

USD 248 Girard Public Schools
Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

Stakeholder Meetings

1. What positive words or descriptors come to mind when you think of Girard schools?

Admin

- Rigorous curriculum,
- commit to kids,
- faculty, tradition and values- critical foundation to build on, but traditions could become an obstacle, faith in the school,
- celebrate success, rate of success, act scores,
- prepare kids to be productive citizens, skills to be successful in whatever field they choose, high expectations for student and staff,
- technology and facilities are moving forward, continued improvement of technology in classroom, facilities this can be the best place students can go.
- Strong and supportive board of education
- Great administrative support
- Greenbush and Pitt State support

Business

- The output of the kids
- Good Leadership Board and Administration
- Tradition of excellence
- Tradition
- Facilities
- Good conduct and respect
- Choices of classes with the sense of community
- Technology is in a good place
- Technology for the improvement of instruction

Classified

- Technology
- Attitude – of students, community
- Finest school district in SE Kansas
- Community & School work together
- Condition and upkeep of school – Clean Healthy environment for students - safe, comfortable, and clean
- Many standards
- Tradition – High Expectations
- Students are well disciplined- appropriate behavior, “happyville”
- Family oriented – we laugh and cry together

Students

- Very welcoming to anyone- diverse and accepting, friends
- Best teachers in the area- Faculty makes you feel safe – teachers know you
- Hardworking
- Clubs to be a part of – extracurricular
- Great Athletics
- Family lookout for eachother- small school, know everyone
- Excel highly in academics and prepared for college
- Resources – 1:1

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

Certified Staff

- Stability -
- High Expectations from Faculty, students, and community
- Facilities
- Closer relationships
- Students are accepting of others (diversity)
- Welcome new students
- Transient students – change in demographics
- Students have opportunities – many organizations to be a part of

Community

- Facilities
- Students
- Faculty
- Tradition
- Reputation – made up of traditions, leader of all area schools, students are well behaved
- Student Success after graduation
- Excellence in education – community and faculty push for it.

2. What future skills do you think are important for graduates of Girard 248? And, how do you think the school can better meet those needs?

Admin

- Reliability
- Accountability
- Working as a team problem solving ability to work with team
- communication by devices and face to face
- work ethic
- personal finances
- bring kids to board meeting
- teach career and vocational skills

Business

- Resourceful
- Basic skills – Personal Finance
- Resume- how to fill one out
- How to write
- Communication - Oral
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- How to work and stay on task
- Parliament Procedures – organizations and points across
- Vocational Technical schools – Understand useful and viable way to make a living
- Responsibility

Classified

- RVH Learn Cursive writing
- Social Skills – 1:1 Conversations in Communication
- Daily living skills – Personal Finance, How to do a resume
- Budget to Technology – Used for appropriate ways
- Hygiene – Clean clothes,

**USD 248 Girard Public Schools
Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings**

- Etiquette for seniors
- Dress the part

Students

- Personal Finance
- Working with people – Teamwork
- Time Management
- Work Ethic- Being able to stay focus and give 110 percent, Reliability
- Responsibility – Ownership of actions
- Leadership skills
- Understand people
- Respect community
- Public Speaking
- Technology communicating – Face to Face and technology communicating

Certified Staff

- Problem Solvers
- Verbal, written communication
- Etiquette and manners
- Considerate of others
- Perseverance – figure it out on your own – Application of knowledge
- Work Ethic
- Determination to follow through
- Self Esteem

Community

- Creative Thinking
- Work Ethic
- Critical Thinking- decision making
- Communication face to face and digitally
- Adapting to change
- Leadership – work in teams
- Citizenship
- Life Skills, how to manage a home, relationships, personal finance
- Time Management
- Job Skills – Be able to interview

3. What issues do you see impacting Girard schools in the next three to five years?

Admin

- changing dynamics of community, up keep of home, roads, low scs, multiple foster kids in one home, 43 percent free and reduced, how to address “new” clientele without losing traditions and expectations,
- shrinking business community, need to reach out to business communities
- loss of state support (money),
- re-engage bedroom community,
- keeping quality staff, recruiting and retaining staff,

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

Business

- Budget
- Demographics has changed
- Fewer jobs
- School District of quality – What happens in other districts can impact our school

Classified

- Rental home, poverty homes, not being up kept
- Transient enrollment
- School Budget from state
- Changes in Athletics – number participating – outside sports – students are burnt out
- We have no draw – need more businesses

Students

- Increase jobs in community
- Transient population – demographics changing – moving in and out
- Took a hit on teachers- great teachers left
- Technology keeping 1:1

Certified Staff

- Kids are transferring in – influx of students
- State decides not to pay for out of district students
- Technology
- Loss of business
- State money
- Low income population – ses
- Transient rate
- Poverty level

Community

- Future of community – helping the community grow. Decline population means decline in students, means decline in opportunities
- More at risk – sec status
- More transient students
- More community support, fundraising, events together for school and community
- Virtual Learning online programs
- Beneficial cooperation time schedule with other districts. Districts could use Greenbush to bring multiple opportunities to districts. Programs together
- Career tech & Vocational
- Mental, physical well being of all kids. Teaching and parenting with eyes open. Aware of mental illness.

4. As Girard USD 248 begins with the creation of a new long term strategic educational plan, what areas are important to you to be included?

Admin

- Quality of Instruction, vertical instruction – Teaching and Learning – provide a productive citizen
- Goal of Technology – stand alone – Technology
- Community and parental engagement
- Use banks as resources for our classes

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Effective two way communication – twitter, facebook
- One online class before graduating,
- In the morning Math, English, Government – Afternoon – workstudy
- Graduate high school with college credit
- Provide opportunities for kids here.
- Maintenance & roofing issues
- Recruit, retain, and develop for educational – Support leaders, train leaders to train others,
- Annual trainings, are we seeing effective teachers
- Late Start – high school late start, RVH normal start time, flexible hours teachers 7-2, reimburse parents for transportation,
- Add wrestling,

Business

- Emphasis on technology – out of high school into workforce
- RVH – families involved, GMS – discipline, GHS – more like a juco directing kids to a career path
- Encourage business, community, and school community
- Provide all demographics with all tools, the kids that don't have a head start, good education without good home life

Classified

- Classified staff- insurance cost in comparison with salary, percentage of a classified staff salary when taking family plan compared to certified
- Keep facilities updated current, kitchen, roofs,
- Communication with parents K-12 using calling system for RVH, newsletter similar to GMS newsletter
- Communication across district, students, staff, board office, parents, grandparents, and community

Students

- Laptops in high school at least junior or senior – ipads don't have the capacity and programs, English 4 years need laptop, help transition into college, laptops as Freshman, technology very important,
- access to scholarships and resources to move on to post secondary,
- middle music shirts – band uniforms and resources for middle school music
- Choir teacher
- Fundings to clubs, athletics get uniforms - , support all clubs – debate has to buy own shirts, distribute money equally
- Laptops for debate & forensics, scholars bowl
- More recognition for academic clubs
- Drama club larger plays
- Student resource center include college info and job openings Human resource center through the school – even just a bulletin board

Certified Staff

- Classes – CNA, business classes, technical classes
- Art Teacher at RVH
- Foreign Language at RVH
- Communications with students, parents, and public

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- The ability to teach students with disabilities. Are our facilities able to teach students with disabilities.
- RVH students and challenges Connect with more resources in the community- Have them come to the schools. More services to school – Social worker, Personal Relation person
- RVH more support of science –

Community

- Foundation first- maintenance of facilities- Clean, safe, healthy environment
- Teacher recruitment & retention- Staff Development
- Technology always changing
- Curriculum Programming
- Personal Finance & money management. Inform students about fasfa & scholarships- Make it part of the curriculum. Must take Junior year. Always available to upperclassmen.

5. What other topics or comments would you like to express that will help guide our long-term plan?

Admin

- Helping parents be parents
- Getting resources to parents – Mental help resources, beyond counselor support,

Business

- Make students qualify for Vocational technical programs, Construction and auto body trade
- Maintain educational program, school is too soft, students aren't prepared for college or vocational
- STEM, robotics, foreign language in RVH,
- high demand for jobs without college education
- Prepare kids to be successful, leave, and come back
- Application of knowledge
- entrepreneurship
- Office Skills
- People skills
- Teach kids to work
- Prepare kids for life not just college
- Increase Vocal and music programs
- Dress code – continue with the dress code – connection of dressing and the way kids act
- Continue with Excellent staff – Quality Staff – Recruitment and Retention
- Wrestling, soccer, - Rec Director

Classified

- Prepare students for the world not just college. Missing daily living skills
- Building trades, electronics,
- The thinking....If kids don't get it at home, teachers are supposed to teach it.
- School districts- Trojan spirit all grades K-12 (football, debate, forensics, all clubs) – could increase numbers
- Admin doesn't take time for classified staff, Respect for each other – Our emails are just as important
- Allow 9 month employee to get 12 month pay for secretaries & para

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

Students

- More help in classroom – 10 to 20 students more adult assistance
- Cockroaches in the locker room
- Student mentor for a teacher
- New Football field turf & gym floor conditions –
- More opportunities for kids – student involvement
- Bigger Lunches – More food – Football coaches buying granola bars
- More interesting curriculum – Choices in classes – example offer more languages – Labette HS has an act prep class, real world class – senior taxes, property, need later not just as a Freshman
- Better student recognition – inclusion of all students
- More community service- give back to the community -
- Career exposure – tying career curriculum from middle school to guiding enrollment
- More job shadow opportunities
- More funding for Fine Arts- need as much funding as athletics – upgrade band instrument
- More recognition of all clubs
- Laptops to iPads – laptops
- Offer more of a variety of classes
- Extended lunch – scarf food, but Thankful for open lunch
- Student outreach – Rachel’s challenge – kids recognizing each other – entire school involved (ex. Pep club)
- Sports recognition – all sports – in balance of sports event- football compared to cross country support
- Bring students together- not focused – Opportunity to socialize with each other not just because they are in a club – Pep Club for all activities,
- Tutor center
- Laptops – iPads do help when you come from other schools – designing on iPads is not an option
- Real world classes
- Transportation – Provide pep club transportation and activities, support each other,
- Recognition of spring sports - More support for baseball, softball, and track - banquet
- Mirrors for cheer team and dance team- add mirrors in basement
- Ability of Flag team to practice with band

Certified Staff

- Let the staff see the results of the survey
- Facilities – Furnaces, Building updates,
- Clean, Safe, Healthy Environment
- Auditorium updates – curtains are ripped
- Need to help those not going to college
- Communicate opportunities – pr person – centralized
- Goal 2 in the current strategic plan
- Misaligned Salary Schedule, (heavy on the early end and light on experienced end)

Community

- Bring votech back to Girard instead of busing students to other schools.
- Complete & robust fine arts in school
- Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

**USD 248 Girard Public Schools
Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings**

Online Survey

1. What positive words or descriptors come to mind when you think of Girard schools?

Classified Staff in District

- Trojan Pride
- I think of a great staff and high expectations for our students. I think our students are prepared when they graduate.
- Expectation of students/dress code/hair policy/polite students
- great facilities, quality staff, dedication to excellence
- Family
- For the most part care about the future of the kids.

Classified Staff out of District

- high expectations, appealing, facilities
- Well up kept facilities, on the mark for education, excellent teaching staff- Wonderful classified staff

District Patron in District

- Tradition, family, technology,
- Tradition
- Excellent academics, great athletic programs
- Quality Education
- Family supported, academically strong.
- Overall strong educators, our kids are well prepared for real world work.
- Family, home, caring
- Excellent
- Strong academic programs
- Pride, traditional, and honorable
- Community support, friendly
- Reputation
- Great school district
- Good leadership and a caring attitude of the teachers for students
- excellence, tradition, strong
- Forensic and Debate -- VERY BUSY
- excellent, quality education
- Safe, somewhat progressive educational setting
- Great facility
- Caring faculty, nice facilities,
- Caring faculty and staff
- Respectful
- Solid and well rounded.
- Caring faculty, great facility, and wonderful programs offered.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- a good school
- Tradition, great faculty
- trustworthy
- The best school in the area
- Quality education, strong teachers & administration.
- Top notch facilities

District Patron out of District

- N/A
- Great teachers, great pay for their staff. Continue to invest in the future
- USD 248 is a leader in technology for our youth and provides a great opportunity for success
- Best high school education in the area

Parent in District

- Positive learning environment; Strong school system
- Clean, adequate facilities, school pride
- High expectations of academics and discipline for students
- Excellent Education w/ Quality teachers and staff
- Clean cut looking students
- relevant, progressive, involved, well lead, forward thinking
- Familiar, small town but a big heart,
- Innovative and forward moving
- Clean cut kids. Excellent facilities and programs with a consistently good reputation in agriculture, trades, music, and competitive athletics.
- Great, fantastic, personal, small
- Principal, superintendent, new commons area
- Awesome!
- Family
- Quality education
- Great Teachers
- Competition
- Great teachers. Facility care about the children's education
- Strong academics
- Small
- I am very pleased with Girard schools. My kids have, and still are receiving high quality education.
- Trying
- Academically strong
- Small town
- Tradition, values, focused on kids
- Tradition of excellence

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Unification, Direction, Advanced, Promising
- Great teachers
- conservative, great educators
- Up to date
- Family, supportive
- care about the students
- They allow kids to be bullied and girls to be hit by boys in the face and don't do anything
- Academic Focused
- Great
- Top notch, highly educated, well respected
- friendly
- Friendly, supportive
- For the most part, the staff are involved and have the future of the kids in mind.
- Great education, good teachers
- Trying in upper grades
- Very Technologically sound
- hometown spirit
- Staff is caring and do siderste
- Small town, hard working people with a good work ethic
- Hometown, caring
- Excellent school system and nice, new, clean school
- High academic standards
- Trend setting; establishing ground work for the future of education
- Dedicated teachers. Safe environment.
- Supports community and community supports the schools
- Awesome faculty and staff. Great educators. High quality

Parent Staff out of District

- Quality, compassion
- Tradition
- strong, kids first, unity
- Cohesive team work
- Community engagement
- Caring, academic excellence
- Community support
- Respectable, traditional
- Innovative, committed, excellence, high standards, quality staff, and nice facilities
- Kind, Compassionate, innovative
- welcoming, friendly, positive, kids are priority
- Welcoming, great staff, excellent teachers, positive environment for kids
- Opportunity

**USD 248 Girard Public Schools
Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings**

- Good, Encouraging, Positive Learning Environment
- a quality education and exceptional teachers
- I like the one on one help I got from my teachers.
- Safe, encouraging, positive learning environment
- Caring teachers
- Better education!
- Better education!

School Administration in District

- Quality perception overall

School Administration out of District

- NA

School Faculty in District

- Girard schools have high expectations from and for the faculty, students, and community. We have nice facilities. We are small enough that we know almost everyone. We are usually expecting of new students coming into the district.
- Friendly
- Safe and friendly community
- Community
- Student focused. Traditional. Innovative. High expectations. Supportive community.
- Nice
- Opportunities, Expectations, Preparation for future success
- Caring and supportive community
- High expectations; dedication, technology
- Traditional
- High expectations

School Faculty out of District

- We strive to make our students College, Career, and Citizen ready from Pre-k to graduation.
- Caring staff for students in all ways.
- "High academic expectations
- community support"
- Great teachers, solid educational programs, well prepared students, supportive community, and a history and tradition of excellence.
- Supportive, driven, caring

Students in District

- Respect and Acceptance
- The school is nicely kept. The environment of the school is friendly. Teachers also encourage you to do better, and reward you for doing so.
- Very nice; good looking
- Enlightening

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Enthusiastic
- Caring, family, athletics
- Great athletic program, outstanding teachers, great academic program
- Excellence in Education, Hardworking, Adept to Change
- English Department
- It's a fun and loving community, most everyone is nice to each other. It's easy to come together as a town and have fun with the people around you considering it's such a small population here.
- Welcoming, family, loving
- Extremely educational, positive impact on many life's
- Respectful, smart, athletic, supportive, unified.
- When I think of Girard some words that come to mind are family and excellence. We have such a rich history here and I believe that's the best thing about this school district.
- Dope
- caring, helpful, understanding, knowledgeable
- caring, hardworking, home
- Family Environment
- Caring
- Intellectual, Strict, Clean, Competitive
- Strict, organized
- Fun, iPads,
- High education standards
- Safe
- Good classmates
- Good classes
- Challenging and better education than phs
- Fair
- Good
- The teachers are kind
- Caring teachers, open lunch, protective
- Well behaved
- Friendly
- Great education, awesome teachers
- Very helpful teachers
- Proper, neat, well-rounded, educated
- High reputation
- Cool new stuff
- Active
- Education
- Intelligent

**USD 248 Girard Public Schools
Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings**

- Really good air conditioning. Painfully cold
- school pride, good education
- Very positive and helpful
- Determination, dedication, evaluation, presentation, representation
- English Department

Students out of District

- They have a wonderful education and go above and beyond to help our kids excel
- Caring
- Unity, commitment, academics, athletics, versatile
- Good Education.
- Girard has a legacy of working really hard and achieving success.
- Challenging, Impactful
- Very caring teachers that are here to help you learn.
- Great education, caring faculty
- A lot of care goes into the students' educations.
- Very great school with caring teachers who want the best out of every student and care about their individual success.
- Good teachers
- At Girard, we have excellent teachers and staff. The academics of our schools are also excellent.
- Great Community, and nice staff
- Small

2. What future skills do you think are important for graduates of Girard 248? And, how do you think the school can better meet those needs?

Classified Staff in District

- Technology, people skills, vocational skills, and money management
- Students need to stay on the leading edge of technology and computers. Students need basic life skills in economics and basic problem solving skills.
- Hands on courses/life skills/how to do your own laundry, check book, etc.
- life skills: consumer math, cooking, soft skills for employment
- life skills, taxes, insurance
- More business classes - less focus on sports - need to learn how to actually take a final because in college you can't exempt out on finals - less out of school suspension, that's what the kids are wanting and most of the parents don't care cause they don't need a sitter for h.s. age kids - more severe punishment for repeat offenders - multiple detentions don't seem to make any difference.

Classified Staff out of district

- money skills, finance, life skills, Real-World Prep!

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Cursive Writing a must- common skills- building trades, woodworking, etc. Not everyone is college bound- Life Skills

District Patron in District

- Hands on skills like building trades, Tech literacy, strong writing and reading skills
- Vocational and life skills training for boys and girls
- Vocational, technical, technology; meet those needs through partnering with area industry and community colleges
- Offering more vo-tech classes for students not attending college. Do not remove cursive writing from the curriculum.
- I believe that trade skills are needed such as plumber, electrician, handy man, welder. Many young people are not college bound and there is a need for services.
- Technology, robotics, engineering courses as well as expanding vocational training.
- Real life skills and implement some of these items in classes needed to graduate
- Business livelihood - can walk away with confidence either attending college or entering the work force
- People social empathy skills. Fake news identifying skills.
- Re-invest in technical ed programs and less in athletics
- Would like to see more business skills
- After going to Girard and being through college I feel it is important to learn the basic concepts of adult living. Things like retirement, insurance, how to job search, how to study for college classes.
- Agricultural education
- computer skills and green energy
- I think we need to have more business classes. Business math, personal math and financial management. Understanding insurance and how loans work, etc.
- Fundamentals of reading, writing, and math along with interpersonal/social skills that help students build and maintain healthy relationships. Curriculum and instruction will address the basic content knowledge. Dedicated time for peer and teacher interactions, extracurricular activities, and a healthy school climate will provide a good foundation for developing social and interpersonal skills. An honest, transparent environment serves as a good role model for all students and staff.
- Well rounded worldview. Offering a Bible Literacy class
- More trade skills...electrical, plumbing, carpentry, etc. and more business classes-- accounting, entrepreneurship
- The ability to think outside the box is a skill that applies to all aspects of one's life, personally as well as professionally. In lieu of a traditional education I feel 248 should look into a transitional educational setting. Creating an environment where students can gear their education toward an individually selected specific career/trade would more prepare students for real world situations prior to entering the 'real world.' Allowing students to begin this phase in their freshman year versus obtaining a few senior year

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

college credits would significantly increase a student's success rate after graduation. For data references, Girard should look at schools in metropolitan and East Coast areas that are currently using this curriculum style.

- Know how to work, and handle financials.
- Career tech, trades, soft skills, relationships, communication, life skills
- Critical thinking skills are valuable in life regardless if the student continues on with a higher education degree, technical education, certificate or moving directly into the workforce. This can be met through integrated studies, project based learning, scientific method etc...
- CTE Classes
- More drive towards all students furthering education.
- Some important skills would be knowing how to balance a checkbook, credit scores, how to handle student loans, being able walk in a bank and ask for a loan, and having the knowledge to know how to problem solve in the real world, when they aren't living with parents/guardians anymore.
- learn how to cook, balance a check book, change a tire, basic living
- balance a checkbook, write a resume, how to answer a phone (professionally)
- technical education opportunities, ie certified skills in plumbing, electrical, etc.
- Written/oral communication skills, business, problem solving, technology.
- More vocational education, hands on learning

District Patron out of District

- Commercial Graphics classes. Something similar to Frontenac High Schools Raider Ink. It is an excellent way for the students to learn skills about a trade, as well as interacting with actual customers!
- Business, business, business. We need to reinstate a HS business course to gain more future entrepreneurial interest among students. Keeping history courses to educate students on our pastime.
- It would be great to see a basic living course to where all students learn basic real life skills from doing laundry, balancing check book, ect.
- Trade skills

Parent in District

- Many young people are not prepared for the basics of living on their own. Maybe a class that discusses basic "life skills" such as personal budgeting, how to buy a car, and how to handle credit.
- Communication and business skills. More hands-on courses for kids that might not be cut out for 4 year college after high school.
- Rigorous academics to be successful in college level coursework
- Additional college credit course, the more college credits our students can graduate with the short time they spend at colleges and the cost savings is significant. GHS -Vocational

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

departments are excellent for many of our area students, they are able to learn trades that will provide jobs if no college is attended.

- CTE classes
- life skills, vocational skills, career research and exploration. Girard should not try to push every student to 4 year college degree as the only acceptable path after high school. I feel this is accomplished by spending more time in career explorations, specifically, requirements of various careers. Also, some basic 'adult' life skills/concepts should be covered a bit more. Banking, savings and retirement planning, investing, insurance, budgeting and personal finance, cooking... etc.
- resume building, life skills, and how to interview.
- Learn how to effectively study
- Real life job skills, hands on experience in with computers, technology, trades such as woodworking, building, metalworking, computer CNC, software programs along with soft skills such as manners, interviewing, proper dress/appearance, Real life money handling skills, checkbooks, loans, interest calculation, compounding of money, insurance knowledge, investments
- Technical skills, writing skills.
- Need more life skills. More arts. Spanish & Art in grade school. Better food for grade school. Less math, more practical skills
- Need more finance
- Communication skills, allow for more opportunities for arts and performance classes, as these classes are excellent at building those skills.
- More technical training
- More options of classes
- They need to be able to use technology effectively. They also need to know how to think and problem solve without relying on technology.
- Trade skills
- I really think they need to focus on more basic skills. I know Common Core moves swiftly, but it seems like there's not as much time devoted to basic skills, cursive writing, bookkeeping, counting money.
- Tech/med
- How to handle real life situations. Let the kids be kids, to a point. Yes, they need structure, but they don't need to be treated like dull fledged adults. Understand that each child is different and has different needs.
- Hands on. Ag Ed, FACS, trades skills
- Typing incl. 10-key, interview skills, Excel, money management, ..Business class, laptops? Creativity, expression, ..Art class, drama class?
- Worry more on the kids being happy and wanting to come to school and learn, rather than how they dress or what they look like.
- Technology and construction

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- More brain to book, instead of technology. In a fast paced world that is evolving to attract the new generation, simple skills of actual paper note taking and homework teach more responsibility and skill versus online submission. Also, something such as teaching basic skills of balancing checkbooks, interest on student loans, paying bills, etc. to help a student face real life issues after high school. I personally believe students in today's schools (not just Girard) do not know the basis of success and self responsibility outside of an iPad.
- Technology
- It would be great to see more emphasis on business/marketing- those are vocational classes I took that helped me tremendously.
- We need to go back to teaching students using your hands to work is a good thing
- Technological/ with a great balance of social skills
- skills they need in order to go into the workplace or college
- The school needs to go off the kids not the names of the kids for it to be a properly run School. And the board members all need to go same with the teachers principals and superintendent
- Being an active member of their community. Teach all ages about their ability to be a part of their community. Preparing students for the workforce, punctuality, hard work, teamwork, face to face communication and ethics.
- It would be better if the kids didn't have to learn about different beliefs believe me I'm not at all prejudice against other cultures or beliefs or God's I just think they should focus on what we are and what we stand for here in the United States.
- Balance checkbook, pay bills, budget income. How to buy a car, house, etc. Make a class about it a requirement to graduate.
- Having every high school student take consumer math. These kids don't know about taxes, checking accounts, measurements for cooking, etc.... But they know how to do algebra equations which they will never use. Teach them about real life.
- I think any trade skills would be important, people who are trained in a trade skill is on the decline so there's more of a demand.
- Vocational Education - Not every student has the desire to attend a 4 year college. Administration and staff needs to set a different tone for the students who chose that path. In my opinion, students who chose the vocational path feel like they are second class within the student body. This perception needs to be changed. Many vocational careers have higher salaries than a degreed career.
- problem solving, ability to work with other people, good work ethic, life skills
- STEM skills, especially computer skills are important for almost any job. Girard needs to place more emphasis on math and science from grade school through high school. They also need to be working with the children on everything from basic computer skills through programming.
- Communication, Personal interaction, Life Troubleshooting skills

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Teach kids how to live on your own like budgeting, checking accounts, how to handle credit cards, implement them in math class or have a class just for that
- Character- school lacks providing life skills, character ed and team building opportunities at all grade levels. The elementary is unfortunate in lacking leadership to build leaders in the building with students- all students not select few. Students continue to have activities taken away- poor planning and communication from staff in multiple grades - pto is doing good. Those in roles to make a difference seem to invest in the after school program enrichment. Positive reinforcement is lacking throughout school. As I have drove by and it looks like a prison as children are noted to be walking along fence line. Is the counselor providing honor roll recognition? Character ed awards or was that taken away as well. Although Veterans Day was celebrated at the district the younger students could not attend due to a remodel- will this continue next year- will it be taken from the younger students as well. It is sad to see this district change so much- when it was top notch.
- Social skills - Girard schools in general need to do a better job with character education in the schools. It is lacking and the amount of bullying that is happening is directly related to not having a a good quality character education program.
- Learn without iPads
- teaching handwriting
- Life skills
- Technology, leadership, personal financial planning.
- Work ethic.
- In a world of technology and faceless communication, I feel having the ability to talk with others (in person) will be a huge benefit. Incorporating a class of life experiences (without the use of technology) comes to mind...how to change a tire, how to help someone in need, how to write a thank you, etc.
- I think being a well rounded student is important for a balanced life. I would like to see more fine art programs in place for our students. Fine arts allow for healthy expression, can aid in core academics, and develop different portions of the brain.
- Being highly proficient in using advanced technology; Presentation for interviews and such. Perhaps including a "career/college ready" class that focuses on preparing for those aspects, to include presentation verbally and on paper. These kids need key boards. Basic skills such as typing are going by the way side.
- They need to be able to do life skills. Balance a checkbook. Understand loan/cc terms. Write cursive. Sign their name with an actual signature. Understand how that one ton 4wheel drive affects their pocketbook. Not only in loan payments but also maintenance and insurance. Life skills.
- Life skills - how to make their own appointments, envelope letters, write emails without an instructor having to tell them how to - everything isn't all about texting and snap

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

chatting in life. Business classes, personal finance classes, difference between credit cards vs. debit cards, etc.

Parents out of District

- Collaborative, technology minded
- Work ethic
- Social intelligence is very important and the data proves it. Greenbush has a program for middle/high school students that can help grow those skills.
- "Any skill that will allow students to function in society."
- Also, more business related studies that would encourage students to be able to give back to the community after graduation."
- Basic life skills: Checkbooks, credit cards, personal finance
- Respect, Responsibility, work ethics
- Real world computer skills and not just the apps on the iPad
- Business management skills/courses
- Hands on- CNA/CMA, Vo-tech etc, social skills, interview skills, general life skills- account balancing, bill pay, budgeting
- All students should have an understanding of the employment opportunities that are available on a local, national, or international scale. Extensive research, guidance, and job shadowing would allow the students to get a jump start on their career path. Also, life topics such as banking and finance, insurance, home and land ownership, and other life planning topics should be mandatory for all students.
- I believe they are currently meeting future needs of students
- soft skills, organization, staying on a schedule, focus, communication, dedication
- Prep for higher education, also prep for skilled labor, welding farming, ranching
- More communication with parents at all grade levels. I believe that the HS is an amazing place. The level of excellence in Agriculture skills and the help that kids receive in decisions about their future is remarkable. I have students in many levels of your schools but I have to say I can't wait to get out of the elementary level. There is a lot of teacher drama there that reflects in the classrooms.
- Critical thinking & decision skills practiced daily that are needed for everyday living.
- 21st century learning skills,
- Communication (interviewing skills, problem solving, conflict resolution etc.). Work ethic/Rigor.
- Prepare them more for the basic things in life. More Home Ec opportunities.
- 21st-century learning skills
- Business classes and needs to teach cursive
- college preparatory; real world skills; decision making/growth mindset. Allow for teacher, parent, and student input. Maintain standards for learning and achievement.
- 21st century learning skills, stem skills
- Technology

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Technology

School Administration in District

- Collaborative, soft skills, technology

School Administration out of District

- NA

School Faculty in District

- Students need to have: problem solving, communication, personal finance, and life skills. As an elementary teacher, I really feel like students need to learn and know how to be kind and considerate to others.
- Possibly more VoTech options
- "Think. Inquire. Know how to win and lose with grace. Self-motivator. Demonstrate responsible behavior and accountability. Show up! (know there are consequences if not) Perseverance and grit! Self-sustainability (ability to make decisions that will better yourself while offering your neighbor a hand with nothing in return).
- 248: put kids in real life scenarios/opportunities to make choices that allow for natural consequences preparing them for the real (sometimes not very pleasant/ sometimes very pleasant) world. AND parents being okay and even showing an appreciation for the opportunities their children are provided. "
- Trade Skills - make sure students have many opportunities to work in the community if they have all of their credits and get hands-on experience to do a trade
- Leadership, job skills, personal responsibility, self confidence, civic responsibility.
- Work Ethic, Cooperation with co-workers, Poise, Coachability
- More trades classes for non college bound
- Technology related
- The ability to communicate without technology; work on student social skills
- Job related skills, communication, peer relationships, leadership

School Faculty out of District

- Addition of life skill and vocational classes.
- I think we need some hands on classes, like trades shop and welding classes.
- Problem-solving skills and technical expertise. Expanding ideas of what "high school" needs to do in order to meet the challenges of future jobs & careers. Evaluating how school is organized currently, what can be perfected or changed to meet the future needs of students - those who hope to attend college and those who require a different path to success after high school.
- verbal communication, problem solving, having a strong work ethic.

Student in District

- Basic learning skills needed for the work force. From what I can see, those needs have already been met.
- Learning how to get a job, buy a house, balance finances, and learning current day US laws.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Teach more about life problems and experiences you'll go through
- Life skills: taxes, bank, paperwork, people skills
- Life skills (taxes, bank accounts, ect.)
- We need to be learning skills like how to do taxes. I feel like we learn good skills, but not all of it is needed to help further us. If we can't do our taxes, write checks or balance a checkbook, then we weren't really prepared in school. We can better meet those needs by learning more important life situations instead of just throwing us in classes that people think will be beneficial.
- Some future skills that are important for graduates of Girard 248 are work ethic, people skills, responsibility, respect, etc. I think our school will better meet those needs through the Trojan Ambassadors program we have started this year.
- Public relation skills. Graduates need to be able to communicate and interact with people in their community for the betterment of all of thier lives.
- For future graduates, life skills like how to work a computer or file taxes are important. The school could meet those needs by slightly altering the curriculum of the Computer Graphics class and moving it to senior year.
- Definitely need to teach kids how to function properly once they're out of high school. Things that they should be teaching is how to do adult responsibilities like paying taxes, buying a home, buying a car, changing a tire, the list goes on and on. As one of the students, I have no idea how to do any of those things, yet I know more than enough about how to do the Pythagorean Theorem. There are more important things to focus on.
- To learn how to live in the real world. Paying taxes, bills, etc. We need a class that will teach us how real life is.
- Hands on. More subjects needs more hands on acvities.
- I have always thought that we needed a class to teach us how to keep our money in order and pay bills and that kind of thing, but an accounting class is an option this year. I really think that class can help students learn what to do financially when they graduate.
- I believe the most important skill you can teach students is respect and creativity. Without respect they will never get anywhere in life. I believe the school does a good job teaching core classes and Ag but struggles in supporting the arts like debate, drama, construction technology, and Art. These classes help teach students how to be creative and helps them find their possible niche. Speaking of repect I love the new Trojan ambassadors program it's a great idea and think it will definitely help the students.
- Business skills
- more adult things like how to do taxes or fill out applications, and especially more college help like taking out loans and more ways to help pay for college
- Respect and how to be a hard worker and get things that need to be done taken care of. I believe that the new Trojan Ambassadors program will help these problems and I feel like it would be a good thing to start in the younger schools.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Self-sufficiency and accountability; holding underachieving students to the school's standards and making them aware of the road they're headed down if they don't clean up their act.
- Business skills, bills, taxes, cursive writing
- Life Skills, how to do taxes, how to get insurance, applying for a loan. Have a woodworking class, have a couple more sports (ex. Soccer)
- Teachers need to help more. Teach more. Hands on learning not just worksheets
- Robotics, computers, more
- Communication skills are very important. Joining clubs, and getting out there in the student body will strengthen those skills.
- The school should better prepare us life skills. (Taxes, loans)
- Menial tasks
- Taxes and mortgages
- Just keep up with what you already doing
- Life lessons like checks and bank accounts and stuff like that
- Working hard and being dedicated
- How to go out and find a job, do taxes, cook for yourself, and save money. Make consumer math a required class.
- Being kind to others
- Life skills, like how to do taxes and stuff like that
- Idk what I wanna do when I graduate has nothing to do with high school
- What to expect when you leave high school. Pay taxes, things like that
- Social
- They need to have more classes about real life problems.
- Honest, giving, hardworking, determined
- Speaking skills. Taking a drama class or speech class required
- Vehicular problems and maintenance
- Work Hard
- Math science English construction
- Whatever skills you need for your occupation honestly...
- have people/other students tutor other students either when needed or everyday. Like for math a student has a tutor for math one day and a english tutor the next.
- I think that graduates need to be more prepared for the real world
- The confidence to pursue a goal every single day. Evaluate what students find difficult and then when a task ,that might be hard, is completed provide a reward of some sort.
- For future graduates, life skills like how to work a computer or file taxes are important. The school could meet those needs by slightly altering the curriculum of the Computer Graphics class and moving it to senior year.

Student out of District

- Offer trade courses and keep lcs

**USD 248 Girard Public Schools
Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings**

- Basic skills like paying taxes or changing a flat tire. Provide a class with basic real world skills.
- Real world life skills - Change the freshman business class to a senior only class.
- I think that Girard prepares you well for college well academically but not in any other way, this school needs to be more accepting of different people. its not just the students but the staff as well.
- More practical skills that will be used in the future such as balancing checkbooks, paying taxes, etc
- Basic people skills, how to handle yourself in real world situations
- Problem solving and communications skills I believe are extremely important for graduates.
- Communication, practice at a younger age while continuing through high school.
- I feel like we could spend more time on taxes and how to fill out taxes for when we become adults, so basically a business class. It would also be good to have reminders on how to write in cursive, since checks (signatures) and historical documents are written in cursive instead of print.
- Work ethic. I believe this needs to be pushed a little more and community involvement.
- How to work with there hands
- I believe that it is important for graduates to possess professional and public speaking skills. Throughout my four years at Girard High School, I have seen the impact on my life that obtaining these skills have given me. Almost all of these skills have been gained through career and technical education classes and organizations. Because of career and technical education, I will be prepared to go to college to major in construction management. To better implement this to all students, a class that would teach these skills would be beneficial. This class could cover the materials of cover letters and resumes, professional endeavors, and public speaking. It is important that students know how to work cooperatively with others and work in an organization for the betterment of others.
- Prepare us for later, taxes and things like that
- Teaching more life skills than pushing things like algebra on so many students when they should focus on lif skills.

3. What issues do you see impacting Girard schools in the next three to five years?

Classified Staff in District

- possible consolidation and financial cuts
- Our changing demographic and lower socioeconomic status will be a challenge. I could see a possible decline in population and a possible housing shortage. The lack of businesses in town could also be factor.
- Funding/stable or declining enrollment/industries for people to work so they do not have to travel to Pittsburg, Joplin, Parsons, Fort Scott or Kansas City.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- changing socioeconomic climate, staff challenges due to bureaucratic and/or legislative restrictions
- family hardships, loss of businesses,
- Internet safety, not enough responsibility put on the kids, they are babied too much, coddled staff are expected to do things for them instead of them doing things for themselves.

Classified Staff out of District

- Vacant buildings, lack of businesses in town, transient students
- Totally economy- Girard only has the schools and courthouse. We need some draw to Girard to bring up the economic value of our town.

District Patron in District

- The financial needs of the community will become greater creating a larger need for teacher/faculty influence.
- funding issues
- Potential consolidation of smaller districts in SEK area; shortage of job opportunities for students not college bound and without skills training.
- Budget cuts
- Funding, possible consolidation, better dealing with those students who have less. Such as looks, clothes, academic abilities, social skills and money.
- Declining enrollments due to local economy and job loss for families.
- Money problems
- Transit students
- Not knowing difference and logically identifying fake news from real news. Racial issues honestly confronted. A kids court for resolving and solving lower level issues between students. Democracy in action, because of social media.
- More generational poverty
- The change in students
- Technology
- Funding
- lower enrollment due to smaller families
- The budget and how the state funding profile gives the money necessary to grow and improve with programs and staff
- Ongoing budget concerns and legislative actions could have a profound impact on our district's ability to meet student's needs. Given high levels of poverty, special and differentiated instructional practices create more and more challenges for teachers. While USD 248 is a school of choice for quality teachers, a growing teacher shortage will likely take its toll in Girard, too.
- Low Income residents -- a poverty mindset
- The facilities at USD 248 are state of the art. I think the education offered at Girard should mirror that philosophy - or be left behind. I feel the issue most impacting Girard

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

schools is that the education offered is still 'old school' and not keeping up with what the world is demanding.

- People
- Need for family support, social worker, mental health education and support for students/families
- The demographics are changing in Girard and we must be aware of the needs of our students, parents/guardians. We have more families in poverty. We have noticed this has been a difficult adjustment for the district to make. We need to meet the needs of students that struggle in a traditional classroom.
- Low income families
- Not sure.
- Issues would be more and more students indentified with special needs (not that hose children are an issue, just having adequate resources for them can be), students becoming more apathetic, and financial resources from families.
- Bullying, you need to do a whole lot better, the one you have is terrible
- as we get bigger I feel like we should offer more activities. Soccer, Wrestling, maybe have an after school program that offers these?
- reduced tax dollars
- Declining population in district. Increased % of transcendent population.
- Enrollment

District Patron out of District

- Not enough wide spread classes, interacting students with other basis of learning beyond agriculture and wood shop. More diversity.
- Population. Girard's footprint needs to be expanded to represent its actual population.
- Costs of technology /Public funding assistance
- Overall growth

Parent in District

- Non-owner occupied housing & transient families/students. Increased poverty within the SE Kansas area. Poor family structures.
- The risk of these high expectations falling by the wayside.
- Budget cuts
- Shubach tenants
- Budgets, enrollment growth, rising costs
- Continued poverty and the need for the school to provide more character, life skills examples for children who may not have ideal role models in the home. Key lessons in contentiousness, hard work, and good attitudes combined with average intelligence are the only requirements for success in this country. Many children do not get that basic lesson. Schools are the only realistic place and time to break the poverty cycle. After the school years, young adulthood is generally too late to change the course.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Money. Increase in student/teacher ratios.
- Population
- Possibly the growing school district and too many kids per teacher
- A larger amount of economically unstable families in the district.
- Money
- Administration and the board has really beefed up security and safety, so the economy is probably the biggest struggle I foresee, both for the district and families.
- Low socioeconomics
- Increase in possible dangerous situations.
- Politics taking over
- Gender issues, career-ready skills needing updated.
- If they continue with dress codes and always harping on kids about what they look there will be several kids drop out if school or changing to a better school
- Technology growth
- Work ethic overall-whether it's sports, classroom, etc. Kids get lazy and seem to have less responsibility.
- Competition with larger schools and diversity in courses
- Hopeful we'll see closed lunches in the near future- there tends to be an issue with tobacco use in the parking lot of the high school during lunch. I realize space is an issue but during the bond issue, the presenters were claiming the commons area would be used for lunch space.
- Districts being forced to merge because of lack of funding
- iPad decreasing grammar and social skills! As well as too much exposure to negative influences. (Youtube/social media apps).
- town getting smaller so less kids
- More technology needs.
- Still a lot of drugs and drinking. A blind eye is turned. Not good! Especially if they are athletes.
- Over crowded
- Financial
- Technology. Technology touches nearly every facet of our world, whether it's computer applications in business, or machine directed technology in manufacturing or farming. It's important that students understand that technology touches everything.
- funding and technology changes, need to include other subjects
- I see funding being a large issue. Along with that I see retention of experienced teachers as being an issue. From the newspaper article printed recently it is clear that Girard is either not paying experienced teachers as well as other area schools or is not retaining these teachers for other reasons.
- Budget, Government interference,
- Safety of kids w/ the world the way it is have more college type classes for seniors

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Poor leadership- planning- lack in character growth- life skills- poor curriculum- poor alignment- lack of budget- money spent on tiered administrators instead of programs and curriculum-economics and tacking away activities due to not providing alternatives to those whom may not afford it- things are not being accomplished because it takes knowledge and additional time and effort-and good planning.
- Poverty - the entire dynamic of the Girard population has changed tremendously over the years. This is impacting absolutely every aspect of education and it is scary!
- Technology taking over completely
- more inclusion of special needs children
- Changing technology
- The influx of at risk students due to the increased number of slum houses in girard
- Social issues. internet safety.
- Bullying seems to be a huge issue these days, and I blame, in part, the faceless technology and being able to say whatever comes to mind online, with no penalty. I feel staying in front of this issue will be beneficial.
- I know budgetary constraints are always of concern for any district in any given year. Otherwise, I do not feel i am informed enough have any additional suggestions at this time.
- Funds
- An increased dependence on rural property for income. Renters don't pay taxes. Landlords don't pay as much as homeowners.
- Low economic status - how to get out of a repressed area where there are no jobs other than waitress - or how to make Girard better to attract businesses - we've lost so many businesses people are leaving town for jobs and there has been a down slide of the quality of people and life in this area.

Parent Staff out of District

- Poor economy
- Transient population
- progressively transient population
- Safety may be an issue with the rise in global concerns.
- Possible Northeast consolidation or closing - or other area schools
- Low income families
- Communication from teachers to parents is lacking.
- Funding, enrollment, parent involvement
- The budget to continue offering students with the highest quality of education and extracurricular activities.
- None that I know of
- We need to attract new business to the area. Hospital, Courthouse, and School are the major employers of the town. Are the Middle and High School buildings big enough to hold the all the kids coming to our district?

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Smaller towns /districts needing to consolidate
- Their is not enough discipline and consequences or action taken for bad behavior at the Elementary level. As those kids grow older and move on, I foresee more issues at the MS and HS levels.
- "1. Continued deterioration of the housing conditions in the city of Girard with increased transient population. From family homes to rental homes for people who have short stay. Need to attract families by having an increase in jobs to encourage families to want to move into the area & stay. 2. Lose of skilled teachers to the state of Missouri due salaries & benefits that are not offered to them in Girard, KS.
- 3. Increased crime in the city of Girard due impart to the large increase of HUD housing in the city of Girard."
- economic changes, population changes, changes in technology
- State funding, teacher retention
- Bullying if it doesn't get under control.
- Economic changes
- I don't know
- changes in demographics, funding, and priorities
- Changes in sociology economical demographics, changes in family structures
- Budgeting
- Budgeting

School Administration in District

- Our plight is the new reality of all schools in Southeast Kansas, low socio-economic status and the challenges that come with that.

School Administration out of District

- NA

School Faculty in District

- There possibly could be an influx of out-of-district students coming to Girard schools. We needs to keep our technology up-to-date. How much money we get from the state is also always a concern.
- Technology changes
- The number of slum-lord/HUD houses increasing and the dependency on welfare/Medicaid directly impact our communities.
- More students coming from lower socioeconomic households with low self esteem, problems communicating efficiently, & just needing to form positive relationships.
- Increase in transient students, changing family structure of students, lower SES, changes in staff and administration,
- Demographics change in community.
- Technology— up, but people skills down
- Residents moving in and out
- Maintaining student numbers; finding ways to keep graduate around

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Gender identity

School Faculty out of District

- "Teacher retention. As salaries have already been posted publicly, it is evident that we are still not on a level pay scale as our neighbors. Not only do we need to have a comparable salary with our surrounding districts, we need to have incentive for those who have been dedicated teachers. The pay scale flattens out as the years of service progresses. We should also add another column for BS + 30, MS + 30. "
- Social economics
- Children entering school have a GREAT need for emotional & social development.
- Economic factors which have impacted the community this past decade which in turn have had a big influence on the lives of the students and parents in the district. A more mobile population and in some respects a less secure one.
- State funding (this seems to never go away), serving more students with increased needs (SES, mental health, family systems). Possibly seeing an increase in transient families as they move into and out of town.

Student in District

- No major problems.
- Loss of students
- Declining value of care about students
- No actual programming, computer, technology, or STEM classes available to students. Every job we will have will have to do somehow with technology
- I'm honestly not sure.
- The housing community and the influx of temporary students at girard. Also the continual shift of technology that schools are experiencing. Girard needs to stay ahead of the trend of updated technology.
- Outdated technology (should have just went with laptops rather than iPad) and a lack of life skills
- I honestly cannot think of anything that would impact the school. Throughout the years the school has been pretty much the same besides the structural improvements on the building.
- The housing community in Girard is poor. We have way too many houses that are being sold to people who are not helping the community as a whole. Poverty is a problem in Girard, and this will take a toll on the school district.
- Kids in our class not knowing how to do taxes. As well as kids living off of welfare.
- The younger generations don't have very much respect for the people or things around them, and I think the values that Girard High School teaches it's students will be lost because of that.
- It's hard to determine what the future will hold but I believe the fact that students never receive a class about finances or business is not good.
- Poverty in surrounding neighborhoods

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- not enough respect for the teachers when needed or to the older students and classmates
- number of students
- Less community feel as more renter families move in and students come and go.
- Kids will become way too dependent upon technology
- Underage tobacco use, and underage drinking.
- Drama, more kids to fail or drop out
- Idk, a butt load
- The students at Girard have very bad attitudes. The kids who people may say are “model student” are leaving in the next 2 years. After they leave, there will just be the trounlmakers, and the very rude students.
- Less number of kids
- Race issues
- Loss of money
- I can't think of any right now
- Going to 3a
- Laziness
- Students not acting how they should, not being kind, or empathetic, and disrespecting teachers.
- Unethical and rude students
- Idk
- Issues with the iPads. Internet issues, not being able to submit homework, etc.
- Rude behavior
- A lot of the fine arts students will get upset, because they focus too much on the sports.
- Money
- Too focused on physical sports
- Nothing
- Technology
- Closed lunch, the no backpack rule...
- the technology is going to get to complicated.
- People disrespecting property
- Less athletes
- Outdated technology (should have just went with laptops rather than iPad) and a lack of life skills

Student out of District

- More kids then teachers witch will hurt the program
- I think bullying will become an issue for the underclassmen.
- The role of iPads being taken over by laptops.
- Bullying.
- I've noticed a lot of younger students don't have the inability to study.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Poverty within the town
- The amount of rental houses and low income that's come no into Girard and the lack of business.
- Underaged alcohol and tobacco abuse.
- I don't think this is an issue at this point in time, but I do hear students complaining about the parking in the North (Ag) and West (Jock) parking lots.
- Dress code. Foster care.
- Money
- The biggest issue I see that will effect students is the advancement of technology, which will hinder communication skills. It is important that students are taught to be effective communicators.
- iPads
- Not enough life skills, and using iPad effect the ability of students to write.

4. As Girard USD 248 begins with the creation of a new long-term strategic educational plan, what areas are important to you to be included?

Classified Staff in District

- possible consolidation and financial cuts
- I would like to see a full time vocal teacher and art teacher for the elementary school. I would also like to see more emphasis on life skills and programs for the non college bound student.
- Plans for facilities 20 years down the road
- Preparing students for the workforce, not necessarily just college. We have too many students who are content to collect assistance (like their parents). Including local history in curriculum. Taking steps to make the existing parts of the school look like the new parts (remove wallpaper in kindergarten wing, etc.).
- technology updates
- More learning how to stand on their own two feet - vocational programs and knowledge about vocational schools - not everyone is cut out for 4 yr colleges and those are still skills needed.

Classified Staff out of District

- career-Ready classes, art teacher
- I believe better communication and better school spirit between buildings. Sometime I feel we a 3 different entities

District Patron in District

- Hands on skills like building trades, Tech literacy, strong writing and reading skills
- Business education including entrepreneurship, expansion of vo-tech
- STEM programs, vocational/skills training and fine arts curriculum support.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- With the rise in cost of college tuition, not all students will be able to afford college. More focus on business and vo-tech classes would help meet that need in preparing those students with their future.
- The lack of performing arts such as vocal music, a skill that can be used all their lives. It builds confidence and offers an alternative to those who are not athletic.
- Teacher tenure issues. I have kids (academically strong) who discuss(ed) not wasting time in certain teacher classes. They tend to be coach related teachers, that are planning for the next game or practice session, rather than creating new interesting, relevant curriculum. Maybe this is acceptable with coaching teachers, but from my standpoint, it is pervasive, and not. When I was in high school, some of my toughest and most valuable teachers were the coaches. Girard has enjoyed some great athletic success over the years and recently, but I think about all the kids who "did time" in those classes. Not all coaches are guilty, but I suspect if I know the names, then administration does too.
- Fine arts. Full time high school music vocal instructor and theater. Many kids find a home in this program and no where else. No or few other 4a school has one instructor for both band / vocal.
- Financial health, review of curriculum to meet today's workforce challenges and more soft skills. Not all kids are going to graduate and go to college, some enter adult life and the workforce without the necessary skills.
- Communication
- Technology to keep up with the world.
- Agricultural, creative educational learning environments outside of the normal rows of desks, work study
- teaching new skills for the future energy needs
- Broader curriculum in the business department
- Core values that emphasize respect for all and service to kids and families.
- Work Ethic, Value of a Dollar, Number sense, How can they help the COMMUNITY (Not just a cleanup day). Let them know how much the Community helps them (Businesses, taxes/revenue, Churches, as well as FAMILY and NEIGHBORS).
- Better coordination and cooperation with city administration.
- As stated above, a move toward a transitional educational environment that would encompass craft trades, post-secondary education preparation and overall career goals objectively and equally.
- Vocational trades
- Community outreach, multi - use plans/agreements, career technical programs, life skill and soft skill development
- "Creating a culture for students to take academic risks. It would be great to see Girard USD 248 participate n the Gemini Project to re-imagine and re-design our schools. This is a great video to inspire <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKt9CslbVsg>"
- CTE Classes

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- To be well rounded socially as well as educationally.
- More variety of Literature is important, connecting what teachers do in the classroom to real life, being more honest and open with students that real life is very hard and will get harder, they just need to be able to have the knowledge and (hopefully) confidence to know how to handle how hard real life can be.
- basic living skills, communication
- work closely with C-TEC to provide technical training for our students
- teach them to
- Retain the strong Ag Ed program, improve music program (band/choral), add business/acct'g classes, retain technical/trade programs.
- Quality teachers and administrators

District Patron out of District

- Technology, Business, Accounting, Government. Types of study that will benefit our students once they meet the job market.
- Continue to keep pace with technology. New classes being offered.
- Consideration of offering more trade courses for those students not planning on attending college immediately after graduation
- Emphasis on trades instead of focus on college bound.

Parent in District

- I would like to see an opportunity for a vocal music program and to expand the theatre education program. There are many great athletic opportunities at Girard, but not many opportunities for the kids that are not into sports. Pittsburg High School has a great theatre program that integrates the band into their performances.
- Physical education & motor development. Vocational agriculture and building trades. Basic math for grade school students.
- Continuing with high expectations on academics and discipline.
- In the past we had classes like Home Economics that taught how to provide for ourselves as adults. Such as cooking, sewing, maintaining checking accounts, learning how loans accrue interest and how important it is to make payments on time and how failure to do so will lead to bad credit, counting cash back to people etc.... these things still need taught to our children.
- CTE Classes not everyone wants FFA other classes such as automotive, welding, electronics.
- emphasis on staying current on technology, adding exploratory courses of study, increasing partnerships with vocational/trade programs
- Life studies
- "Increase support of music programs with increased staffing and budgets.
- Devote more time to life skills so young adults/college kids make better decisions. Bring in outside presenters like universities do to reinforce the ideas about character, consistency, hard work, and integrity taught by school staff each day. They will hear the

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

same message from outsiders as well as teachers in the schools. Doctors, Plumbers, Professors, Politicians, Bankers, Plumbers, Carpenters. Anyone at the top of their game. Let them see what success looks and sounds like in person. Let them hear how hard or easy it is. "

- Maintaining and retaining quality teaching staff.
- Less math and prep for tests.... and more practical skills. Teach interview skills, teach about health & life insurance. What a 401k is, teach about loans, conflict management,, etc.
- Mathematics
- Para Teacher Helpers
- Making sure all children get the education they deserve and one on one help if child needs it.
- Continued focus on high academic standards.
- Trades and sciences
- Creating a fair and equalitable environment for students and staff.
- All/grad credits
- Real life applications and opportunities.
- Leave enough space in the child's schedule for electives
- Class options, club options, sports options, facility maintenance, laptops i/o iPads.
- "They need to focus on what the kids want, and what they can do to keep them in school"
- Vocational technical opportunities
- See answers above. A student is successful when they take responsibility. I feel iPads are a distraction. From Facebook, games, Internet (even if they are "blocked" from certain things) it's still there, it's texhnology and it is a distraction. Note taking on paper is just as, if not more, educational. Having to turn in an actual assignment on paper is a demonstration of responsibility and understanding. Penmanship and writing used to be taught for a reason...now kids curse auto correct. Ugh.
- Broader course offerings
- It would be great to have a focus for students who will not likely attend college. We probably have a larger number of students who will go straight into the work force.
- Make teachers be in the class to teach!
- cutting edge learning
- How about real life situations learn how to do a checkbook learn how to pay rent
- For the arts to continue! Band, choir, art.
- More college classes offered
- Art, band, vocal, library
- I would like to see the school partner with businesses in the area (our outside the area) to give students an oppportunity to experience what career opportunities are available to them. Field trips, internships, or job shadowing are a great way for them to see what's

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

available. Students learn best by experiencing. Many students choose careers based on what they have seen personally or on television. But, they have no idea of the possibilities out there.

- We need different subjects taught at the elementary, not just focused on math and reading; science, art, foreign language should be included. Science labs should be utilized in the middle school on a regular basis, not just reading a textbook. Computer coding should be included in all buildings. I would also like to see more drama opportunities at all levels- plays, musicals. Basic life skills class in middle school that allow students to sew and cook.
- When I was in school our classes were leveled. This allowed for the teachers to better tailor their lessons for each class. As I talk to the youth of today it is clear that the political forces that eliminated these more homogenous classrooms made a mistake. While the teachers are forced to slow every class down for the lowest performing students our brightest students are not being challenged or pushed like they should be. And anyone who thinks that a teacher can customize a single class for multiple levels has either never known or forgotten what dealing with a couple of dozen kids is like.
- Arts programs such as theater and music
- Teach them about their past history & show them how it will affect future. Teach them real world situations & how to deal with them.
- Less administrative and more curriculum that is provided to all staff- there are holes. Planning for project based learning/leadership. Credits and classes that can be applied upon graduating- classes that prepare students for real jobs. Character Building for every student.
- Character education 2. Professional Development for teachers - most are teaching the same way they have for decades 3. Communication from school to home - once students are past Kindergarten communication becomes almost nonexistent 4. Science - science instruction is lacking in the younger grades and does not align with NGSS 5. Classroom management - there are new methods out there but Girard teachers are still using the green, yellow, red charts - maybe if management were better the playground wouldn't look like a penitentiary with all the students walking the perimeter of the playground 6. Fun - nearly all fun has been taken from our elementary students. Kids need to be kids and experience fun learning, recess and parties, including Halloween.
- Drafting classes
- more inclusion of special needs children
- Retaining quality teachers and technology
- Technology, leadership, personal financial planning.
- Both sides of issues taught: evolution/creation, right/left sided politics, safe sex/abstinence. Better checks and balances on teachers/curriculum—have seen huge ranges on these within the same grade. Safe internet practices need to be taught if it's going to be used without supervision. In my opinion parents should be made aware of

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

programs being used and any online accounts created in their child's name with passwords.

- Communication with the parents, incorporating life experiences, while "keeping up" with changing technology
- Fine Arts, 2. Curriculum that allows for cooperative learning while fostering individual learning, 3. Less emphasis on testing results and more focus on individual growth, 4. Quality vocational learning opportunities.
- Teacher evaluations on performance; discussing with students how classes are going. For Girard to stay strong, there is going to have to be more in-depth assessment of the quality of teachers hired, especially at the high school level. We have seen first hand poor performance by teachers that does not seem to be addressed.
- Let's do real math. Real nutrition.
- Again, personal finance, life insurance information - just because they are young doesn't mean they don't need it - financing for your future and possibly being able to retire at a decent age instead of being a Wal-mart greater when they should be retired. Help them see the needs vs. wants - the latest electronics vs. paying on a bill - prioritizing things in life.
- I have already filled one of these out but meant to add a couple of things. Sleep and quality family time are very important to me and my family. I admire the schools that are moving toward little to no homework to allow for these things.

Parent out of District

- Opportunities
- Business/Entrepreneurship; Community/School relations
- Social intelligence, technology, life skills
- "It seems that education is looking for the latest new trends in education. What if they went back to teaching basic skills that are tried and true for success.
- We are fortunate to have college classes offered to HS students for a better start in their academic pursuits."
- Curriculum - STEM, computer coding, website development, vo-tech (partnership with SEKCTECH).
- Fine arts, FFA, educational resources
- High school personalized plan that is reviewed with the student and parent every year to make sure the student is taking the correct classes for life after high school. College, trade school, entering work force, etc.
- Technology and shop classes
- Real life skills, job preparation, college prep (from applying for FA to enrollment to college tours), budgeting/debt management
- Life skills, core education, shop classes, and opportunities for extracurricular activities. A well rounded school teaches our kids to be well rounded citizens.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Ensuring that children who struggle in different areas and assisted to excel in those areas. This could be academically, socially, or emotionally.
- Keep the Ag and Vo-Tech programs up running and strong...maybe add to them. 4 year college isn't for everyone, and that is ok.
- Science education, math education, opportunities for the kids to have summer internships to experience a taste of what they think they want to do in the future.
- Communication with parents, monthly calendars of events happening at the school, I love the reading mentor program at the elementary school, but no one informed me that my child would be going with a stranger to read and that concerns me. I would have like to know this BEFORE she went. The yearly calendar does not always match what really happens.
- "1. The safety of the kids & staff considering the increase in crime & drug usage in the city of Girard.
- 2. I would like to see the kids also learn the basics of taking care of what they have in their family home or future home such as fundamentals of electrical repair, carpentry repair or basics of building. Everyone needs this knowledge if not only for themselves then possibly be lead to further enjoy as an occupation due to having actual hands on practice & finding to be good at or enjoy.
- communication to parents of what is happening in the district and in the classrooms
- Academic, I feel is strong. In terms of extra curricular, it would be nice to see a middle school cross country team, middle and high school wrestling program and possibly seeing a Jr.ROTC program begin in the high school.
- More parent communication
- My long term education plan is what lead me to know what I want to do.
- College preparatory; growth mindset

School Administration in District

- We must invest time, talent and treasure to those students that are not college bound. Two economies exist, generally, in our district. Average and above wage earners and those tied to minimum wages. Often those tied to minimum wages are the primary wage earner in the family (or, two minimum wage earners). Add two or three children to the mix and the poverty continues to grow. One major step that is to be applauded is the technical school where an HVAC tech, a welder, a block layer, can one day make \$20 an hour vs. \$8 an hour. These avenues must be explored.

School Administration out of District

- NA

School Faculty in District

- There is a need for more vocational skill classes. Not everyone will attend college. Better the communication between buildings, teachers, parents, and the community.
- Social and emotional skills being intentionally taught

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Value veteran teachers by realigning salaries (presently heavy on the beginning teacher salary and light on the veteran teacher salary in comparison to other local school districts 5yr , 10yr, and 20 yr experienced teacher salaries).
- I would really like to see Girard hire middle school and high school vocal/choir teachers.
- Additional social studies teacher at the HS. HS mentoring program for at risk students, classes on leadership and character education. Increased opportunities for vocational education.
- Some basics which are noticeable even when n the younger students... dealing with others, relationships, emotional coping, etc
- Education, quality staff, technology
- continued improvement of facilities not sports related
- Inclusion, career readiness, tech classes

School Faculty out of District

- Employees who have invested in continuing their education are not being utilized. Some jobs are not even posted. We have furthered our education so that we can try to make a difference. People are being placed in areas of needed instruction that do not have the education that some have funded and worked hard to complete.
- Communication to everyone what is being planned
- Behavioral & social skill focus.
- "Open communication and discussion between staff, admin., and the community in identifying the priorities and concerns of all the stakeholders in the creation
- of a viable plan. All voices represented and welcomed at the table. "
- regardless of what issues that might lie ahead, I would like to see USD 248 continue to provide an excellent education, preparing our students for real world experiences.

Student in District

- Learning to plan my future and find a career I find interesting.
- Real life situations class
- More hands on, applicable life lessons/ revise outdated and unwelcoming rules: such as hair rules, and prom meal and walk in
- Actually doing science labs in middle school
- What is being taught and how it's being taught.
- Future skills that will help students when they step foot into the "real world"
- New technology, for instance laptops for all students present in the high school. The establishment of a students services office that will help students apply for college, find jobs, offer tutoring, or provide support when needed. Classes that involve a better education for students that are not looking to attend college. Such as classes in filing tax work or paying bills.
- Alteration of school rules. For example the dress code is contradictory (you can wear shorts but no holes in your jeans/you can't wear tights but you can wear skinny jeans).

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

We are a public school and I have friends enrolled in private schools who think we are strict.

- Teach useful life skills that will be helpful for our future.
- New technology, like investing in laptops. Teaching life skills, like doing taxes and stopping bullying
- What I think needs to be changed on education is, everybody can graph a point or a line, but when we go out into the real world next year, most if not all knows at all on how to do taxes and pay bills. That's what I'm most disappointed about.
- It's hard to go on renaissance trips and class related field trips without feeling like you're being punished because everything you missed from your classes is due the next day. When I get home after a renaissance field trip, I spend the rest of my afternoon doing the class work I missed and it makes it hard to enjoy those kinds of trips. Sometimes, I opt out because I don't want the stress of makeup work.
- The arts are extremely important. They help students prepare for college by exploring their creativity. Another area that needs help is our clubs and organizations.
- Maybe institute a computer programming course
- life skills
- Keep doing what you are doing.
- Encouragement of students to have a strong work ethic.
- Functions of computers and technology
- Communication, iPads create more anti-social environments, have more group projects. Have more classes implementing Apple Classroom
- I think we need a class that teaches us how to handle life
- Robotics, computers, more
- Individual help
- All clubs
- Better art department ex. Band drama, ect.
- Art, health, science, English, and history
- Agriculture
- Science, and math
- I'm not sure
- None
- Definitely try to get people into fine arts programs
- Smart spending
- Be more diverse. Not everyone has a good body to play sports. Forensics is a good extra curricular activity that benefits you for the future because it prepares you for interviews and teaches you to speak better
- Lifetime Sports
- English, Math, Science
- None

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- math, english, and art
- Math and English
- Provide possibilities to attend classes not on prerequisites.
- Alteration of school rules. For example the dress code is contradictory (you can wear shorts but no holes in your jeans/you can't wear tights but you can wear skinny jeans). We are a public school and I have friends enrolled in private schools who think we are strict.

Student out of District

- Lcs
- Basic skills.
- Widespread support and separation of money between all athletics and extra-curricular. Come up with a new ACT elective class.
- Sex ed for boys not just girls. Make sure kids feel safe in this school district (many do not).
- Keeping good teachers that care around. Preparing kids for the future and to keep renovating and hope Girard can build economically.
- English, math, science
- The drama/debate department
- Dress code needs to be able to work with the students more. It is very non-flexible and unfit for today's society. While briefly understanding why we have the dress code I feel like it is a little over the top.
- I don't know
- I believe that it is important to prepare students for their future careers. Girard schools has many great programs for this if you are willing to take them as elective classes; however, many student's schedules get full and are not able to attend those classes. For students to be prepared for their future endeavors, is the most valuable skill Girard Schools can provide to students.
- Life needs to know

5. What other topics or comments would you like to express that will help guide our long-term plan?

Classified Staff in District

- Never give up on our kids! Keep trying to find a niche for every one of them.
- Thank you for giving the classified employees the same benefits as the certified employees. This sends a very positive message to the classified staff.
- opportunities
- Classified staff should be treated as more equals to staff and administration, not as the low man on the totem pole. In multiple meetings it's been commented that the school wouldn't run without us, then treat us like that. Have better but cheaper insurance plans

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

for those of us at the low end of the pay scale so that our whole check doesn't go towards insurance.

Classified Staff out of District

- Centralized person who distributes information out to all -- pr person - all info is consistent and communicated to all
- Nothing to due with education- I believe that all classified staff should receive 12 Monty pay- Pay/Insurance ratio

District Patron in District

- Girard has always been a great school system with great teachers influencing kids and making a great impact. I have confidence Girard will continue to do so.
- I am all for extra-curricular activities, however talking large buses with a handful of students seems like a waste of funds. Maybe purchasing or leasing some smaller vehicles would be a better use of funds.
- Hope to see a change in the future from common core. Would like to see more local history taught. Basic life skills.
- I like the recent efforts to upgrade our facilities. We need to continue to re-invest in the bottom 10% of our facilities, make them more attractive and current to today's needs. Colleges tend to develop programs (like the PSU plastics), that also drive local investment in related industry. Maybe our K-12 school system can drive local industry development to keep enrollment stable to growing by adding training programs that foster and incubate small business opportunities. I also feel we need to continue to support our art and music programs from K-12.
- Listen to and interview new 248 stakeholders including students and taxpayers
- Integrate more real life, hands on activities for kids in an educational setting. Cross curriculum training, job shadows, etc.
- Let the Local School Board AND Teachers decide HOW to teach the children, Not the GOVT., but use State Standards for coordinating efforts. Let the experienced Teachers comments and ideas have MORE WEIGHT to the process of curriculum choice and student development rather than singular ADMIN choices. The e teachers are the ones in the "trenches".
- Besides maintaining an open mind, I think opting for an external curriculum developer/firm (and NOT just creating another in-house position) to assist Girard in overhauling the current curriculum would move USD 248 in the right direction.
- Involve the silent voices in the community. Don't use only voters that have been used in past engage a new broader audience
- "The implementation of Individual Plans of Study for students to teach life skills, goal-setting and planning for life. It is a great time for education in Kansas.
- Make sure educators are success driven toward student success.
- Appropriate use of social media is extremely important. Making sure students know what is/isn't appropriate should always be a reminder. Students being able to tap into their

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

imagination/creative side is becoming lost as well, not all students, but some. Finding efficient ways to help them could be beneficial as well.

- Work very hard on you bullying, the one you have is terrible
- Athletic success and participation

District Patron out of District

- Diversity. Having a diverse range of classes to meet every students needs, and potentials would be great. Not every student is able to reach their educational goals due to lack of course study. Girard Schools is an excellent source of education. However I believe if they were to branch out, and take on more exciting and new ideas instead of clinging to the norm, the students would benefit highly!
- As mentioned above a basic skills course to better assist our youth in real world issues outside of the school learning environment

Parent in District

- I think it is important to look at our community (including the rural areas). How can the school and the students help to grow our community? We need jobs. We need tax dollars. In order to grow tax dollars, we need businesses and manufacturing jobs. To be successful, many of the students have been led to believe the need to leave this area once they have graduated with their degrees from either a university or trade school. Our community needs successful people to come back and create businesses and manufacturing facilities, which will create jobs, and as a result build a tax base.
- We need to be setting an example and teaching children to accept people as they are, not trying to make students hide their individuality by telling them to cut or not color their hair. We also need to bring back fun activities for students at Haderlein such as assemblies, Halloween parade, carnival, etc.
- Girard needs to be looking forward, not back. The world is quickly becoming a global technology economy, and we need to be teaching our children to live and survive in that environment. However, at the same time the school needs to realize that not all people will have a job that requires college. We will still need carpenters and plumbers, but even they will need to know technology skills.
- The school is declining compared to where they once where- even with economic disadvantages a good plan with the right leadership can change where Girard is going- Girard is taking the fun away from students and drilling- but that's where you are on the wrong track- you need balance, life skills, character building. From observing- teachers working hard but not smart as well as the district-
- Overall, it would be nice if Girard schools were on the cutting edge like they were in the past (25 years ago). Girard has always in the past had the reputation for being one of the best schools in Kansas and now they are merely average at best. Serious changes are needed and change isn't easy, but with good leadership changes can happen...we just need good leadership.
- Have students put their iPad down once a week

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- with the current iPad policy, children who cannot afford the technology fee are at a disadvantage to child who can afford this fee.
- I'm also a teacher, but my most important position is a parent of children in the district. My spouse and I are deeply concerned about the iPad usage in our district and feel it's past time to reassess our use of them. Allowing game apps and social media apps and sending them home with children to do as they wish is absurd. We are one of MANY parents who wish to see a change. iPads have their use, but any non-educational use of them is hurting our children and our families. Again, it's time to reassess the iPads in our district and decide whether they're what's best for our children.
- A much higher level of restriction on school issued Ipads needs to happen. Large companies don't allow there grown adult employees to access the internet, apps, etc because a lot of adults aren't responsible enough to handle the moral responsibility, and the school is expecting 6th through 12th graders to not use these devices for improper use. The devices also cause problems within families.
- Less screen time. More hands on. iPads are easy, but not a substitute for teaching. They are also not safe. I e had some huge concerns over the safety of what's going on with them.
- I would love to see curriculum that puts writting both handwriting (print & script) & written expression back into the reading/language arts. One of the 7 keys to being a good reader is writing!
- Have at least twice a year parent teacher conferences - the one in the fall, the students have barely had a chance to start anything - some future conferences would be appreciated and more individualized contact with the parents. lack of communication is an issue in my case.
- More hands on with elementary students. Also better communication between parents and teachers would be great.
- I also feel recess and play time are very important and don't feel it is helpful when a child loses that time because of bad behavior. I feel they need more of that time -fresh air - and I feel academics may improve over time because of it.

Parent Staff out of District

- Collaboration
- listen, listen, listen - we are all in this together! ;)
- Community involvement is very important and I'd like to see more of that as long as community communication
- With older children who have graduated from GHS, college professors have always noted how they can tell that a student in writing classes have graduated from Girard because they are way ahead of classmates from other areas. I would like to see that continue as a strong point since it is so important through college.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- Communities in Schools (CIS) has been growing in the area and has staff at Pittsburg schools. Perhaps this is a potential resource for our kiddos that are missing something at home.
- I can't stress enough how important it is to instill in students the opportunities that are available to them when they become an adult. We are based in a rural area where unique and interesting job opportunities are somewhat of a minority. I feel it is important for our schools to allow our kids to be "kids", yet challenge them to search for and research what is available to them after graduation. Too many kids choose higher education or employment after high school graduation without a direction or an idea of their true calling in life.
- None
- Wrestling Team!
- I would like to see a wrestling program at the MS and HS level. I believe the school is large enough to add another sport for the winter besides basketball. Wrestling is a great individual sport and teaches discipline. Sometimes the most unlikely kids that may not seem athletic succeed in wrestling.
- Hiring best qualified educated teachers possible to teach our kids.
- early release Wednesdays are difficult for working families- especially since most people do not work in Girard.
- Early release Wednesdays are very difficult for working families . Considering most parents do not work in Girard it makes it difficult for childcare
- I liked it
- expansion of technical education and career exploration
- Early release Wednesday's are difficult for working families. With the limited childcare in town- it makes it even more difficult for parents that have to work until 5:00

School Administration in District

- I appreciate the effort for this growth plan to get better.

School Administration out of District

- NA

School Faculty in District

- Our facilities need to be maintained. There is a need for more technology in the elementary school. We are not one-to-one in all the grade levels yet. We also do not have any laptop computers in our classrooms.
- Dealing with other poverty related issues... meeting basic needs
- Put more emphasis on educational pathways. Increase the number of graduates able to perform vocational trades/skills and decrease the number of college graduates without a job. Put less emphasis on ACT test scores. Recognize and appreciate the high test scores and encourage those students to go toward engineering, etc. Also recognize and appreciate the demand in our world for skills in the hands-on, critical thinking, and

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

problem solving areas by rewarding these career paths with comparable status. We should teach an appreciation and respect for each pathway to compliment the other.

- I would like to see field turf on the football field.
- To be ever changing with the times, not resistant
- more civics courses

School Faculty out of District

- So far we have addressed bond issues, buildings, classes, curriculum, reading programs, playgrounds, and libraries. I know you will get a lot of great ideas from this survey so I feel that the next plan should focus on your staff as much as everything else.
- Lastly, It is very important to have a team relationship with our board members. It should not be a bartering battle for everything we need. We have a great district and group of teachers. We are continually asked to better ourselves as educators. We have to be lifelong learners to make sure our kids are getting the most from their education. We are continually observed and evaluated as we teach. We do not ask that we be given something for nothing. We give daily! As we check one thing off the list, we have five more things waiting on us at all times. Adding school days to the teacher contract does NOT make a teacher more effective and should never be used as a bargaining tool or threat.

Student in District

- Don't discourage gaming on iPads. I personally see them as a way to encourage intelligence, teamwork, and competition. Finally, as a student, I ask for one more thing. Please, teach us for our future, not for the test.
- Listen to students more often, don't take easy way out of confrontations
- The dress code, is sexist and racist (the natural hair color, no ripped jeans, no shoulders showing, no bra straps) you are not doing your job, your job is to educate kids to be able to go into life or a work environment that they can still be focused in
- I know that Girard is a great school that works hard to meet the needs of their students. Therefore, I think that the long term strategic plan will be helpful and successful.
- Ensure that the Trojan Ambassador program is continued and ensure that all students maintain a high level of respectability in not only their school but their community.
- Truly consider transferring to laptops
- Keep the community good.
- I don't believe that students are learning the right skills to be able to live on their own. They might be able to find the slope of a graph and be able to identify a consonance in a poem but don't know how to pay their bills or do their taxes, which is way more important. Also, the Trojan Ambassador group needs to continue. To me, that is one of the most important clubs in this school because it is teaching life skills.
- MacBooks instead of iPads. Even if it's the MacBook Air, kids don't use iPads at college. Also if only the senior class has them or junior and senior class. This needs to be thought of.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- I personally believe that the fact our school only has one counselor and she is mostly a future guidance counselor is not right. If anyone was actually struggling with a personal problem like bullying, abuse, or anything else they don't have anyone to talk to. Most high schools have multiple counselors.
- the teacher's here do a good job at being a teacher but also a friend to the students
- Keep up with other schools and keep pushing hard to be the best.
- I believe students should be exposed to more career opportunities so they are aware of the possibilities around them. This may encourage students to work harder in school knowing that they have a goal in sight.
- Aware more kids about the use and long term affects of tobacco, teach kids that grades are important for colleges
- Please implement a life skills class. Have it all four years so that it is drilled into their brain.
- Nope
- NA
- Backpacks should be able to be used again
- Don't favor buying jerseys rather than keeping classes.
- Don't have any
- Teach better life skills
- None
- I'm not sure
- Teach the kids to be more respectful to adults and each other
- Start letting high schoolers grow there facial hair
- Be open minded. The world is evolving and we are still kinda stuck in the past
- Stop. Focusing. On. Only. Sporty. People.
- Nothing
- Better explaining the work to the students
- I don't have any
- Stop drug testing everyone so everyone can play sports so we can actually go somewhere with football
- actually think about the tutoring thing. It would help people in so many ways, the students getting tuoutored will have better grades and the people helping would be volunteering.
- Nothing
- Truly consider transferring to laptops

Student out of District

- Use the money for the school wisely.
- New ACT elective class, widespread distribution of support or all extra curricular activities, convert from iPads to laptops
- iPads need to be removed. It is a distraction to education.

USD 248 Girard Public Schools Long Term Strategic Plan Meetings

- I really like the idea of the Trojan Ambassadors group that is just now forming this year. I feel like it should definitely stay a part of the school because the topics it deals with are subjects and ideals that I believe everyone should have in their lives.
- Kids need to have more chance to understand how and where they will further their future. The dress code needs to be changed. I understand we are a very traditional school but it has to be able to work with all the students and faculty. I feel that we should have more classes offering us life skills that we will need in our every day lives. I think Speech class should be required because in the real world communication is a key skill needed. We need to work with the kids about their options for colleges and how they would fit in more there with also offering more stable ACT prep classes through the school.
- Get computers
- Less iPad use, more life skill classes