

2006-2007 Cottonwood Valley Charter School Annual Parent Survey Comments

K-5 responses:

10. What are some of the strengths or successes you have seen at CVCS this year?

“ I like the newsletter. It’s very helpful....It’s a great asset to the school and Jill is a wonderful asset to the school and very helpful and supportive to parents.”

“More participation n competitive events, the music and band program is improving. The gardens were a great idea. dress code is excellent.”

“Teamwork, parent participation.”

“Teachers standing out side in the morning and in the afternoon.”

“very good overall”

“Seems like there are a lot of concerned, active, involved parents who are really working hard to get things to happen, like those on the GC”

“Ms. Nutt’s education principles. Dress code. Learning environment in the classroom. Flexibility in the curriculum. Strong parent involvement.”

“Newsletter is a big plus. Winter garden is a great idea. Fall Fest was an excellent tool for fundraising and for parent-parent and parent-teacher meetings.”

“We seem to have some of the friendliest and happiest children at CVCS that I have ever seen. WE still have occasional problems, but much less that I hear of at other schools”

“The garden is beautiful! The new drop-off/ pick-up area is working out just fine.”

“...Interest and involvement with my children- adapting or adjusting programs/schedules in order to achieve optimal learning and interest in subjects.”

“The strength of the school this year are the strong academic performance. My child has improved a lot since starting CVCS.”

“Strong parental involvement in school activities. CVCS is the BEST school in town for my kid!”

“Very strong staff with genuine affection for kids. Good teaching and open lines of communication.”

11. What are some of the strengths or are that need improvement at CVCS?

General grounds and more consistent maintenance.

“I really miss having an art teacher.”

“I’d like e-mail updates and newsletters.”

12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the improvement of our school?

“Pick-up area”

“School bus needed to take children to hot lunch.”

“Gifted program implemented and expanded.”

“I think with some small changes CVCS could be a leader in the ‘greenification’ of Socorro by using environmentally healthy cleaning products and soaps in the classrooms.”

“Keep up the good work!”

“A new permanent building would be fabulous!”

“Wear school I.D.’s for teachers/personnel and students to identify strangers on campus.”

“Cafeteria/Canteen to cater for the students.”

Tighter security like tighter fencing on all sides.”

“One way entry and exit for everybody.”

“Plant more trees on campus- 1 class bring in 5 trees.”

“Perhaps a temporary building for a cafeteria and some fencing o limit the key points.”

“Teachers should be required to return notes...continues”

“More communication with parents.”

“The school would benefit from the addition of a curriculum co-coordinator whose responsibility it is to implement the charter, over see and guide the teachers as they fuse NMBS, C.K. using integrated and experiential methods.”

“CVCS provides a wonderful small school, community feeling however academically it’s no different than the rest.”

Middle School

10. What are the strengths or successes you have seen at CVCS this year?

“History and science classes both particularly strong, caring teachers and staff are a great asset.”

“Administrator is responsive. Teachers are attentive to individual students and solve conflicts.”

“Teaching staff improving as a group, discipline improving campus wide in all grades, bullying program helped = keeping focus this year, School unity and true community spirit growing among the kids themselves.”

“The new vegetable garden, bike path”

“Much improved math teacher. History and Science class are very good. Art classes have been more enjoyable for our child this year.”

“Great beginning for the garden program- hope to see further development and more support for the gardens as parents lend a hand and staff incorporates them more into their daily classroom studies.”

11. What are some of the weaknesses or areas that need improvement at CVCS?

“More enforcement of school policy with staff.”

“The ARTS!”

“Implementing Core Knowledge consistently in each grade and throughout the school. The depth of the program is lost because there are huge gaps in instruction. In fourth grade particularly, students are not gaining exposure to specific topics on which to build in future years. Curriculums are not being integrated as called for in the charter.

The gifted program is very disappointing. It was touted as being pull out because ‘gifted children need to be with their own kind for interaction’ however this is not what seems to be taking place. Each child is told to choose a project of his or her liking and the entire session is spent on individual ‘research.’ There seems to be no advising, no community mentoring, very little guidance, very low expectations. At the end of the research period student will read their power point presentations to each other. What happened to creative problem solving and stimulating interaction?”

“Infrastructure- planning needed for cold weather at lunch time. No security plan that I am aware of.”

“Food services for students. Campus security- anybody can just enter the school premises which will cause problems.”

“Textbooks are weak although the teachers are doing a good job of providing supplementary material.”

“Art and Spanish need help.”

“I would like to see Spanish classes adjusted to skill levels rather than grade levels. I would love to have seen my son learn conversational Spanish and take an interest in Spanish. He has never had any contact with Spanish and yet he was placed with students who were much more advanced than he was. He was overwhelmed, continues to translate paragraphs of words he does not understand, has come to hate Spanish and cannot say even simple basic things, words, sentences in Spanish. It seems like it would be more productive to have Spanish 1,2,3, etc. with classes of mixed-age level students, introducing students at appropriate Spanish levels rather than going by grade levels.”

“Infrastructure, nothing mo’ money can’t fix!”

“We need our own lunch program. Then we can initiate lunch time tutoring or discipline programs and those who eat hot lunch could still have a lunch recess.”

“With the exception of elective study, we aren’t seeing the C.K. curriculum being advanced. This doesn’t mean that it isn’t getting done- just that we aren’t seeing it.”

“Physical setting, gifted program, need to utilize community resources more (e.g. Tech), Need to have a much stronger intervention program for kids falling behind in lower grades (k-3)

“Perhaps offer another language besides Spanish.”

“Too many assignments are dreary, repetitive, boring worksheets. These stifle authentic interest in nearly any topic. Field trips are too few and need better integration into curriculum.”

“C.K.= Fragmented uninspired teaching. Few to no projects for 7th grade.”

“Gifted program to be implemented and expanded.”

“Drop off area needs to be organized so everyone is safe.”

12 Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the improvement of our school?

“Teachers need support- in service and/or summer training in effective, student centered teaching in their subject areas esp. Spanish, history ...well all of them really!”

“Maybe it’s a combination of C.K. and NCLB, teaching to the test pressure- something is squeezing all the creativity and true learning out except for those kids who are strongly self-motivated. Way too little experiential learning for 7th grade.

“School has been steadily improving over the years.”

“Have a vice-principal/administrator.”