

2021 Senior Exit Interviews - Summary Data

Themes & Quotes

- Students couldn't recall specific learning experiences as much as relationships and connections between students and teachers - intentionality, overt illustration of value for students (or lack thereof) was clear from their descriptions. "It's not about what they're teaching you, but if they care about you."
- The difficulty of the transition from Middle to High School -> especially going into the IB program. We were surprised to hear that the transition from Elem to Middle was not seen as that big of a jump.
- Joining clubs to find your group. "Stop listening to what other people tell you what you should think and do. Find what interests you."
- Strong desire to continue HS coursework (and earlier access was suggested) that directly correlates with job/career opportunities and provides hands-on learning (medical magnet, welding, Skills Center, financial algebra, etc.). "More students should know about these programs. They should be promoting them every year." "Financial algebra should be a required class, not just a Senior elective."
- The learning that they remembered the most were project based learning opportunities.
- Counselors: Need more check ins and stronger relationships. "More counselors who care at HS. Frequent check ins."
- Nearly all students reported family mobility over their school career and spoke to the difficulty of transition between schools/districts. "Middle school 6th grade I was at a 4.0 and then I switched schools and it was a big change. Everything changed."
- Relationships, relationships, relationships.
- Bring back home economics, nutrition, shop. More applicable classes like coding. "I'm scared of not being life-skills smart"
- Strong student recognition of and value for diversity reflected among their peers. "I can see a new face everyday. Everyone is different. It's like a little melting pot - so many diverse students. Fort embodies a culture of diversity." "All the events/sports program, win or lose, we still support each other."
- Having leadership opportunities even from a young age was incredibly beneficial.
- Hands On experiences. "Keep Cascadia." "Like Independent living project"
- Strong theme of support from teachers and other staff. "There's always someone to talk to at Fort: counselors, teachers, etc." "Keep doing it and not judging us. Family members need it as well."
- The students really notice the teachers that are willing to give one on one support, as well as growing their classes through community.
- Need a more structured transition from middle to high school. "Develop a transition plan for incoming freshman, starting at middle school."