

# SAC Parent Survey Results

Ben Franklin Academy

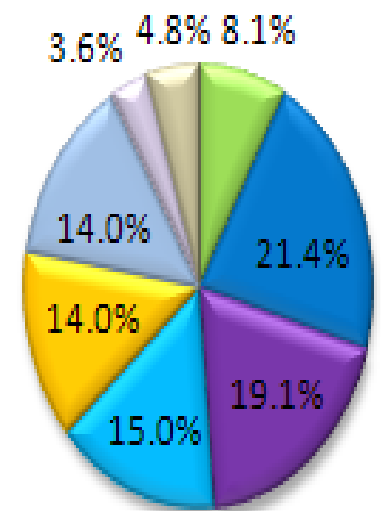
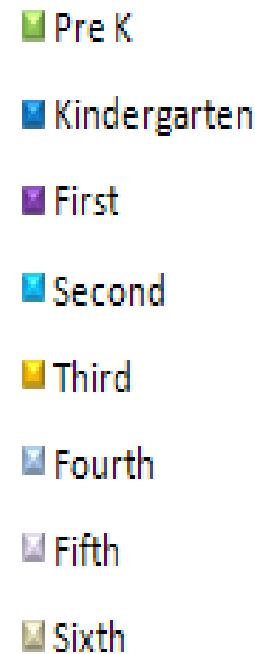
April 2012

# Results

- Survey was administered over a two week period on the BFA website
- 324 responses received
- Scale answers averaged for overall scores
- Open ended questions coded for themes

## 2. Grades of Children Attending

Choices	Responses	% of Total
Pre K	32	8.1%
Kindergarten	84	21.4%
First	75	19.1%
Second	59	15.0%
Third	55	14.0%
Fourth	55	14.0%
Fifth	14	3.6%
Sixth	19	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



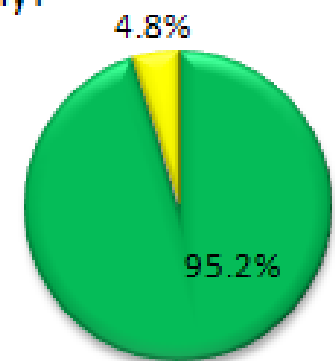
4. Should extra-curricular activities be offered to students at Ben Franklin Academy?

# Not Responded : 9 Response Rate 97.2%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
Yes	300	95.2%
No	15	4.8%
	315	100.0%

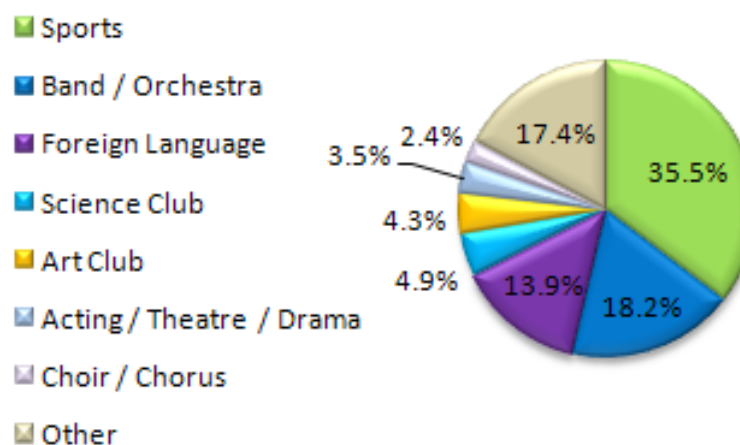
■ Yes

■ No



5. If yes, please list the top three extra-curricular activities you would like to see offered at Ben Franklin Academy:

Choices	Responses	% of Total
Sports	255	35.5%
Band / Orchestra	131	18.2%
Foreign Language	100	13.9%
Science Club	35	4.9%
Art Club	31	4.3%
Acting / Theatre / Dram	25	3.5%
Choir / Chorus	17	2.4%
Other	125	17.4%
Total	719	100.0%

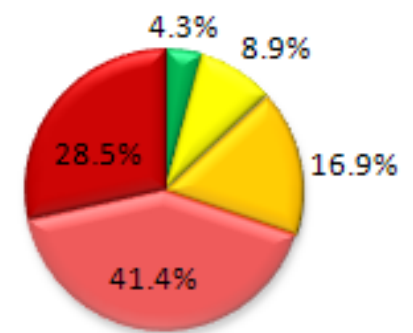


6. If yes, please identify the price range you would be willing to pay per semester per activity

# Not Responded : 22 Response Rate 93.2%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
\$200+	13	4.3%
\$150 - \$200	27	8.9%
\$100 - \$150	51	16.9%
\$50 - \$100	125	41.4%
\$0 - \$50	86	28.5%
	302	100.0%

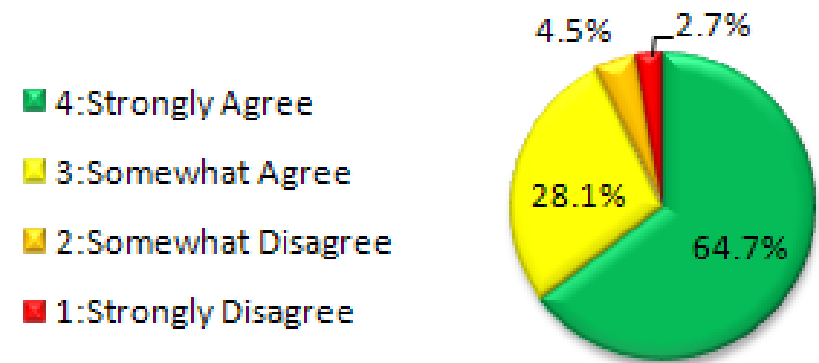
- \$200+
- \$150 - \$200
- \$100 - \$150
- \$50 - \$100
- \$0 - \$50



7. Communication attempts with administration (i.e. calls, emails) gets a response within 24hours (excluding weekends and holidays).

# Not Responded : 32 Response Rate 90.1%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	189	64.7%
3:Somewhat Agree	82	28.1%
2:Somewhat Disagree	13	4.5%
1:Strongly Disagree	8	2.7%
Total	292	100.0%

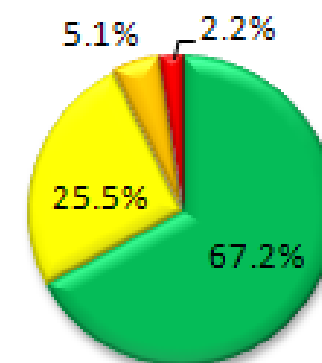


8. Information provided by administration is accurate

# Not Responded : 10 Response Rate 96.9%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	211	67.2%
3:Somewhat Agree	80	25.5%
2:Somewhat Disagree	16	5.1%
1:Strongly Disagree	7	2.2%
Total	314	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



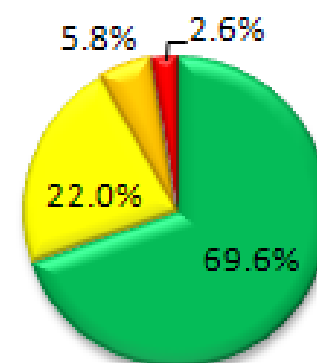


9. Communication with administration is helpful

# Not Responded : 11 Response Rate 96.6%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	218	69.6%
3:Somewhat Agree	69	22.0%
2:Somewhat Disagree	18	5.8%
1:Strongly Disagree	8	2.6%
Total	313	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

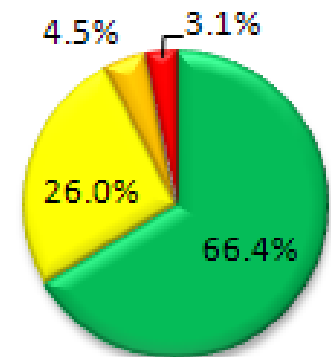


10. If the BFA Administration staff is unable to answer a question, they direct me to an individual who can

# Not Responded : 35 Response Rate 89.2%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	192	66.4%
3:Somewhat Agree	75	26.0%
2:Somewhat Disagree	13	4.5%
1:Strongly Disagree	9	3.1%
Total	289	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



# Comments from Parents Regarding Administration

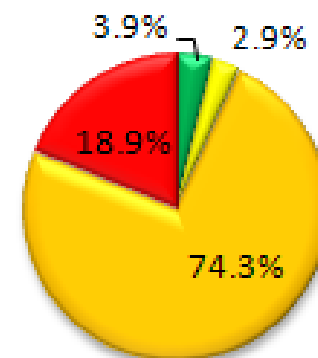
- 121 comments were provided
- Noted strengths – 70
  - Principal Barber’s newsletter
  - front office helpful
- Suggestions for improvement -39
  - communication needs to be more streamlined and consistent (i.e. website, attendance line)
  - parent input is not valued by administration
  - parents sometimes feel unwelcome in the school
  - phones need to be answered after 3pm

12. Communication attempts with teaching staff (i.e. calls, emails) gets a response within 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays)

# Not Responded : 17 Response Rate 94.8%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	12	3.9%
3:Somewhat Agree	9	2.9%
2:Somewhat Disagree	228	74.3%
1:Strongly Disagree	58	18.9%
Total	307	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

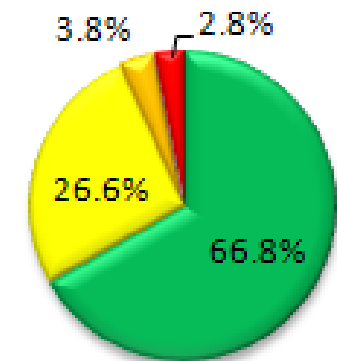


13. Information provided by teaching staff is accurate

# Not Responded : 8 Response Rate 97.5%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	211	66.8%
3:Somewhat Agree	84	26.6%
2:Somewhat Disagree	12	3.8%
1:Strongly Disagree	9	2.8%
Total	316	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

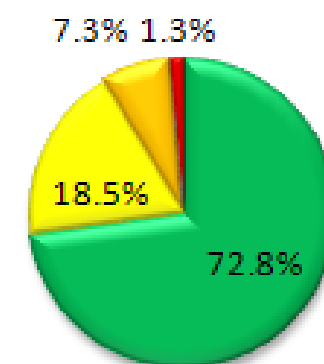


14. Communication with teaching staff is helpful

# Not Responded : 11 Response Rate 96.6%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	228	72.8%
3:Somewhat Agree	58	18.5%
2:Somewhat Disagree	23	7.3%
1:Strongly Disagree	4	1.3%
Total	313	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

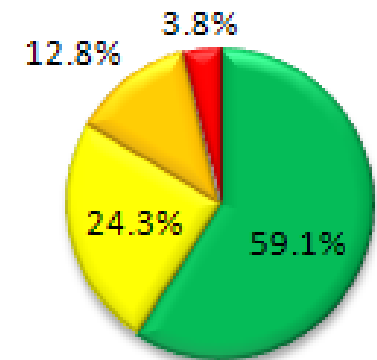


15. I receive the necessary face to face time with teaching staff

# Not Responded : 11 Response Rate 96.6%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	185	59.1%
3:Somewhat Agree	76	24.3%
2:Somewhat Disagree	40	12.8%
1:Strongly Disagree	12	3.8%
Total	313	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



# Parent's comments on Teaching Staff

- 196 comments provided
- Noted Strengths - 93
  - overall communication with teachers was **helpful**
  - emails and newsletters sent out by teachers were appreciated
- Areas for Improvement - 74
  - not enough details or information provided on student homework
  - information from teachers was late-coming
  - parents were not welcome in the classroom
  - little face to face time with teachers
  - short duration and infrequent schedules of the parent-teacher conferences
  - 29 parent comments specifically spoke to the websites used by teachers with the majority of parents reporting that the websites were confusing, difficult to use and full of outdated information.

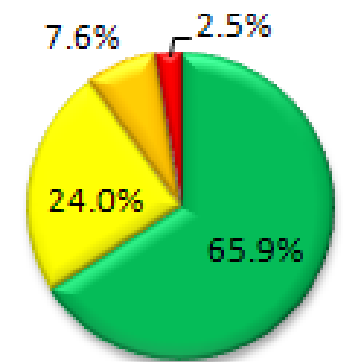


17.a The specific academic needs of my child(ren) are being met by the curriculum offered at BFA

# Not Responded : 7 Response Rate 97.8%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	209	65.9%
3:Somewhat Agree	76	24.0%
2:Somewhat Disagree	24	7.6%
1:Strongly Disagree	8	2.5%
Total	317	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



# Parent's comments on Curriculum

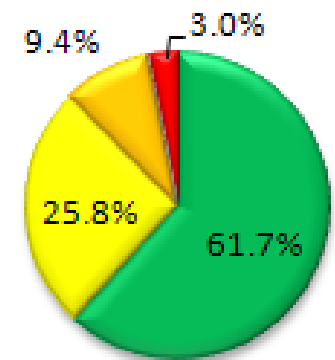
- 44 comments provided
- Areas of Improvement
  - 34 reported that the curriculum was not challenging enough for their students
  - Specific curriculum lacking identified by parents focused on the reading curriculum – especially in the kindergarten program
  - Ability grouping
    - no true ability grouping
    - poor assessment of children for the ability groups
    - lack of communication between the school and parents regarding their child's placement and progress in these ability groups

18. The curriculum offered at BFA is more challenging than the curriculum offered at the school my child(ren) attended last year

# Not Responded : 26 Response Rate 92.0%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	184	61.7%
3:Somewhat Agree	77	25.8%
2:Somewhat Disagree	28	9.4%
1:Strongly Disagree	9	3.0%
Total	298	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

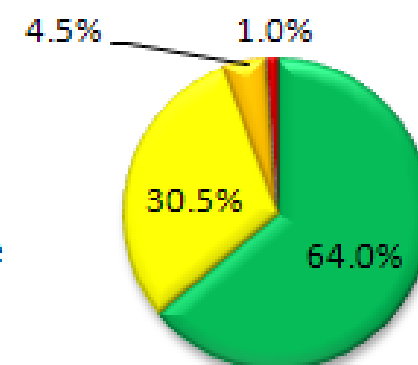


19. The CORE Knowledge curriculum is implemented effectively

# Not Responded : 16 Response Rate 95.1%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	197	64.0%
3:Somewhat Agree	94	30.5%
2:Somewhat Disagree	14	4.5%
1:Strongly Disagree	3	1.0%
Total	308	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

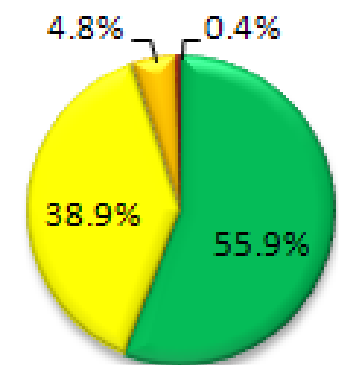


20. The CORE Knowledge curriculum is implemented consistently across grade levels (i.e. all 4th graders learn the same material within the school year)

# Not Responded : 54 Response Rate 83.3%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	151	55.9%
3:Somewhat Agree	105	38.9%
2:Somewhat Disagree	13	4.8%
1:Strongly Disagree	1	0.4%
Total	270	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

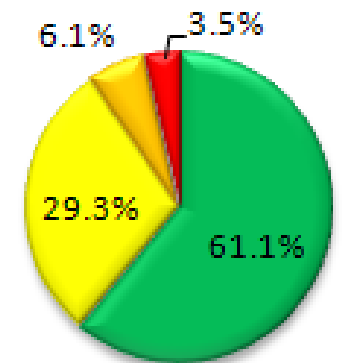


21. The ability grouping system at BFA is effective for my child(ren)

# Not Responded : 13 Response Rate 96.0%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	190	61.1%
3:Somewhat Agree	91	29.3%
2:Somewhat Disagree	19	6.1%
1:Strongly Disagree	11	3.5%
Total	311	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



# Parent's Comments on Curriculum

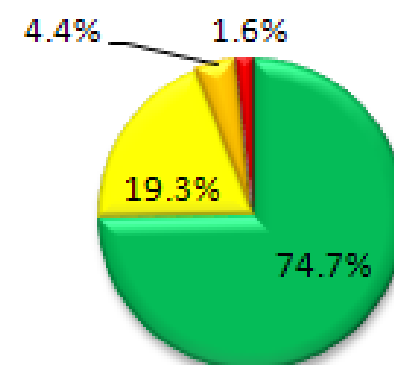
- 100 comments provided
- Areas of Strength - 34
  - 22 parents reported they were happy with the ability grouping at BFA
  - 12 parents stated they were happy with the overall curriculum
- Areas of Improvement -30
  - ability grouping was not challenging enough
  - their children were placed in the wrong ability group
  - no “true” ability grouping at BFA
- 12 comments on Kindergarten curriculum (7 positive, 5 negative)
- 10 comments on Math curriculum (8 positive, 2 negative)
- Other Comments
  - lack of communication from the school on the curriculum and the ability groups in which their child was placed
  - the 13 Virtues were not being incorporated into the curriculum at BFA
  - teachers were inconsistently implementing curriculum

23. I have a clear understanding of the volunteer commitment for BFA parents

# Not Responded : 8 Response Rate 97.5%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	236	74.7%
3:Somewhat Agree	61	19.3%
2:Somewhat Disagree	14	4.4%
1:Strongly Disagree	5	1.6%
Total	316	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



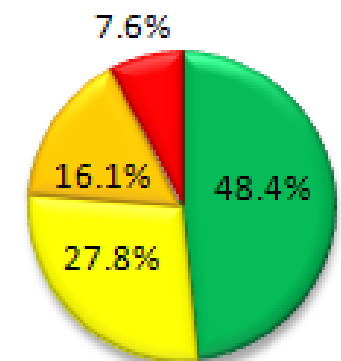


24. It is easy to sign up for volunteer activities at BFA

# Not Responded : 8 Response Rate 97.5%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	153	48.4%
3:Somewhat Agree	88	27.8%
2:Somewhat Disagree	51	16.1%
1:Strongly Disagree	24	7.6%
Total	316	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



# Parents Ideas for Additional Volunteer Activities

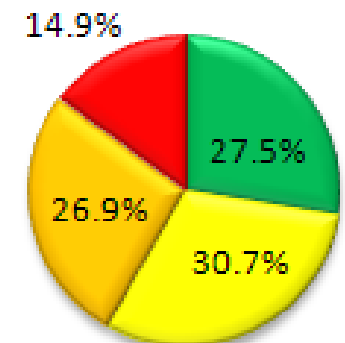
- 56 comments gave suggestions for additional activities
  - 21 – classroom opportunities
  - 22 - home/after hours
  - 3 – allow donations or money in lieu of time
- 10 Parents stated there were sufficient volunteer activities

26. I am aware of supplemental instructional resource materials available to help my child(ren) with their CORE homework (i.e. online textbooks)

# Not Responded : 15 Response Rate 95.4%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	85	27.5%
3:Somewhat Agree	95	30.7%
2:Somewhat Disagree	83	26.9%
1:Strongly Disagree	46	14.9%
Total	309	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

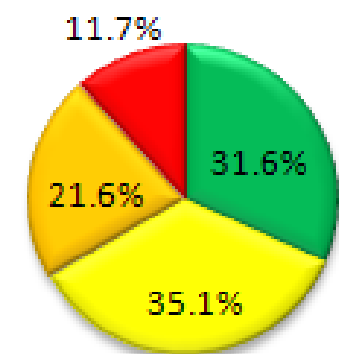


27. I am able to access the necessary supplemental instructional materials needed to help my child(ren) complete their daily homework

# Not Responded : 33 Response Rate 89.8%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	92	31.6%
3:Somewhat Agree	102	35.1%
2:Somewhat Disagree	63	21.6%
1:Strongly Disagree	34	11.7%
Total	291	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

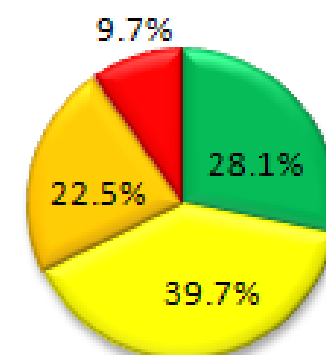


28. The supplemental instructional resource materials available are adequate

# Not Responded : 57 Response Rate 82.4%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	75	28.1%
3:Somewhat Agree	106	39.7%
2:Somewhat Disagree	60	22.5%
1:Strongly Disagree	26	9.7%
Total	267	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

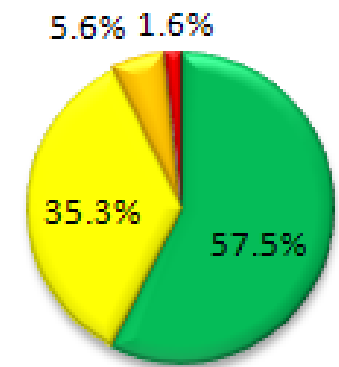


29. The general BFA website (bfacademy.org) has useful information posted

# Not Responded : 4 Response Rate 98.8%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	184	57.5%
3:Somewhat Agree	113	35.3%
2:Somewhat Disagree	18	5.6%
1:Strongly Disagree	5	1.6%
Total	320	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree

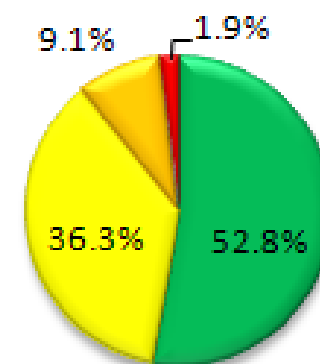


30. The general BFA website (bfacademy.org) is user friendly

# Not Responded : 4 Response Rate 98.8%

Choices	Responses	% of Total
4:Strongly Agree	169	52.8%
3:Somewhat Agree	116	36.3%
2:Somewhat Disagree	29	9.1%
1:Strongly Disagree	6	1.9%
Total	320	100.0%

- 4:Strongly Agree
- 3:Somewhat Agree
- 2:Somewhat Disagree
- 1:Strongly Disagree



# Additional Suggestions Provided by Parents

- Overwhelming positive comments
- Majority of families expressed their gratitude to the board, teaching staff, and administration of BFA
- Areas of improvement
  - parking
  - carpool concerns
  - more streamlined communication
  - \$150 supply fee
  - need for more FTF time with the teaching staff



# Additional Themes Noted Throughout Survey

- In addition to the significant themes noted in each question, more minor themes were present repeatedly throughout all areas of the survey
  - Keep information as streamlined as possible for school
  - Keep information as current as possible (Board notes, homework, school activities, volunteer activities)
  - Allow parents more in-class time

# Implications & Recommendations of the SAC

- Extra curricular activities need to be added
  - Survey shows that sports, music and foreign language are popular requests
  - The majority of parents will pay up to \$100/semester for these activities
- Teaching staff needs to return parent phone calls and emails within 24 hours per BFA policy

# Implications & Recommendations Continued

- Parents need additional opportunities to see their teachers face-to-face to communicate with teachers about their students progress (i.e. longer/more frequent parent teacher conferences, in-class volunteer opportunities)
- PTO Manager/Sign –up Genius may want to be re-examined. Parents cited it as a difficult system to use
- If Administration/Teaching staff feels the use of supplemental materials at home is important, additional information should be given to parents