

Focus group preliminary report

April 2, 2012

15 total groups (to date)

69 total participants

**All responses listed in order,
based on number of times mentioned**

Most frequently mentioned “challenges” facing students today

1. Navigating the information age/social media/technology
2. Pressure of expectations re: higher education
3. Faster pace/busy
4. Economic pressure
5. Limited parental support/involvement

Most frequently mentioned “opportunities” for students today

1. Technology
2. Availability of information
3. Availability of educational resources
4. Exposure to a global society
5. Multiple opportunities (courses and extracurricular activities)
6. Teachers who are more skilled at teaching to individual student needs

Who is responsible for helping students take advantage of/maximize their opportunities? (average of all scores)

Family – 51%

School – 35%

Community – 14%

Most frequently mentioned themes from the “Describe the School District of Clayton in one sentence” exercise

1. Excellent district, academically (though the gap between it and peer districts has narrowed)
2. Small class sizes
3. Lots of individual attention
4. Lots of resources in the district and in the community

Most frequently mentioned “strengths” of the district

1. High quality instruction/teachers
2. District cares about each student
3. Strong curriculum/academics
4. Lots of opportunities for students

Most frequently mentioned “areas needing improvement” in the district

1. Understanding and addressing the strengths/challenges/different learning abilities of each child
2. Communication with parents/community
3. How resources are allocated within the district
4. District is not as forward-thinking/has become more cautious and less visionary

Most frequently mentioned ideas from the “mission statement” discussion

1. Working together to address the individual needs of each student academically, socially and emotionally
2. Academic excellence
3. Students will graduate with the ability to solve global problems
4. Respect for diversity
5. High-performing teachers

Most frequently mentioned ideas from the “vision statement” discussion

1. We will recognize the unique capabilities and needs of each child, and prepare them to be successful adults
2. We will create leaders in a global society
3. We will be a highly rated school district
4. We will be cutting-edge in terms of academics
5. We will create life-long learners