

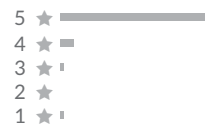
GRAMINIA SCHOOL THOUGHTEXCHANGE 2022

Parkland School Division 70

Q1 What are some things you appreciate and some concerns you have about Graminia School and/or Parkland School Division this year? (Note: you can hit the three purple dots and skip a thought in the 'Star' phase if a thought doesn't apply to you.)

Vaping activities at school should have a zero tolerance

4.5 ★★★★★ (34 👤)
Ranked #1 of 83



I appreciate the staff at Graminia and how hard they all work. I especially appreciate when they welcome parent communication & involvement. It is important to me to feel like part of a team supporting our children.

4.3 ★★★★★ (35 👤)
Ranked #2 of 83



Thankful teachers have put work online to keep kids up to speed when home sick Important kids can keep up with lessons at home

4.3 ★★★★★ (32 👤)
Ranked #3 of 83



I appreciate the many kind teachers we have. I know some are burnt out and I value when they continue to love on our kids.

4.2 ★★★★★ (34 👤)
Ranked #4 of 83





Our teachers are doing an amazing job with everything that has been thrown their way!!

4.2 ★★★★★ (19 👤)
Ranked #5 of 83





Like online access to grades. Appreciate the weekly emails from teachers with updates
Keeps kids focused and families in the loop

4.1  (33 )
Ranked #6 of 83





I have observed in the past children who are outed by their peers. A strong NO to any form of bullying is important daily in and out of classroom. It is so important for kids to feel they belong, it is fundamental for a good learning outcome.

4.1  (32 )
Ranked #7 of 83





I am extremely impressed by the commitment and flexibility of the teachers during these difficult times (corona) to support from-home learning. The children don't feel left behind and know they matter to the teacher, which again motivates them for better learning.

4.1  (30 )
Ranked #8 of 83



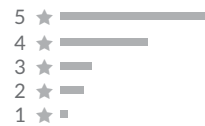
Appreciate the teacher engagement with students and community involvement Having teachers my children look forward to being taught by is critical in this time when many of the other 'fun' things to do at school are limited.

4.0  (39 )
Ranked #9 of 83





Appreciate the email communications that are sent and frequency of them Keeps us informed of what the upcoming week looks like

4.0  (37 )
Ranked #10 of 83



Concerned about study strategies, organization tactics and methods being taught to junior high students. Especially for the ones that this is hard for As they move onto high school increased ownness rests on them and concerned they're not prepared with good steps.

4.0  (30 )
Ranked #11 of 83



I love our small, rural school. I feel that there is a real sense of community and that the teachers are very special and caring in our school. I appr I truly hope that the parents can get back to volunteering in classroom soon I truly miss that interaction with the students

4.0  (20 )
Ranked #12 of 83



Recess times- my child shares that they have equipment to play with! Equipment and teachers are engaging making for more positive social interactions.

4.0 ★★★★★ (10 👤)
Ranked #13 of 83



The options at Graminia this year are fun it is important to have a well rounded education including trying many different things.

4.0 ★★★★★ (10 👤)
Ranked #14 of 83



I love the school's playgrounds! They keep the kids engaged and happy

3.9 ★★★★★ (32 👤)
Ranked #15 of 83



There needs to be harsh consequences for kids who continue/repeat offenders who bully others to realize their behaviour is not OK. Bullies need more than a slap on the wrist. They need physiological help from external resources to stop their behaviour before adulthood.

3.9 ★★★★★ (32 👤)
Ranked #16 of 83



Communication from the school has increased for injuries and even very minor student altercations. Keeps parents in the loop of whats happening and increases parents confidence in the school.

3.9 ★★★★★ (31 👤)
Ranked #17 of 83



Appreciate: I truly love the teachers at this school! I love the new programs such as the Literacy and numeracy programs. Any extra help is great! The past years have been very tough on the little kids and extra help is needed and appreciated.

3.9 ★★★★★ (30 👤)
Ranked #18 of 83





How can we better support accountability in students? I have seen an increase in defiant behaviour at the junior high level towards staff. Students need love and support while at the same time being held accountable for their actions. School is a safe place for this learning to happen.

3.9 ★★★★★ (30 👤)
Ranked #19 of 83





I appreciate how the school is very loving and caring of all the students, including the front admin. There is a sense of belonging at the school and the feeling of safety that kids can go to anyone for help.

3.9  (29 )
Ranked #20 of 83





I absolutely love how supportive Graminia School, the staff have been in supporting the kids. I feel this is very important, it help the kids feel cared about and not just another student, they are passionate about the children in all aspects

3.9  (14 )
Ranked #21 of 83





I appreciate the community feeling that my daughter gets from the school It provides support and acceptance in a difficult time (covid, teen years, rural life etc)

3.9  (13 )
Ranked #22 of 83





The teachers seem excellent and appear to care a lot about my child's wellbeing and learning. good teachers make all the difference.

3.9  (13 )
Ranked #23 of 83





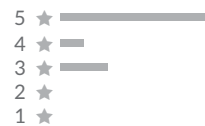
There needs to be more learning around racism, unacceptable racist language (use of the N word in the school yard), and more diversity. It's so cliché that a rural school needs to improve this. We need to be better than this.

3.9  (11 )
Ranked #24 of 83



I appreciate that some of the teachers push my child to be better and towards excellence. My child is occasionally lazy and other teachers have just let it slide. The teachers pay attention at this school.

3.9  (9 )
Ranked #25 of 83





I appreciate School staff flexibility about outdoor activities in extreme weather, by implementing indoor recess and early access to the building Allowing kids to stay indoors or come into the school early helps keep everyone safe in extreme cold or unsafe (snow/ice) conditions

3.8  (37 )
Ranked #26 of 83





I love that Gramina has invested in more trees/outdoor learning circle. A gazebo/covered area would be nice to add to protect kids in harsh rain/wind I love that the school encourages outdoor activity in all weather. The grounds are very exposed to the wind though and some shelter would be helpful.

3.8  (33 
Ranked #27 of 83





I think we really need to add a focus on mental health for our junior high students, especially around anxiety and depression. It's a growing problem And kids need it to be a natural thing talked about. I have noticed with the pressures in high school the mental health struggles seem to sky rocket

3.8  (33 
Ranked #28 of 83





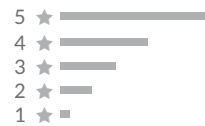
concrete focus on math and reading literacy I love that Graminia is ahead of the trend and I appreciate how hard teachers and admin are working to gets all students where they need to be.

3.8  (31 
Ranked #29 of 83





I would like to see more mental health support for children at the school. Even little workshops for all grades. Ex: managing emotions (sadness/anger) Children have been traumatized due to COVID and providing as much support as possible will reduce the effects of the trauma.

3.8  (30 
Ranked #30 of 83





The teachers and principals are very committed to teaching and for creating a safe learning environment. Teachers are the the drivers for creating a conducive and nurturing environment which controls learning.

3.8  (30 
Ranked #31 of 83





I appreciate the student council meetings. Very well run, and i love that there is engaging discussions and presentations. Good meetings are important as they will bring in more interest to other parents to attend and have their voice heard.

3.8  (28 
Ranked #32 of 83





Litter on the school grounds is very disappointing and shows a lack of respect for the time, energy, and funds that have been invested to create it. It is important to hold students accountable to picking up the litter and forgotten clothing each time they see it.

3.8  (19 
Ranked #33 of 83





I really appreciate the teachers going above and beyond to provide extracurricular activities for the kids this year. -drama club and basketball I think it's very important that the kids get a sense of normalcy after basically missing half a year of school. They need those social interactions.

3.7  (37 
Ranked #34 of 83





I appreciated having an in person Xmas concert. It was so nice! Graminia has/had a reputation for being community driven and welcoming to parents Parental and community involvement is so important in kids healthy development. The saying "it takes a village" is very true

3.7  (36 
Ranked #35 of 83




I'm glad that my children have been able to have a relatively normal school year. The uncertainty of the 2020 school year was difficult for children that need stability.

3.7  (32 
Ranked #36 of 83





Some teachers are overworked. There is a lack of EAs to help and teachers also have side projects not giving their full attn to their main job. No help and being overworked shows in their curriculum delivery and communications with parents. High anxiety levels in those teachers are apparent.

3.7  (29 
Ranked #37 of 83





Stronger consequences for kids who know better. Not for students who may have control issues, but for students who know between right & wrong and continually choose the wrong because they can.

3.7  (29 
Ranked #38 of 83





I have a concern about the bussing to and from school. The buses are crowded and there are a lack of subs. Many times the buses are late. Also, all band instruments should be allowed on the bus.

3.7  (6 
Ranked #39 of 83





One concern is the early bus pick up time which results in a 55 minute bus ride to school when we live 11 minutes away. It interferes with sleep by requiring a very early bedtime. If our child wants to join evening extra curricular activity she must sacrifice sleep.

3.7  (4 
Ranked #40 of 83





Great kids have been able to continue with physical. Ed in school and extra sports after school To build sportsmanship, character wok as a team

3.6  (30 
Ranked #41 of 83





The new insurance the school has is a joke. Permission slips for art class. Really?!

3.6  (14 
Ranked #42 of 83





I appreciate how the division is doing its best to track Covid cases in schools. The numbers of covid cases helps to inform my decision making about whether or not to keep my child home.

3.6  (9 
Ranked #43 of 83



I appreciate the continued safety measures for Covid and what you do to keep our students safe. It's important to keep our kids safe. What else is there to say

3.5  (38 
Ranked #44 of 83





I applaud the recent move towards embracing reading of the territorial land acknowledgement for respect of the indigenous roots of the land. It is very important to educate the children not to feel entitled but be respectful of the history and diversity of the lands they live in.

3.5  (28 
Ranked #45 of 83





Appreciate - connection to community, open and inclusive learning, Concern - turnover in admin (3 principals in 5 years, bussing and start times Connection - good to understand differences in perspective of rural vs urban. Turnover - lack of consistency. Start times - very early for young kids

3.5  (12 
Ranked #46 of 83





It is occasionally not safe to be gender diverse or anything other than straight. Bullying out outing behaviour should be reported and acted upon immediately.

3.5  (12 
Ranked #47 of 83





I don't like the PSD policy that rotates Principals out of schools after a couple years.

3.5  (9 
Ranked #48 of 83





Burnt out teachers are effecting the children's learning experience to the point where they dont enjoy school. How can we help these teachers?

3.4  (30 
Ranked #49 of 83





I appreciate the care that the school has taken in regards to COVID . safety of my chilren

3.4  (13 
Ranked #50 of 83





Cleanliness of school yard School yard is often filled with garbage, lost and found and left behind equipment

3.4  (9 
Ranked #51 of 83





Appreciate that my childs teacher teaches most of his classes previous years he would have 4-5 teachers- music, art, gym etc.. its hard to build a relationship and consistency in routine if its always changing!

3.4  (8 
Ranked #52 of 83





I hesitate to say this, but I am occasionally concerned about some far right views that are expressed by the kids. It's not rare, but not surprising. It can cause some confusion and divisiveness. I'm not naïve to think that this is unusual - I know it's in all schools.

3.3  (12 
Ranked #53 of 83





Kids don't look forward to going to school like they used to. More activities for learning, experience, friendship building need to occur. Significant amount of their time is spent in school and I want them to think of it fondly, not with dread.

3.2  (36 
Ranked #54 of 83



Love that we have a GSA and wish it was emphasized more

3.2  (33 
Ranked #55 of 83





Teachers sharing job duties. One teacher (same grade different class) posts about curriculum other teacher doesn't post anything. There is nothing specific to my kids class and their learning experience. This is a young grade so it feels like we parents are missing out again.

3.2  (28 
Ranked #56 of 83





I am concerned about the drug problem in Graminia school. I am also concerned about the bullying problem. physical safety of my children.

3.2  (10 
Ranked #57 of 83




I would like to see Graminia push for a return to normal for kids. Let parents start participating more and rebuilding the school community. Our kids' education and mental health need this reconnection.

3.1  (35 
Ranked #58 of 83

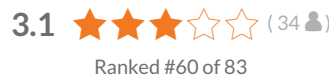


My kids have mentioned multiple times that lunchtime is VERY loud and out of control.

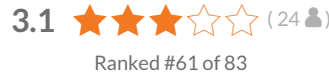
3.1  (35 
Ranked #59 of 83



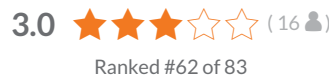
We appreciate the effort put fourth by the teachers and admin staff. A concern would be the number of missed education days. Due to scheduled and non scheduled days missed , leads to an inconsistent learning environment.



I am concerned that I have seen misinformation taught regarding residential school last year in one classroom. Up-to-date information, empathy and respect is crucial to pass on to this young generation to learn and not repeat the mistakes of the past.



When looking to fundraiser for items at our school how do we know the priority schools are for getting items or projects funded through psd? Raised items in the past through our foundation then the next year they were being replaced by division. Foundation \$ would have been used differently



Dissatisfied about the heavy focus on electronic learning. A more traditional approach still has Merritt. Students are lacking the ability to apply basic principles without the crutch of a computer.



I appreciate the support from the principal in regards towards intervening in bullying when it comes to Covid 19 vaccination status It affects my kids





I love that everything seems to be streamlined in terms of learning both grade one classes are doing the same thing. Discrimination on vax status I think it's important to not throw a label on a kid from the get go.



There are a couple teachers who need to reevaluate how they speak to children.





There is a lack of supervision at lunch time.it took over 10 minutes for a teacher to finally answer the phone in the classroom my kid was eating in to get my child to the office. Kids were telling other teachers about the phone ringing and they were ignored! What if there was an emergency?

2.9  (27 
Ranked #67 of 83



I feel the start time of school being 7:50am, is a bit early. Even 8:10 would be helpful. Especially on the winter roads we have to leave by 7:15 am. The kids are more tired, get worn out faster. Makes for more late arrivals, and if someone has a rough sleep, and then has to be up 6am, it's hard.

2.9  (15 
Ranked #68 of 83




lack of contact between the school and the myself. I have no Idea how things are going in Graminia only what my children tell me. I assume all is well. no personal contact..

2.9  (11 
Ranked #69 of 83



I have entirely lost confidence in Graminia administration. It seems that the principals don't care and the turn over is two years. They don't want to be there just a step to bigger things. No connection with the students or community. I did not give the new one a chance

2.9  (10 
Ranked #70 of 83




I like when the PSD schedule (at least for major holidays like Winter & Spring break) align with Edmonton schools. Many work in one division and have children in the other and it is important to have breaks line up.

2.8  (34 
Ranked #71 of 83





I'm concerned about further masking, vaccine requirements, lockdowns and home schooling. The last 2 years has been hard on kids and many of the "safety" measures implemented has negatively affected development and mental health

2.8  (33 
Ranked #72 of 83





Lack of engaging and personalized communications (newsletters, etc) to parents regarding class curriculum, activities and ongoings. Very disappointing Communication to parents is important considering they were not allowed to be involved in the last 2 years. It is impersonal and lackluster

2.8  (31 
Ranked #73 of 83



I am seeing a heavy emphasis on social environment and school should be primarily focused on academic learning. Students are over thinking topics and thoughts that they are not yet emotionally ready for, and feeling forced to make poor judge based on lack of experience

2.7  (36 
Ranked #74 of 83





I also would like to see the territorial land acknowledgement being read every time the National Anthem is being played, even if that means daily. It is important for the new generation to understand that there is no superiority of the Canadian Nation over the Indigenous Nations.

2.7  (30 
Ranked #75 of 83



Disappointed in schools enforcement of masking mandates Health and safety

2.7  (22 
Ranked #76 of 83





Let K-grade students sleep in class if they are falling asleep K grade should be engaging students and making school fun. its okay if someone sleeps once in a while, don't make them hate school so early

2.7  (7 
Ranked #77 of 83



Lack of professionalism shown by Bus Driver transporting from Graminia School. A state of negative well being created in students as results of the biased and unjust treatment with driver's behaviour towards different families.

2.6  (8 
Ranked #78 of 83





The schedule not following Edmonton To get the time off with friends and family

2.5  (35 
Ranked #79 of 83





Winter break didn't line up with Edmonton schools

2.5  (29 )
Ranked #80 of 83





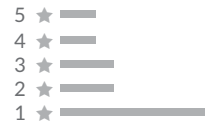
I think our school needs a dress code, especially in the warmer months. It's hard to encourage modesty in our kids if the school doesn't enforce stuff

2.4  (31 )
Ranked #81 of 83





I feel that this year the teachers are not sending home homework and this does concern me

2.4  (18 )
Ranked #82 of 83



Hhh Hbh

1.6  (23 )
Ranked #83 of 83

