

STUDENTS:

What challenges have you experienced as a student at West Genesee this year?

- spanish
- Trying to avoid going into certain bathrooms during the school day.
- finding a bathroom that's open
- There is a big issue with bathrooms not feeling secure. At any point you could walk into a bathroom and students will be vaping, drinking, or doing drugs.
- (Highschool student) There has not been a lot of organization as a whole through out the school. I understand there is new administration, however none of the teachers or students really know what is going to happen next. Additionally, there are some teachers in the building that should not be there. When over half a class drops the course because of the teacher, that should be a major red flag.
- I have experienced sometimes having troubles turning in my work
- none
- Others doing drugs in the bathroom and there are no open bathrooms without people vaping
- bathrooms are always locked
- Trying to go pee in a male bathroom when other male students are vaping in that bathroom.
- Going to the bathroom because im scared to use it because of all the kids vaping and fighting, plus it's hard to even find a bathroom because they are almost all locked
- It is hard for me to go to the bathrooms because most of the bathrooms are closed and you may end up being late to class.
- bathrooms are locked and closing bathrooms because of vaping isn't solving the problem
- Not Being able to go to the bathroom
- trying to go to the bathroom but other kids are just vaping
- Using the bathrooms, finding an open bathroom
- There's always going on in the bathrooms that might frighten some students or change their view on the school
- Not being able to go to the bathroom during school hours because of the things that go on in there.
- I can't go to the bathroom because most of the bathrooms are locked.
- In my ceramics class we have to put pictures on google classroom with our phones. But I can't do that on my phone because it doesn't work. I've tried everything to get my assignments up there but it didn't work. so now i have a bad grade in that class this semester.
- Find A Different Solution to the bathroom problem instead of locking the doors.
- some school work
- not understanding school work
- A lot of homework
- Earth science and math tests
- None at this moment
- Finding Classes.
- Earth Science

- Time management
- The change in the amount of work.
- Getting to class on time. I think we need to have 5 minutes instead of 4 minutes because some of my classes are very far apart and there isn't enough time to stop at your locker if you need to without having to speed walk everywhere.
- having to sign into the bathrooms because if im in a rush to use the bathroom i dont have time to sign in. also a lot of bathrooms are locked around the school which makes it hard to find an available one.
- earth science
- i haven't experienced any challenges
- There has been multiple fights and vaping around the school which I haven't been involved in but events as such are nerve racking.
- N/A
- Time Management, falling behind
- Spanish course is difficult, and homework is a little excessive
- i have experienced one challenge, and that challenge is homework... some teachers don't give any which doesn't allow for any practice then some teachers will give way to much
- I have noticed I'm a lot more stressed than I was.
- Personal mental health challenges.
- There's a lot of emphasis on not doing drugs but not a lot of help for students who want to stop (I am not speaking from personal experience but i know multiple students who have tried and failed to quit.)
- My teachers are really flexible with me and my fellow classmates, so any challenge that I've had, whether it be a late homework assignment or a poor grade in the class, I've been able to make it up and still be on top of my work.
- Depression
- finding open bathroom
- Locked bathrooms
- Trying to find extra time to do homework with sports and other activities
- locked bathrooms
- Getting up early
- Some challenges I have faced this year have been the work load of my advanced classes and also managing my time to do all of the work.
- There are many people in the bathrooms and they are also locked
- Too much homework
- Nothing
- None
- Teachers being understanding
- Problems with a teacher and stress about grades
- i have a lot of work and i'm taking hard classes
- i've been given a lot of homework which sometimes adds stress on a weekly basis.
- Business law

- a challenge i have faced is connection with my teachers and having learn by their way of teaching not the teaching that will help me do my best.
- some challenges for me this year have been class moving at paces that are too hard to follow and not being able to connect with all my teachers and also expectations and pressure are high and homework takes hours to do leaving no free time for anything but school work if i want to get decent sleep
- Being stressed out all the time
- bathrooms. i am tired of trying to find one that is unlocked simply because some kids decided to do some puff puff in it.
- -As a senior, I have found there to be unfair changes and increased strictness that punish everybody rather than those who actually need those restrictions such as underclassmen. The bathroom situation has improved, but overall, I never saw a need for bathrooms to start getting locked in the first place given that it hasn't really done much good. Bathroom vandalism, unfortunately, is going to happen because, well- It's a high school.
- -I've also noticed that dress coding only applies to certain body types and races. Plus size young women are targeted more as opposed to slim young ladies with perfect bodies. If there is going to be a dress code it must be applied to everybody in the same way. Body-shaming is not okay, and neither is anything racially discriminatory. For example, durags are not hats, they serve a purpose, and that purpose is to keep ethnic hair nice and wavy.
- -Another thing is the attendance office. The people working there are great and they do their jobs, however, I think that it's a little ridiculous that one day I was told that I couldn't hand in a note indicating my early dismissal before 7:25 am and had to return later in the day. There was no reason the note could not have been taken earlier and just handled later.
- -Also regarding attendance, First-period gym teachers are always 10-15 minutes late. If they can be 10-15 minutes late, I believe students should be able to get to school 10-15 minutes late without being penalized if they have PE first period either by having a pass or providing a schedule to prove authenticity.
- -I believe that the school should be more conscious and staff should be more aware of mental illnesses such as social anxiety and things such as panic attacks. It's a very real thing for many people and it's not something that's easily controllable. For kids with panic disorder or someone experiencing a panic attack, I think that they should be able to have a quiet place to sit and relax and have someone correctly treat them while they calm down. It shouldn't be a "You need to sign in" or "I can't let you sit in the nurse's office until you're ready to face the day again due to policy." A student in hysterics needs immediate attention, not a sign-in sheet or someone telling them that they need to go to class even if they're in tears. Mental health is serious and should be taken just as seriously as a physical illness or injury.
- getting my stuff stolen
- Unable to access SchoolTool on the weekend, not having a shower head in one of the boys locker room showers at the high school.

What has gone well for you as a student this year?

- grades
- Grades
- I enjoy all of my courses, and I have great teachers. I have made lots of nice friends.
- I have been able to make hood bonds with certain teachers/ administrators which is reassuring knowing that there are people there for me if I need it.

- I think making friends and finding my way around the school was definitely easy
- the teachers are easy to talk to, meeting new people
- meeting new people and making new friends
- my grades
- Easing into the school year and getting used to my teachers.
- Getting used to high school and the community of teachers and students.
- better grades
- My English grade surprisingly.
- Finding my way around the school
- I am able to pick what classes i want to take.
- Being able to work around with your schedule
- My grades are getting better
- Getting in work on time
- Teacher were really nice and helpful
- Understanding what teachers want me to do or if I don't get something I understand the way that they help me in.
- Most teachers are nice to me and other students.
- My track season has been good.
- The teachers are nice.
- making new friends and getting well grades
- my grades are all above 80
- I have made new friends and kept organized
- Sports, global, English
- More flexibility, more accountability, so that the students have more time and less strict deadlines.
- My grades
- All my classes and sports
- Grades so far and meeting new people through extracurricular activities
- Most of the teachers, the independence, social aspect.
- My grades are good and most teachers are phenomenal
- Global history, Geometry, Spanish, English
- I have been able to find my classes easily and the teachers here are very nice and helpful.
- I've had a lot of opportunities for electives and higher level educational class.
- elective classes, math, science
- I have been able to maintain good grades and the classes were calm and controlled
- one thing that has gone well is my grades
- I have been getting very good grades and made it into All-County for flute. I have also been prepared and have gotten all my work done.
- Using my planner, staying on top of my work, completing all of my work, and trying my best not to procrastinate on assignments that are due at a further date.

- My teachers are generally very accepting, supportive, and unbiased when it comes to students with different opinions, lifestyles, religions, etc.
- My classes have gone really well this year. Again, my teachers are really nice about homework and assignments. I've heard from multiple teachers that they understand that we have other commitments, so they aren't as strict with homework. We still have to have it in as soon as possible, but some teachers accept late work a few days after they're due.
- I opened myself to new people/met new people
- nothing really
- academics
- academics
- Good teachers
- A lot of good preparation from teachers before tests and quizzes
- Getting good grades in classes
- This year, I have made amazing friends that are now very close to me. I have been succeeding in my work and have maintained my high honors status.
- I made new friends
- Sports
- English
- Being able to talk to my guidance counselor openly
- Pretty good
- my grades have been good
- i've been achieving good grades.
- Math and grades
- sports have gone well for me and my grades are doing pretty well for me.
- i've been maintains decent grades
- Knowing my way around the school
- ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
- Finding and participating in classes that have helped me find my calling- the right teachers make the difference.
- meeting new people
- Teachers availability during Interaction time.

What would you like to happen for students next year?

- more bathroom access
- better lunches
- More recognition for students should be available, and an award should be in place for kindness. Teachers should be able to submit a students name for being kind, sort of like a principals nomination but at least 3 teachers would have to nominate a student.
- I would also like to see a better system for preventing vaping. The school has tried to install vape detectors, but students cut the wires through the ceiling panels. Better and more interactive presentations could be

held, since many kids who are vaping don't pay attention to slideshows with facts. An effective way to engage students in presentations against vaping and drugs would be to act even more energetic and engaged, and to offer prizes to those who answer questions. High school students love prizes, especially candy, so that would be more effective than what is being done now.

- I hope that some of the teachers who should not be there leave. It is awful having to sit through class with them while they ruin the learning environment. There are a few teachers that guidance is very aware of that keep getting classes year after year.
- I would love to cut down on the vaping. I get worried that i might take in the harsh chemicals. Using the bathroom can kinda be scary.
- find ways to improve
- spirit days and assemblies
- more spirit weeks or days
- better food being served
- The school to feel like a safer community.
- for them to feel safer and in a better community.
- For the next year students not to vape.
- I want to be given more electives and different courses
- I want there to be a wider selection of electives for every grade level.
- To be able to have more options of classes
- To understand that vaping is bad and to act their age.
- More bathrooms open
- Teacher by the C wing bathroom
- Try to make the bathrooms more accessible for them.
- I want them to have more freedom.
- Well some teachers and administrators treat some students better than others just because they play lacrosse, which is unfair to other students. Also this school is only about publicity. If we worry about something other than sports for once then we can focus on people who need help with depression and problems at home. And we have way too much homework and assignments, most students already have problems at home and a lot of stress and anxiety so plopping more work on us will only make us more stressed.
- Have more classes for them to choose from
- i dont know
- more time for assignments
- Less homework
- Have a good year
- they're alright
- I'm not sure, the school seems to know what they are doing, and they do it relatively well
- More than four people can go to the library per class
- none
- I want it to be easy for them to adjust to their new environment

- The drop off circle when your getting dropped off in a car and starting school later.
- more time to complete assignments and easier ways to communicate with teachers, other than email
- to use any bathrooms without signing in
- get good grades and have better teachers
- I would like there to be names on the doors of teachers roms because it is easier to find them that way.
- I think teachers should have a limit on the amount of homework they assign every night.
- Extra help with keeping up on work
- Reduce the amount of homework given to students.
- i would like students to be able to pick their lunch periods
- I would like it if efforts were made to make all students feel important.
- I would like them to feel welcomed but also to understand that the dislike of freshmen is an ongoing trend and there's really nothing they can do to stop it, and it's truly nothing personal
- I would like to see students who are comfortable in an environment where they can discover themselves without being put down or rejected by their classmates. I personally know there's a lot of homophobia and transphobia in my school, if not the district. I know that the school isn't allowed to change people's beliefs but I'd like to see the schools teach tolerance of other lifestyles and beliefs.
- Nothing comes to me as of right now.
- Get them involved in things they'd be interested in
- better lunches
- more freedom in the hallways with passes
- less homework
- To keep working hard
- Next year, I think it would be great for the seniors to be able to decorate their senior caps and to allow for senior quotes.
- Less stress and more learning
- Better learning
- I don't know
- Open court yard
- more checkups to see how students are doing mentally and in school
- new elective classes
- new electives to be offered
- Everyone to do good in school
- smaller classes because they are easier to learn in and learning in an open classroom.
- less homework and a slower pace to learn
- More freedom
- have Ackles not try to suspend them for something stupid like a fight in which they were not even a part of. and have him stop bluffing about the vape detectors in the bathroom, it is clear that there are not any. -_(
*)/_-
- To be more understood and listened to. If a student speaks up about an issue, it should be addressed and evaluated respectfully.

- more activities
- Field trips.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Team?

- no
- No
- none
- I would like to see more flexibility in how courses can be taken, like online classes. If a student is suspended, they could be given a Chromebook, and that way still keep up on their schoolwork. Many students who are suspended find themselves falling behind in classes, so that could help. Also, if a student needs extra courses to stay challenged, or because they want to fit more courses into their schedule, that could help them.
- I would also like to see more artwork in the halls, since they are pretty plain and dull. The music wing decorates the hallway for Christmas, and whenever students go into that hallway, their day is brightened. Maybe the National Art Honor Society could paint some murals in the halls promoting Positivity, working together with the Positivity Project Club, or they could raise awareness about the environment, while working with ECOS. More communication between departments would be good, perhaps if a representative from each department or club could be chosen to meet with others and discuss current projects.
- I think positivity might need to rise.
- that atrium bathroom is scary to go in alone at times
- The atrium bathroom is scary sometimes because of the number of fights that occur there
- school is most difficult in the first few periods because it's just too early. I need to use the bathroom in the day, but there are people vaping in there, but closing bathrooms ISNT the answer! The music wing bathroom is the singular good one.
- Nope
- No I have expressed my opinions and concerns.
- Can we please have cheaper vending machines?
- ways to improve grades
- We need to have more people put an end to everyone who decides that being an idiot is fun.
- Please do something with the vaping in the bathrooms
- Please make the bathrooms more accessible to other people by eliminating the problems that go on in there.
- nothing
- ban homework, I just went to school for 7 hours, so basically a job with no pay.
- No.
- its annoying when most of the bathrooms are locked
- I think that West Genesee is a very good highschool to attend in the fact that many graduates become successful and earn academic achievements.
- I think our district would benefit from exploring later school start times in the high/middle school and earlier times in the elementary school.
- no

- I would like people to take steps to cut down on the amount of vaping students because their vaping affects everyone's health and I don't want to have my health suffer just because I go into the bathroom to wash my hands.
- People vape a lot and no one really stops them even though they vape openly in the bathrooms, not even in a stall. Have a great week/weekend/happy belated Hanukkah!
- I believe the district should have more gender-neutral bathrooms (or just not have any gendered bathrooms at all). I almost never go to the bathrooms at school, just because the gender-neutral ones are usually all the way on the other side of the school. I am female to non-binary, so sometimes I just end up using the female bathrooms instead. Also, the excuse of "that's the way we have always done things" is invalid in my opinion, because things are always changing. There is almost no consistency in society at all.
- Keep doing what you're doing! This is a great school and the reason I want to stay here when I'm older!
- We should have more advocacy for mental problems students may face such as anxiety and depression. I believe there should be maybe programs students can go to to talk with someone about how they're feeling. I can personally say that if we as a district provided something like this, I probably would not be struggling with myself both internally and externally. Students tend to keep everything inside, and it destroys them. It makes them tired. It makes them unmotivated. It makes it hard for them to get on with the day. From personal experience, I have ultimately ended up missing classes because I was crying to one of my friends in a bathroom. Ultimately, I felt bad skipping, but I couldn't bring myself to face that teacher with puffy, red eyes.
- in some classes the homework level is low and it has helped with my stress and made me enjoy school more
- No, this school is very nice coming from a new student if 1 and 1/2 years.
- if students request a teacher it's most likely because that teacher fits their learning needs and to not put them in that teachers room is a disservice is that child because they now will not do as well as they are capable.
- if a student requests a teacher it is because they need that teacher to learn and not allowing them to have that teacher is a disservice and hurt the students chances
- Keep up the good work, and do what will make the school a more welcoming and safe enviornment for its students.
- N/A