



FY26 Parent Survey Results

Early School Survey Results (Ages 2–5) – 12 Responses

Enrollment & Calendar

- Strong willingness to **continue enrollment** and **return next year**.
- Families are generally **open to a balanced/year-round calendar**.
- Majority would attend **biannual State of the School updates**.
- Openness to adjusting hours to **8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** to support activities.

Care Hours

- Current Early Care and After Care hours **meet most families' needs**.
- Only **one family** requested:
 - Earlier Early Care start at **7:00 a.m.**
 - After Care ending at **5:00 p.m.**

Why Families Choose Rivermont

Dominant themes:

- **Small class sizes & individualized attention**
- **High-quality early education and kindergarten readiness**
- **Loving, nurturing environment**
- **Exceptional teachers (especially Mrs. Shepherd and Mrs. Weeks)**
- **Flexibility and reliable before/after care**
- **Nonsectarian, academically focused setting**

Teachers are a **major retention driver** at this level.

Improving the Parent Experience



Primary concern: communication

- Desire for:
 - Daily or more detailed updates (eating, sleeping, behavior)
 - More advanced notice for trips and events
 - Clearer, more consistent schoolwide communication
 - Improvements to the parent app
- Several families report being **fully satisfied**, but communication gaps are the most frequent suggestion.

Improving the Student Experience

- Many families are satisfied.
- Notable suggestions:
 - More **outdoor and play-based learning**
 - **Extracurriculars/sports** for younger students
 - Strong concern from one family about **developmental appropriateness in the 2–4 classroom**, recommending curriculum review and professional support.
 - Desire to extend **Montessori-style, project-based learning** into older grades.

Teacher & Administration Satisfaction

- **Very high satisfaction with teachers**, especially named educators.
- Administration satisfaction is also **strong**, with trust expressed in leadership.
- Families value being **listened to** when concerns are raised.

Communication Satisfaction

- Generally positive but mixed.
- Key issues:
 - Missed emails
 - Poor advance notice
 - Safety/security communication (doors)
 - Spring break childcare communication failure cited as high impact.



Lower School Survey Results (Grades K–5) – 23 Responses

Enrollment & Calendar

- Strong intent to **return next year**.
- High interest in **biannual school updates**.
- Openness to:
 - **Balanced calendar**
 - **8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. schedule**
- Ideal class size consistently cited as **small (15–18 students)**.

Why Families Choose Rivermont

Overwhelmingly consistent theme:

- **Small class sizes**
- Personalized learning
- Academic rigor
- Close-knit, diverse community
- Students **want to be there**

This is Rivermont's **core value proposition**.

Improving the Parent Experience

Communication is the dominant issue:

- Need for:
 - One **centralized, clear calendar**
 - Earlier notice for events, trips, spirit days
 - Reduced rumors through proactive communication
 - Better use of FACTS and PAW Postings
- Operational concerns:
 - Pickup/parking organization
 - Aftercare structure
 - Lunch



Improving the Student Experience

Common requests:

- **More clubs, sports, enrichment, and STEAM**
- Increased rigor for high-achieving students
- Better classroom management and consistency in discipline
- More structured aftercare
- Bullying prevention and accountability
- Stratifying students by ability within classrooms

Teacher Satisfaction

- Generally **very positive**
- Teachers described as caring and effective.
- Concerns include:
 - Inconsistent discipline
 - Communication when problems arise
 - Some concerns about 5th-grade instruction

Administration Satisfaction

- Mixed feedback:
 - Some praise improvement over last year
 - Others cite disorganization, lack of accountability, and inconsistent leadership
- Perception that communication and transparency need improvement.



Communication Satisfaction

- One of the **lowest-rated areas**.
- Issues include:
 - Missed emails
 - Overwhelming or untargeted communication
 - Major decisions (tuition increases, capital campaigns) not clearly explained
 - Parents learning information through gossip rather than official channels

Additional Offerings Requested

- More **elite extracurriculars**
- Performing arts (dance, theater)
- Foreign languages
- Independent study and electives
- Sports and academic competitions



Middle School Survey Results (Grades 6–8) – 15 Responses

Enrollment & Scheduling

- Majority plan to return.
- Interest in:
 - Balanced calendar
 - 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. schedule
 - Transportation for after-school sports
- Strong preference for **small class sizes**.

Why Families Choose Rivermont

- **Personalized attention**
- Small class sizes
- Academic focus
- Safe environment (including avoiding bullying)
- Opportunities for acceleration

Improving the Parent Experience

Key themes:

- Better academic transparency (grades, struggles, tutoring)
- Clearer tuition information
- Centralized communication
- Board meeting visibility
- Follow-through on promises (e.g., included tutoring)



Improving the Student Experience

Concerns and suggestions:

- **Math instruction quality**
- More sports, theater, clubs, and after-school activities
- Reduced standardized testing (MAP)
- Better tutoring access
- Less screen use
- Improved guidance and communication
- Admissions standards to maintain learning culture

Teacher & Administration Satisfaction

- Generally positive teacher feedback.
- Some concerns about:
 - Feedback on student work
 - Communication when support is lacking
- Administration viewed favorably overall, with specific leaders praised.

Communication

- Mixed but improving.
- Parents want:
 - Notification when discipline occurs
 - Better response times
 - Clear sports and activity communication



Upper School Survey Results (Grades 9–12) – 20 Responses

Enrollment & Scheduling

- Most families plan to return (excluding seniors).
- Openness to:
 - Balanced calendar
 - Adjusted school hours
 - Transportation for sports
- Continued preference for **small class sizes**, though some note trade-offs with elective variety.

Why Families Choose Rivermont

Top reasons:

- **Academic rigor**
- Small class sizes
- University preparation
- Safe, supportive environment
- Personalized attention
- Strong reputation for college admissions
- Relief from stress or negative public school experiences

Improving the Parent Experience

Strong emphasis on:

- **Clearer, more proactive communication**
- College advising transparency (credits, timelines, expectations)
- Better website/app functionality
- Support for international families
- More teacher outreach when issues arise

Improving the Student Experience

Key themes:



- More **extracurriculars, electives, and clubs**
- ACT/SAT prep
- Stronger internet infrastructure
- Character development and leadership opportunities
- Better integration of boarding students
- More consistency in classroom expectations

Teacher Satisfaction

- Generally strong.
- Praise for mentorship and dedication.
- Concerns about:
 - Inconsistent grading rigor
 - Limited feedback in some courses

Administration Satisfaction

- Mixed but improving.
- Concerns noted about:
 - Leadership turnover
 - Counseling and athletics administration
- Front office staff receive strong praise.

Communication Satisfaction

- Generally acceptable but could be improved:
 - Targeted messaging by division
 - Clear contact pathways
 - More informative social media

Additional Offerings Requested

- STEM electives
- More languages
- College prep and dual credit
- Life skills courses



- Arts, sports, and driving instruction partnerships

International Family Survey Results – 3 Responses

Overall Experience

- High satisfaction with:
 - Academics
 - Teachers
 - Administration
 - School communication

Why Families Choose Rivermont

- Strong academic reputation
- Small class sizes
- Safe, quiet learning environment
- Advanced math opportunities

Areas for Improvement

- More **structured communication**, especially for international families
- Updates on student well-being and adjustment
- Boarding improvements:
 - After-school snacks
 - Later dinner time
- Interest in seeing more of students' daily school life

Additional Offerings

- Life skills for college readiness
- Greater visibility into student activities