

Curriculum Night Survey-fall 07

1. Which do you prefer?

a. Exploratory teachers each give presentation in Orion to full group. 48*

b. Exploratory teachers are available in lobby. 76*

no answer 7 each has benefit-2

Comments by those voting for a. -Orion:

- lobby is hectic and confusing-ended up leaving
- felt apprehensive about approaching exploratory teachers because I don't know enough about them
- lines too long, only got to speak with one
- easier in the Orion-everyone has a chance to ask questions
- 6th grade should be in Orion. 7th and 8th in lobby because you understand.
- as a parent new to school—this is very nice
- exploratory teachers should give presentation-can't get to them all
- exploratory section was too confusing for first time parents.
- I didn't get the chance to speak with exploratory teachers at all. It felt a little jumbled in the lobby.
- I haven't experienced this but it sounds better

Comments by those voting for b.-lobby:

- like not having to sit through exploratory presentations
- tech. Ed. slide show great & models great-should have something similar for all exploratories and let's hear some singing or music.
- band and gym teachers should be in lobby too.
- likes it in lobby but it wasn't clearly communicated that they were there and what the format was.
- need bigger signs for each exploratory table
- need more time to talk
- likes the flexibility of time to talk to exploratory teachers

2. In your opinion what worked well.

- this year was much better than last year. Having explanations with teams was great as well as having exploratories teachers in the lobby
- direct time with the teachers
- everything was fine-it was a bit rushed though

What worked well cont.

- everything worked well. Teachers were well prepared and handouts were helpful
 - the time. In years past the program was too lengthy
 - talking with teachers in lobby at the end of eve.-only the ones your child has-not all.
 - hearing from teachers that are part of my child's curriculum and not hearing from all in the Orion
 - hearing teachers talk about specific programs and expectations
 - presentation from homeroom teachers including visuals and handouts
 - seeing teachers in the classroom
 - hour long format was great. The summaries by teachers were excellent
 - meeting with neighborhood with all teachers and guidance counselor; not reading curriculum book to us
 - keeping it short yet informative
 - time for questions afterwards
- It all went well –liked it short and to the important points
- going straight to core teachers instead of listening to speakers in Orion
 - talking to all three of my child teachers. Expectations were very clear.
 - teachers had more time to talk to us
 - having the sign up for conferences available
 - being in the classroom setting—smaller group lets you know other parents
 - making math resources available to parents
 - meeting about laptops
 - teachers in each pod walking parents through curriculum, expectations and methods

3.How might we improve curriculum night?

- going through the student's schedule and explaining the day to us
- exploratory teachers should be available to speak with parents in a timely manner-some parents would talk too long with the teacher and it made for a very long night
- set up a format that reflects the school day, a condensed typical school day and the teachers could give a brief overview of what they try to teach in a semester. Also, you should have one each semester.
- I know it makes it longer but more time with teachers so that you could really catch up with them one on one
- more question and answer time

How might we improve curriculum night cont.

- we didn't learn much about exploratories—we didn't know what questions to ask and what they have to offer
- meeting school administrators
- homework expectations could be clearer and how to use on the internet
- keep it this way
- need more seating
- there should be a sign telling parents where to go and more parking is needed
- exploratory teachers should give a presentation of their own
- go back to presentation in Orion
- A written reminder notice for kids to bring home 1 to 2 days before
- pass out agenda before the day of curriculum night so parents get it even if kids have a sporting event after school that day
- several of us lost our mailings and did not know the schedule
- microphone for Orion, you couldn't hear very well
- math handbooks given out
- classroom tour
- call it open house. My husband would of come but he was waiting for open house
- start it earlier, starting late on a school night doesn't make for the best turn out if there are other children at home or single parent
- provide a bit more time for G-T
- coffee/refreshments
- having the computer system up and running would have been helpful, but you tried and get points for that
- perhaps a room staffed with sitters to drop off younger siblings

4.Other reflections

- more info on computer labs would be my preference. Possibly a PTO night for sixth grade-as an intro to online world from a safety monitoring perspective
- great teamwork and a high level of knowledge and skills by each teacher was apparent
- I enjoyed gaining the information and spending some time with my daughter's teachers.
- overall curriculum night is worthwhile and well done
- not enough time between teacher presentation and laptop meeting. I felt rushed to get to that meeting and didn't have time to talk with teacher and introduce myself
- waited 15 minutes for laptop info to start
- thanks for scheduling this. Very impressed with the quality of teachers and overall school admin philosophy

Other reflections cont.

- I really appreciate meeting the teachers and hearing about what school is like, what they will be studying etc. I was impressed with the teaching staff
- explanation of report card before parent teacher conference
- we feel you all have the children's best interest at heart
- I like the way you posted your wish items on apples on the wall. It was easy to grab and we knew exactly what was needed.
- I feel that MAMS has a great group of teachers. Caring and thoughtful
- enjoyed meeting the social worker for the class
- the teachers were so organized and so in tune with the students. I felt like they were talking just to me about my child.
- it was very informative. Thank you
- Everything worked well. I was able to talk to all the teachers that I wanted. All my questions were answered. Thank you. Nice job. This is my 4th child at MAMS
- nice that they let parents who already been through the laptop not sit through it again

5. Have you attended a curriculum night at Mt Ararat Middle School in any year prior to this?

Yes **77** No **50**

no answer 6

11 responses from parents who did not attend this year mostly because of having to work and a couple with sick children at home

*Of the parents who answered no to this question and responded to question 1: 25 picked the Orion and 23 the lobby for the exploratory teacher presentations.

*Of the parents who answered yes to this question and responded to question 1: 22 picked the Orion and 53 the lobby for exploratory teacher presentations.