



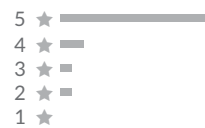
# 2020 GRAMINIA THOUGHT EXCHANGE REPORT

Parkland School Division 70  
Graminia School



## Q1 What are some things you appreciate and some concerns you have about our school this year?

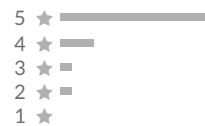
**I love the buddy program for the kids, it is so nice to see older kids engaged with the younger ones** My kids are younger and feel so much more comfortable knowing some older kids. I also think it is great for the older kids to feel more responsible

4.3  (31 )  
Ranked #1 of 80



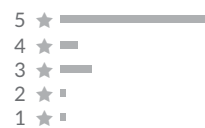
**I am grateful to the teachers that volunteer their time for the extra-curricular activities giving up their breaks and after school times.** In addition to sports our kids can now also participate in music, drama and gaming/nerd club to name a few.

4.3  (30 )  
Ranked #2 of 80



**The flyover weekly newsletter has been a great addition to keeping families informed in a timely and efficient manner.**

4.2  (32 )  
Ranked #3 of 80



**I appreciate the staff** I think the staff overall are really good and truly care about the students

4.2  (31 )  
Ranked #4 of 80

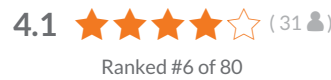


**I appreciate the Graminia fly over** It comes weekly. Keeps me up to date. Concise and not too long

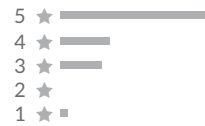
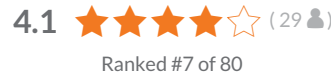
4.2  (27 )  
Ranked #5 of 80



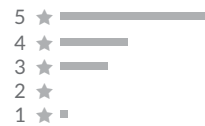
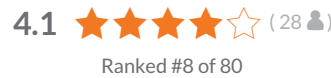
**I appreciate the staff, smaller classes and community feel.**



**Mental health is a huge issue in this day and age. Some form of counselling/support for the grades, especially junior high would be great.**  
The earlier children have strategies and support, the more resilient and successful they can be.



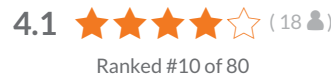
**Principal Haley has demonstrated strong leadership while still being receptive and innovative.**



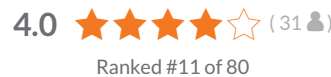
**Dedicated Staff** The staff at Graminia are incredible and I feel very fortunate to have my kids attending such a wonderful school



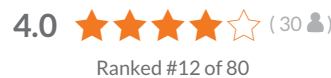
**Bullies** Certain kids continue to get away with bad behaviour. My child has said 'what's the point of telling anymore, when it just gets worse for me?'



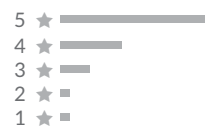
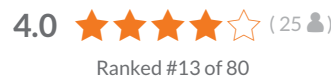
**I appreciate the communication from the teachers and administrators via phone, email, newsletter, blogs...** It's important to know what's going on not only with my children in the classroom but also within the school.



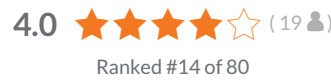
**I appreciate extra programs to increase literacy in young ages.** Its great that a concern was brought up quickly and a program was introduced to help the student



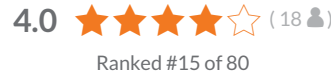
**weekly emails improved communication**



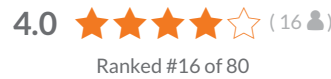
**Why are kids that bully and continually misbehave on the bus allowed to ride?**  
Creates a toxic environment, kids arrive anxious/upset then have to ride home again and are upset and don't want to ride the bus



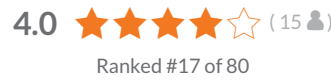
**Teaching staff awesome** Feel very supported by staff.



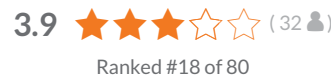
**Thankful for such caring happy staff** Children want to go and learn



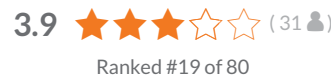
**Mrs Mac you are a rock. Always an open door, helpful and follow through.** Important as a parent to have open communication, and feed back on sensitive issues. Kids comfortable talking to you . Thank You



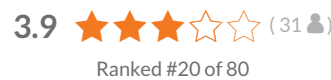
**I appreciate the teachers and the attention they give the kids** Kids feel heard.



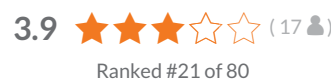
**I love the teachers at Graminia School. They are sincere, kind and patient.** Soft skills are important for a teacher to have as it increases a child's trust and improves their "want" to learn.





**Overall staff are very kind, welcoming, and friendly. My children feel safe and secure at school.**



**I love how the administration and a majority of the staff seem to be community minded.** Graminia is a community school and there is a difference between that and the city schools.





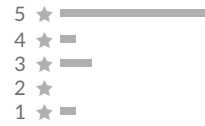
**Leadership** Communication from Principal and A.P. excellent

3.9  (14 )  
Ranked #22 of 80





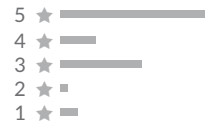
**Lack of consequences for the kids that swear and are aggressive to teachers and fellow students** Parents should be inconvenienced and made to attend a meeting during the day, at school to discuss behavior, then maybe it would be taken seriously

3.9  (13 )  
Ranked #23 of 80





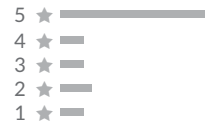
**I appreciate that the school and teachers are welcoming of parent involvement in the school.**

3.8  (32 )  
Ranked #24 of 80





**Bullying should be taken more seriously** Parents that have children that bully should be contacted and have to come to school for a meeting

3.8  (31 )  
Ranked #25 of 80





**Ski club is a great opportunity for the kids to get outside** Fresh air , moving and not glued to electric devices

3.8  (17 )  
Ranked #26 of 80





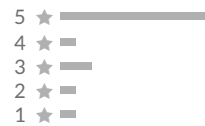
**Such a shame due to budget cuts the literacy program has been cut for all children at Graminia** The literacy program provided essential reading skills for those children who were/are struggling. Gave them the skills and confidence to succeed

3.8  (17 )  
Ranked #27 of 80



**Budget cuts will they increase the size of classrooms ?** All children need support to meet their potential and this may not be possible if class sizes increase

3.8  (14 )  
Ranked #28 of 80



**I really appreciate the contact I have with my sons teacher . I send an email and she responds and is on it. If my kid is struggling with a concept I like to know before the p/t interview.**

**3.7** ★★★★★ (18 👤)  
Ranked #29 of 80



**If a child is failing a course, letting a parent know BEFORE report cards is necessary**

**3.7** ★★★★★ (13 👤)  
Ranked #30 of 80



**Concern: The fortitude of bullies within the school and the lack of repercussions to those bullies** Bullying behaviours need to be addressed and when rules to minimize situations are put in place there need to be consequences for skirting the rules

**3.7** ★★★★★ (7 👤)  
Ranked #31 of 80



**Appreciate sticks and helmets that were purchased** Feel like they will have longevity with all students

**3.6** ★★★★★ (30 👤)  
Ranked #32 of 80



**lots of normalizing of behavioural issues or issues at home, negative impact to students**

**3.6** ★★★★★ (25 👤)  
Ranked #33 of 80



**Appreciate: teachers and how most of them watch out for the well being of the kids** Children need to know that the grown ups they spend so much time with in a day care and have their best interests at heart

**3.6** ★★★★★ (8 👤)  
Ranked #34 of 80

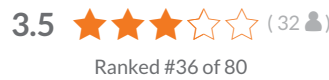


**I used to help in the hot lunch kitchen and it was made clear that the lunch bins were to never touch the floor. It happens all the time now!!** Cleanliness is essential. Especially at this time!

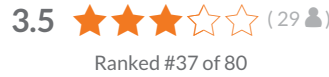
**3.6** ★★★★★ (6 👤)  
Ranked #35 of 80



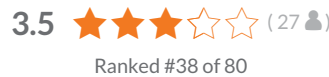
**Bussing is a major concern. It has been a huge issue the last two years** Besides the major driver issues- both this year and last- I am not waking up my 5 year old to get on a bus at 640 and not get home until 330



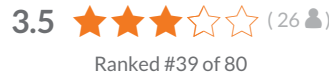
**Appreciate intramural sports that are offered** Great to play other teams have kids coached and play other sports



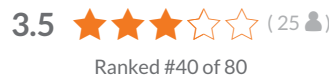
**Junior high bullies that seem relentless,** Some students continue being rude and using crass language with very little consequence and so they continue to behave that way.



**Strong Fundraising & Parent Support** Lots of fundraising throughout the year, good parent support and community



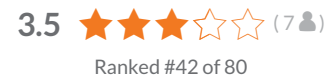
**Skating Rink** The people involved in the skating rink give so much and it's a wonderful thing to have for the kids



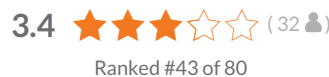
**Great coaches** Coaches are awesome. Would love communication about sports team tryouts. Only hear about it from child, often very last minute.





**Appreciate: The level of education and overall Graminia experience** The education our children receive is second to none in the area. If children enjoy their environment they learn better. Always a good thing.



**Bussing needs to be fixed are expected to be up before most adults go to work... 630 am pickup (wake up by 550am) 335 pm drop off these kids are** Exhausted from these long days





**My only concern is funding for next year, and how the parents and the community are going to have to support the school.**

3.4  (31   
Ranked #44 of 80





**Hot lunch is a hot mess this year I stopped ordering because I am worried about my kids getting sick from raw burgers, mouldy doughnuts I don't want it gone, but it needs to improve**

3.4  (30   
Ranked #45 of 80





**Appreciate the new options that were offered this year** Feel like our junior high options are quite robust

3.4  (26   
Ranked #46 of 80





**A Teacher should be held accountable for disrespecting students, especially when there are numerous complaints by students and parents year after year** Anxiety caused by certain teachers negatively impacts student learning. Students don't feel safe

3.4  (25   
Ranked #47 of 80





**Teachers and admin are very responsive to concerns addressed by parents. Issues are dealt with in a timely professional manner.** Wish there was a more defined agenda for those children with true learning issues-ie dyslexia. As a parent, I have done most of the work.

3.4  (24   
Ranked #48 of 80





**I appreciate the school community working together to raise a kind, caring group of kids.** Through the rink fundraiser, foundation support, help with cleaning up the school grounds.

3.4  (22   
Ranked #49 of 80





**Field trips great**

3.4  (14   
Ranked #50 of 80





**Appreciate foundation and collaborative approach to prioritizing funds** Parents are involved and collaborating on what's important for the school (capital expenses) and students (experiences)

3.3  (31   
Ranked #51 of 80





**Concerned about transparency in assignments, grades and marks in junior high** I don't feel I had enough visibility on what the assignment is, how much it's worth to the overall market, what an example of "exemplary" is

3.3  (28   
Ranked #52 of 80



**Food keeps being thrown at students junior high when there is a gap between supervision.** This is just unacceptable to hear that kids are constantly harassed.

3.3  (25   
Ranked #53 of 80



**Why are kids allowed to stand up and move around on the school bus when driving along the highway?** Endangering the lives of all the students that ride the bus. Would appear acceptable to the driver and contractor.

3.3  (18   
Ranked #54 of 80



**We appreciate having the hot lunch program, but Kids shouldn't be able to buy food on credit. Also they haven't been consistent about it.** If they don't make money because of unpaid tabs will that lead to no hot lunch program

3.2  (21   
Ranked #55 of 80





**The hot lunch program has gone down hill. The food is often undercooked or overcooked. The portions are often too small (10 fries). Lots is thrown out** Hot lunch is costly and when the food is not great, that is disappointing. Not being reimbursed after no bus days is unacceptable.

3.2  (6   
Ranked #56 of 80







School staff should be more vigilant and proactive and ensure no kid feels she/he is not welcome to join their peers in games or play during recess. Anxiety caused by social exclusion affects negatively academic performance and the whole school experience. Recess should be enjoyed, not dreaded.

3.1  (32   
Ranked #57 of 80





The atmosphere at Graminia is wonderful! The staff are kind, thoughtful, friendly and approachable. It is so nice!! Parents and students feel welcome, which is so important!

3.1  (5   
Ranked #58 of 80





Bullying and aggressive behaviour Graminia School has been very damaging and is not a safe educational environment. There is a huge problem that is not even acknowledged let alone adre

3.0  (32   
Ranked #59 of 80





Hot lunch is still a concern for me based on student reports of not wanting to eat it.

3.0  (31   
Ranked #60 of 80





I feel like many parents still don't really understand the report card process that well. That 100% doesn't mean exemplary but means at grade level.

3.0  (31   
Ranked #61 of 80





The communication between teacher and parent. My child sometimes doesn't realize there is a gap in learning and thinks he/she is meeting expectations.

3.0  (28   
Ranked #62 of 80



I appreciate the amount of engagement with parent council meetings

3.0  (22   
Ranked #63 of 80





Would love to see a Nature Kindergarten program initiated in the eastern part of PSD.

2.9  (25   
Ranked #64 of 80





**Early school start and early school dismissal and the impacts on students' fatigue levels, sports teams, etc is a concern.**

2.8  (31   
Ranked #65 of 80





**More help for kids that need more help I feel my child's been failed by the AHS and the school system**

2.8  (25   
Ranked #66 of 80




**When I have brought concerns to teachers they reply using language that is not layman terms, and discount what I have said. A parents concerns should not be disregarded. We are our children's first teachers and we teach them on a daily basis. Work with us**

2.8  (20   
Ranked #67 of 80





**Concerned about academic focus Curious why we don't have an Honour Roll**

2.7  (30   
Ranked #68 of 80





**I wish parents were given more notice when special equipment or supplies are required for school activities. Some items needed require a trip into the city and many parents work so could benefit from having a weekend to make purchases.**

2.7  (30   
Ranked #69 of 80




**My concern is that if the police are called to attend the school that no parents were contacted till the next day or late evening. As a parent i want to know immediately via email or phone call if authorities are called to the school so I can determine if I need to remove my child**

2.7  (30   
Ranked #70 of 80





**The school should advocate Parkland County to restrict firearm use in the school area during school hours. It frightens the students and worries the parents.**

2.7  (25   
Ranked #71 of 80





**Going to parent teacher interviews and being told your child is at grade level, no concerns. The next week getting an email that is below grade level.** Teachers need to work on their speaking skills with parents and show parents that their time is valuable as well.

2.6  (20 )  
Ranked #72 of 80




**Concerned about lack of value added/structure in snow days** For the kids that do attend it would be nice to have structured study review, or additional options projects in food or wood room, science experiments

2.5  (32 )  
Ranked #73 of 80




**I am concerned that under FOIP (optional school activities) the school has the right to broadcast publicly my child's name, photo, grade and school** I wish there was a way to personalize this broad consent to protect the privacy of the children.

2.5  (29 )  
Ranked #74 of 80



**Security** Most schools have locked front door during day. If supposed gun shots in area, would this not warrant an 'on alert' with students inside?

2.5  (14 )  
Ranked #75 of 80





**grade 1/2 split seemed to make the grade 1 a lot harder than in previous years/children.** child would often come home unmotivated and pressured to 'keep up' with the older kids.

2.4  (22 )  
Ranked #76 of 80




**Concerned about value in the Botanical Garden field trip. The description from some it sounded quite superfluous ie: finding and drawing trees** Curious if it was a good use of funds, many kids growing up on acreages are exposed to nature day to day

2.3  (31 )  
Ranked #77 of 80



**Concerned that school council routinely shares photos of students on a public facebook page. Essential communication to parents should be private.** It creates an online presence for minors, allows their digital likeness to be copied/altered, links it to child's school and IDs future events & place

2.3  (31 )  
Ranked #78 of 80



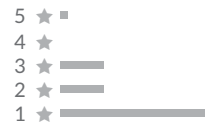
**School Supplies go missing a lot** Have seen custodians throwing supplies in garbage

2.1 ★★☆☆☆ (13 👤)  
Ranked #79 of 80



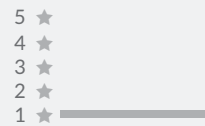
**I do not like the reading bingos. They are biased into either purchasing a whole library of different topic books.** I do not believe they increase literacy or reading at home as no one has a whole library at home. Its frustrating

1.9 ★☆☆☆☆ (27 👤)  
Ranked #80 of 80



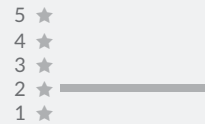
**Too much use and emphasis on electronics at Graminia. In highschool it all goes back to books and paperwork... a waste of time and money.** Offer a computer class, or if kids want to research for social studies, but regular school work should be done on paper not electronics.

2.7 ★★☆☆☆ (1 👤)  
Not enough ratings to rank



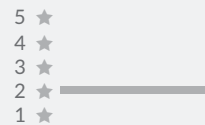
**Not enough emphasis put on highschool and careers/the future for grade 8 & 9's. Kids are unprepared for the future. (after highschool)** Even at highschool level kids don't know which courses to take, because they don't know what job they would do, leaving them scrambling in grade 12.

2.8 ★★☆☆☆ (1 👤)  
Not enough ratings to rank



**Hot lunch sizes need to be available in small and large portions. Small for the younger kids. Less waste of food and cheaper to purchase** Noticed that 1 or 2 items were made smaller, but not the majority of items. It needs to expand.

2.8 ★★☆☆☆ (1 👤)  
Not enough ratings to rank



**Learning disability support** The teachers at Graminia School are very helpful in dealing with my child's learning disability and providing him with extra support.

3.2 ★★☆☆☆ (1 👤)  
Not enough ratings to rank

