

Ocean Springs Gifted Program Evaluation Report

2018-2019 School Year

Parent and Student Survey

Summary for Parent Surveys

During the month of April 2019, surveys were administered to Connections parents grades 2-6. Parents were asked a series of questions regarding the quality of the gifted program, skills obtained, teacher effectiveness and concerns. The surveys were distributed in different formats depending on the school or grade level. The program received high marks 95-100% with program satisfaction. Parents overwhelmingly agreed that Connections was beneficial to their child in numerous ways.

The parents were also given a few open ended questions. Numerous positive comments were received about the curriculum and teachers of Connections. We received many comments from parents who were still dissatisfied with changes at the Upper Elementary where students attended Connections one hour a day. This year we observed an increase in responses from parents concerned about the stress it causes their child to make up iReady goals and other work. For instance, 50% of the parents in 6th grade believe the program has caused problems for their child being successful in the regular education program.

See survey examples below from the 2018-2019 school year.

What do you consider to be the greatest strength or asset of the Connections program?

21 responses

Magnolia Park and Pecan Park

higher order thinking skills

the more in depth learning and exploring

The program challenged my child.

encouraging students to seek out answers/solutions that may not be right in front of them.

The broad thinking.

The in-depth research done on projects has taught my student so much! I have been amazed weekly the information she has shared with me. Great job teachers!

Helping students take ownership of their learning and helping students develop in their leadership and creativity

I like the fact that they get to focus and work in depth on different areas.

Engaging, active challenges that encourage curiosity and learning. My child never says "I'm bored" on Connections day.

Different types of research they have done and how they have learned to do it.

Allowing the children to be creative and work on higher level thinking activities

OAK PARK PARENT SURVEY FOR CONNECTIONS 18/19

1. Do you believe the Connections program has been beneficial to your child? 100% yes
2. Do you feel as though the research and projects your child has participated in are appropriate for their levels of ability? 100% yes
3. Do you feel that the work and time your child dedicates to the Connections program each week interferes with their work in the general education program? 98% no one comment: not at all - it is a huge benefit
4. After entering the Connections program, has your child brought home an unusually high load of additional general education homework? 97% no
5. Is your child's Connections teacher approachable and willing to work with you if/when a problem arises? 98% yes
6. Do you feel participation in the Connections program caused any problems for your child? If so, what? 100% no
7. Do you feel as though your child enjoyed their Connections program 100% yes

OSUE Fourth Grade Program Evaluation Report

2018-2019 School Year

Date collected from Parent, Stakeholders, and Student Surveys

Areas of satisfaction by stakeholders/parents through evaluations and surveys:

- I feel it explores other areas of learning that "state testing" doesn't cover. It gives the kids a chance to see what other subjects they are academically good at and interested in for future careers.
- It is a necessary program because it expands creative minds instead of compressing their individuality to focus on state test scores. It is a place where it is valued to have good ideas and know the answers whereas some kids hold back in the traditional classroom so they don't get teased. Connections is my child's favorite part of her day and that has been the case with my other children as well.
- The teachers and their passion and creativity
- I consider the greatest strength of Connections to be that my son grows daily in the program. He is stretched beyond his boundaries which then opens up new horizons for him. Truly, this happens on the daily. I love the conversations we have about Connections and I hope that other parents get a glimpse of the same excitement in conversations with their kiddos.

Areas in need of improvement or revision suggested by stakeholders/parents through evaluations and surveys:

- Return to the full day Connections program
- More time in Connections
- More student involvement of topics being selected for study
- More field trips
- Connections should not end so early
- Not a good idea to have Connections class split between recess and lunch

OSUE Fifth Grade Program Evaluation Report 2018-2019 School Year

Date collected from Parent, Stakeholders, and Student Surveys

Areas of satisfaction by stakeholders/parents through evaluations and surveys:

- Differentiation of the class
- Ability for students to express themselves and use their talents, growing students strengths
- Challenges
- Hands on experiences
- Thinking outside of the box
- Recognizing the needs of the students
- Supportive teachers

Areas in need of improvement or revision suggested by stakeholders/parents through evaluations and surveys:

- Extend Connections in 7th and 8th grades
- Return to the full day Connections program
- More time in Connections
- More student involvement of topics being selected for study
- Move all Connections to their own wing or school
- Connections teacher should not be used for testing because they need to be in the classrooms.
- More career exploration

Some parents indicated a loss of instructional time in Connections due to transitions.

Some parents feel one hour is not enough time for an activity and an effective amount of time for class discussion.

Areas of satisfaction by stakeholders/parents through evaluations and surveys:

- Working together
- Making new friends

2018-18 6th Grade Connections Results from parent survey

100%-say program is beneficial

100%-say projects and research are grade level appropriate

50%- say Connections interferes with the keeping up with gen ed

100%-say their child has not brought home unusually high levels of homework

100%-say the Connection teacher is approachable

50%-say the program has not caused any problem for their child-explained below

- Occasionally the class would review for tests or complete assignments while my child was in Connections. It happened less often in 2018-19 than in previous years, however, probably because of the new format of doing a little each day instead of being out of the classroom for most of one day.

100%-say their children enjoyed Connections

100%-say the Connections teacher keeps them informed

100%-say their children learned leadership and self confidence

100%-say program was different from gen ed

100%-say their child has gained interest and hobbies and social skills from Connection

Summary of Student Surveys

Students grades 2nd-6th were asked a series of yes/no type questions about the gifted program in addition to some open ended questions. The documentation shows that the students love their Connections programs and their teachers in every school and grade level. The surveys were distributed in different formats depending on the school or grade level. The program received high marks 95-100% with program satisfaction. The students overwhelmingly agreed that Connections was challenging, beneficial and welcoming. We received many comments from students from Upper Elementary that Connections would be better if we returned to a program where they go all day.

What do you like best about being in the Connections program?

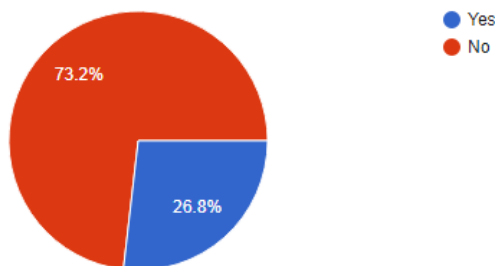
82 responses

About learning gcc.
All the friends I've made.
my favorite part about connections is that every time I come in its something new and i enjoy that i geting to do all these fun activetees.
when ever we built the boats and tested them
My teachers Mrs.Goodwin and Ms.Cronier and all of my friends.
I like to be in connections because there are lots of fun things to do.
I like that in the connections program its challenging and we have fun!
I like the Field Trips we had!
I like building the mask
Doing field trips and the play.
I can be with friends.
Robotics

stu

Does being the Connections program each week cause you to struggle with completing your general classroom assignments?

82 responses



Magnolia Park

Pecan Park

PAK PARK STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS 2018-19

1. Do you believe the Connections program has been beneficial to you?
100% yes
2. Do you think the classroom projects and activities were challenging?
98% yes
3. Does being in the Connections program each week cause you to struggle with completing your general classroom assignments? 96% no
4. Is your Connections teacher approachable and willing to work with you? 100% yes
5. Do you share with your parents the information learned and experiences had while in the Connections program? 96% yes
6. Do you feel welcome in your Connections program? 100% yes
7. Do you feel you are gaining leadership skills, self-confidence, and world knowledge in the Connections program? 99% yes

Fourth Grade Student Surveys

Areas of satisfaction by stakeholders/students through evaluations and surveys:

- Program was beneficial and challenging
- Activities are fun and challenging, made us think
- Many students commented on how much they enjoyed the projects and activities from the Greek unit.
- Like being around kids like them
- More creative and fun than regular class
- Art projects, making hot air balloons
- Making new friends
- The teachers
- Science, Newton's Laws, Mag Lev cars, Rube Goldberg, STEM projects
- Ode to Kandinsky

Areas in need of improvement or revision suggested by students of the gifted program through evaluations and surveys:

- 26% of students surveyed said the Connections program hour did cause them to struggle with completing their general education classroom assignments.
- More art and plays
- Make the program all day again
- More time
- More outdoor activities
- Do not have Connections split with lunch/recess
- Make Connections time 2 hours
- Sometimes do whatever we wanted on a project
- Concern that some kids get stressed by having a certain time limit

Fifth Grade Students

Areas in need of improvement or revision suggested by students of the gifted program through evaluations and surveys:

- **More time or days spent in the program**
- **More field trips, outside activities, more leadership opportunities**
- **Connections in 7th and 8th grades**
- **Return to the full day program**
- **More STEM challenges**

Some students saw an increase in class work due to the schedule.

Some students felt Connections interfered with the work in the regular classroom.

Some students felt one hour made it hard to focus and finish work in Connections.

6th grade Connections student survey results-Cook, Clark, Sexton

What were some of your favorite activities and/or projects in the Connections program?

- Making a website for a bridge
- I enjoyed looking into the possible careers that could be in our futures and doing 'Thriller'.
- All projects and field trips
- Thriller
- Making our future self in the career we wanted and the face collage of magazines.
- Building bridges and Lego mind-storms.
- Two activities I liked were Project Adventure, and using the keva planks
- The team building projects
- My favorite project would have to be the career project. We all as a whole were able to learn a bit more about ourselves through the topic and surveys. It was interesting to not only view your own progress and best fitted job, which you may not have expected to be fitted for, but it was also nice to share the information among your peers and compare your results.
- My favorite activities/project was when we got to build anything.
- My resume

What can be done to make the Connections program better?

- I think it's really important that in connections we get to understand and learn to like that we think differently and get to work that way, but something that could be done, in my opinion, is focusing on the things that make it different from our regular experience. We did a lot of things that wouldn't normally be in a regular classroom.
- Nothing... It is absolutely perfect
- Adding a whole day to Connections again.
- make it to where we have it all day again
- I think we could talk individually with the students to see how they are doing in the class and if they need/want any help.
- There isn't much I can offer to improve the Connections program. The Connections program is already amazing as it is. Advanced students are able to use it as a way to socialize and get a break from regular homeroom, while also expanding knowledge in a new and fun way. In all honesty, I wish regular homeroom would try to make learning more interesting as well so that not as many kids dislike school.

100% say Connections is beneficial

77% say activities were challenging

94% say Connections does not cause them to struggle in reg ed

94% say they didn't have unusually high amount of homework

100% say teacher is approachable

77% share their experiences with their parents

100% feel welcomed in Connections

100% say they gained leadership and confidence

95% say it's different from reg ed

95% say they gain new interest, hobbies, and friendships

100% say they understand the skills they are developing