physical activity events is not helpful** when that student's challenges may come from not having enough body breaks during the school day.”