

Student Exchange Day Feedback

Bus Times:

Bus Loaded at WCS: 7:47

Bus departure from WCS: 7:51

Arrival to ELCS: 8:05 (14 minutes)

Depart ELCS: 9:56

Arrive WCS: 10:08 (12 minutes)

Raw Feedback

8th Grade:

- Transportation: today the issue was how unclear the procedure was for them
: after today, there are concerns about the timing. The kids do not feel that there will be enough time to get to Westport, go to ELCS, go to their locker and get to homeroom. : there was not enough room on the bus this morning; it was crowded with backpacks, etc. Some students had to sit on the floor of the bus.
- Building itself: students were concerned about the layout of the ELCS building; afraid of getting lost, etc. : cafeteria seemed cramped; will all students be able to get lunch and breakfast?: The locks are built into their lockers. Students are concerned with not being able to unlock their locker. Will there be enough lockers for everyone?
- Classrooms are smaller--how will they all fit? Will they be split into two groups? Will they be mixed with ELCS students?
- Felt food was good; not paying for breakfast or lunch is awesome
- Schedule: some liked 11 period schedule; others did not like that--classes are too short
- Electives: the students felt that ELCS had more electives than WCS; they felt the gym program provided opportunities to do things we do not do here--archery, mountain biking, rope course. Students expressed positive feelings towards the teachers and how they tailor their classes to students' interests. Some actually like the 11 period schedule; they felt they could do more during the school day. One student even said that he is now pro-merge because of the electives they will offer. Model UN seems awesome. Computers and technology seemed better.

- Teachers: the ELCS teachers made a great impression on the 8th graders. The teachers seemed nice and excited to have the group there; this was reassuring. There was concern expressed that they will have all new teachers. Will some of our teachers be in the ELCS building?
- Traditions: concern of losing our traditions--Halloween. Could we still do some of the things we do at WCS?

9th Grade

- Elective options were different, better.
- School seemed small
- Will there be enough lockers?
- Free food program is great
- 1 bus was far too crowded
- Taking attendance on bus was difficult
- Outdoor classroom was a positive
- Student to teacher ratio was better
- What is the technology situation? Do they have Chromebooks? Can we get them?
- Feel more comfortable having a discussion now.
- What we observed is different from what we have heard

10th Grade

- Too many people on the bus/need more buses for shuttle
- Paint in high school needs to be more inclusive of Westport
- Recycling needs to happen in Etown
- Phone/Backpack rules are different from WCS
- Food trays are too small
- Computer lab is too small
- Phys Ed is cool
- Weight room is lacking
- Is there Student Council representation? Voting? Advisors? Prom? Halloween?
- How will the class be split? 49 total students in grade level
- School smells

- School seemed small
- Paint the walls
- Recycling was not evident
- Backpack and phone rules
- 5 LTE
- Food Trays
- Free Lunch
- Slippery Stairs
- Cafeteria was small, dark, and not as clean as ours
- Cool gym set up
- Teachers seem similar to our teachers
- Weight room needs upgrades
- Student council concerns
- Creatively spend club money, junior prom
- Concern about keeping our teachers
-

11th Grade:

- The students commented on the overloaded bus ride.
- They also commented that they would like to have input into the decision/process.
- The students asked about the process of selecting BOE members. They also asked about additional privileges in a merged district, such as late arrival, early dismissal, senior lounge, and an open campus during free periods.
- If a merger goes through, our students want real time to get to know their student peers and time to know their new teachers *before* the first day of a new school year.
- They liked the idea of traditions mentioned and said a lot about the visuals of ELCS - colors, quotes, mascots around, welcome signs for WCS, and more. Regardless of the vote, this may be some interesting conversations for WCS to explore anyways as students DO want to add to their HS experiences.
- The students were discussing some of the current differences in the way we operate - free breakfast and 11 period days at ELCS for example.

Student Exchange Day Feedback Summary Table

Bus	Building	Programming	Tech/Teaching	Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Absolutely need TWO Shuttle Busses ● Concerns for at 8:00 am start time/breakfast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concerns over layout of the building and getting lost ● Cafeteria seemed cramped/small/dark ● Did not seem to be enough lockers ● Locker style was different. ● Classrooms seemed smaller ● Outdoor classroom was great ● Paint needs to be more inclusive of Westport ● Computer lab is too small ● Weight room is lacking/needs upgrades ● Slippery stairs ● Liked visuals (colors/quotes/mascots) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food was good ● Free food program is great ● 11 period schedule had mixed reviews ● Elective opportunities were great/different. ● Concern for losing our traditions ● Student to teacher ratio was better ● Recycling does not happen in Etown, but needs to ● Phone/backpack rules are different ● Club/extracurricular questions concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers and technology seemed better ● Teachers seemed nice and excited ● They do not have chromebooks. Can we get them? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students want input moving forward ● Can additional privileges be discussed? ● If merger, students want to get to know students and teachers prior to 2019-20

Conclusions from the Interim Superintendent:

I believe that the “Shuttle Bus” model -outlined in the merger study- is still the best option with some modifications. Our students have unanimously said that the bus was far too crowded. The exchange day did not include students school bags, athletic bags, nor musical instruments. We should plan on two shuttle buses, both departing at 7:45. We had a delayed departure. I imagine that with a little practice, a 7:45 departure will be possible. An 8:00 start time will most likely be too early. Considering that the shuttled students will most likely need to get to their locker prior to the start of 1st period, a slightly later time should be considered. I also suggest looking at some kind of “grab and go” breakfast for students to eat at their destination. Like anything else, this will take some getting used to for everyone involved. As long as the administration provides enough time in the master schedule to allow for the shuttle bus and morning routines, everything else can be worked out.