

## **NAMS Entry Plan (Family Survey)**

(The results below are sorted by most to least frequent responses)

### **What are NAMS's greatest strengths?**

- The Teachers (Strong, caring, dedicated, knowledgeable, positive, creative, energetic, & valuable)
- The Community (Strong, caring)
- The Related Arts Programs
- The Guidance Department
- The Teams
- Special Education Program
- The promotion of independence
- Multiple Facilities & Resources
- The School's Location

### **What suggestion(s) can you provide me that you believe could we make NAMS better?**

- Increase communication between parents & teachers
- Improve curriculum so all students are challenged, curriculum is too easy (STEM, MOEMS, science competitions, applied math, simulating running a corporation)
- Address problematic behavior and decision-making (Vaping & bullying online)
- Provide Administration updates
- Lunch Protocols (students choosing tables).
- Greater consistency with homework and more of it
- Build out foreign language studies (Add Mandarin, start Spanish in 7th grade)
- Teach and promote kindness and greater tolerance for others
- Increase parent access to teachers, make it easier to schedule meetings
- Foster better relationships among the kids with more team-building.
- Improve Performing Arts programs.
- Improve Special Education programming and communication
- Improve facilities (add modern updates to the school)
- Ask for parent feedback every semester and share it
- Build relationships with NAPS elementary and high school principals so as to gain better understanding of students' perspectives and their transition into next school
- Schedule meetings for students to meet with guidance.
- Provide greater support for teachers so they're all using google, consistently posting homework assignments
- Add a suggestion box for students to make anonymous suggestions
- Promote a clear protocol for drop off and pick up, and enforce it.
- Later start time
- Keep website up to date.
- Don't allow dogs on property.
- Provide extra support for students working below grade level.

**What suggestion(s) can you provide me that you believe may improve student performance?**

- Support teachers in providing quality instruction, more consistent practices
- Student Accountability - Reduce disruptions to learning
- Better connections among teachers and students
- Give more homework.
- Make curriculum more challenging (differentiate instruction/classwork for above-grade level)
- Add more STEM to after-school.
- More social/community engagement (One suggestion - occasionally have PTAC meetings at night so that working parents can attend)
- Better communication from the school
- Help the students be better prepared for high school
- Celebrate & Motivate Students (Publish honor roll in newspaper, celebrate wins, participate in President's Award for Educational Excellence)
- Support teachers
- Promote whole-child development
- Give summer work
- Allow students to choose Related Arts Classes
- Return projects and book reports to homework-time rather than during class-time
- Start the school year later.
- Improve teacher communication with students
- Improve teacher understanding of 504 and their role
- Encourage participation in after-school program.
- Offer/increase teacher access after school
- Less emphasis on testing, more emphasis on learning
- Add Google Guardian & increase use of google classroom
- Offer alternatives to tests for those who learn differently
- Tablets/notebooks for students
- End football (concussions)

**What suggestion(s) can you provide me that you believe may help me as I begin my tenure as principal of NAMS?**

- Connect with students (Be hands on, be there @pick up/drop off, know kids' names, send all-family calls, don't let kids fall through the cracks)
- Communicate. Communicate. Communicate.
- Keep an open mind
- Have an open door policy. - Tell students to come see you or guidance anytime, and mean it.
- Listen (Keep asking for input from all constituents)
- Check school communication for grammar and spelling before it goes out to families
- Notify parents the their children can opt out of MCAS
- Don't compromise Music & Arts programs.
- Increase structure & accountability
- Connect with the elementary and high school principals so as to get a better understanding of the general feel of each school, so as to better understand how to help the kids with each move
- Add teacher comments on report cards.
- Address vaping issue. Have bathroom monitors.
- Get to know Selectmen & Town Manager.
- Support teachers - visit classes, help teachers improve, and reward great teaching.
- Make changes when necessary.
- Be stern yet fair.

## **NAMS - Where are we now?**

### **Communication:**

- Our website is regularly updated with important news and information.
- Morning announcements are updated daily and are available on our website. Morning announcements are recorded (video) and shown to students during homeroom each morning.
- In addition to morning announcements and important news and updates, a Principal's Post is shared and available on our website weekly.
- We utilize our twitter page to celebrate students and school accomplishments in addition to providing updates and reminders.
- Our teachers' websites are robust and many offer additional resources in addition to news and information.
- Our teachers routinely use PowerSchool to share grades.
- Our list of report card comments has been updated to reflect strength-based comments that provide information regarding how students can improve.
- NAMS has increased and improved communication between the elementary schools and high school in efforts to share best practices and to support the transition of our students from school to school.
- NAMS principal schedules visits to each of the grade 5 classes at elementary schools to talk about NAMS and the transition.

### **School Culture**

- Continue to support students in making good choices by reinforcing and recognizing RAISE values at NAMS.
- Continue to find ways to create more opportunities for student voice in the classroom and school.
- Create more team-building opportunities for staff and students.
- We are working on ways to insure that all students can see themselves reflected in our work and in our school?
- Working with PTAC, we have scheduled Rob Surette, artist and inspirational speaker, to present to grade 7 students.
- Student Survey was created by the NAMS School Council and administered to students the week of February 3rd. These results will be shared with students and families after we have reviewed and compiled the data.
- Staff have completed surveys to help in the identification and development of plans to meet our students' needs and to further improve school culture.

### **Teaching & Learning**

- Our teachers meet regularly as teams, grade level content-areas, and departments to update the scope and sequence of their curriculum, align curriculum vertically and horizontally, and share best practices.

- Staff have been working together on shared goals within departments focused on meeting the needs of all learners.
- We will continue this work in staff meetings, department meetings, team meetings, and content-area meetings with support from building and district level staff.
- Homework is now able to be included in the students' grades as a result of the work by members of the NAMS staff who volunteered to work on updating our protocols.
- Plan and implement high-quality and collaborative professional development that will directly impact teacher instruction and student support.

### **Student Expectations**

- We have held Expectations Assemblies for students by grade level the last 2 years.
- We have increased our communication with students, families, and staff in supporting students academic and social/emotional needs.
- We have increased our monitoring and support of student attendance.
- Update protocols as necessary such as the attendance protocols, drop-off & pick-up, and homework protocols.

### **Facilities**

- We continue to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority
- We continue to explore ways to make upgrades to NAMS
- Without an addition, we can't keep hiring teachers (which reduces class size)

### **Class Size**

- Dependent upon facilities additions; however, we will be able to hire a grade 6 teacher for next year that will decrease the average class size by almost 2 students per class.