



**Student Engagement 2018  
Reconfiguration Focused Conversation**

<p><b>Background</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students provide a unique perspective depending on their lived experience.</li> <li>● The following responses reflect the program they are attending and as such some additional questions were asked of students depending on their grade and school programs.</li> <li>● These comments have not been edited for content.</li> <li>● Important to recognize that this represents a student perspective and clearly not all statements are accurate. However, it requires that staff work with students and engage them in conversations about the myths and facts around various options or changes that may occur.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Holy Spirit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Group - all grade 8 students</li> </ul>
	<p>Question 1: Please provide feedback on the idea of making Holy Spirit a K-9 school. What are some challenges, what are some benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 92% students voted with a thumbs down, thumbs up vote that they do not support grade 9 at Holy Spirit.</li> </ul> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have the same teachers.</li> <li>● More room created at ABJ.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be with the same teachers too long.</li> <li>● Miss out on options at ABJ.</li> <li>● Less chance to connect with friends from St. T and OLPH.</li> <li>● School already crowded enough.</li> <li>● If you do not like the school, it is 10 years in the same place.</li> <li>● Cannot begin Advanced Placement programs.</li> <li>● Lost opportunity for advance credits.</li> <li>● No transition from time from grade 9 to 10.</li> </ul> <p>Question 2: What do you see as the benefits of being a K- 8 school? Challenges?</p> <p>Benefits:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You have a buddy system.</li> <li>● Ability to be a leader with younger students.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Too many little kids in the halls and playground.</li> <li>● Things seem babyish at times.</li> <li>● Same people year after year.</li> <li>● Assemblies are designed for K-4, give us more mature stuff.</li> <li>● Limited options.</li> <li>● Too crowded.</li> </ul>
<b>St. Theresa</b>	<p>Question 1: Please provide feedback on the idea of making St. Theresa a 5-9 school. What are some challenges, what are some benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 96% students voted with a thumbs down, thumbs up vote that they do not support grade 9 at St. Theresa.</li> </ul> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stay another year, great teachers.</li> <li>● Not a whole bunch of new people.</li> <li>● Young grade 9 students are not with old grade 12 students.</li> <li>● Possibly smaller class sizes.</li> <li>● Get to stay homeroom for another year.</li> </ul> <p>Challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Miss out on a preparation year at the high school.</li> <li>● Four years is long enough in one place.</li> <li>● Environment gets old.</li> <li>● Miss out on lunch at the neighborhood shops.</li> <li>● Credits not awarded for another year.</li> <li>● Miss out on semester system so have to take courses all year.</li> <li>● Choices are limited.</li> <li>● Not being able to be part of a junior sports team.</li> </ul>
<b>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</b>	<p>Question 1: Please provide feedback on the idea of making Our Lady of Perpetual Help school a 5-9 school. What are some challenges, what are some benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 100% of the students voted with a thumbs down, thumbs up vote that they do not support grade 9 at OLPH.</li> </ul> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not having to go to high school.</li> <li>● More students for sports team.</li> </ul>

Challenge:

- Not enough options here.
- Like a newer school finally.
- Same old same old people.
- Could crowd things up.
- Doesn't increase our options.
- Having to see my siblings longer.
- Do not get to be with a new group of students.
- Miss my friends from the other schools.
- Same group since kindergarten, need a change.

Question 2: What are your thoughts on a K-8 French Immersion School?  
What are some challenges, what are some benefits?

Benefit:

- Students can help each other.
- More staff.
- Have to work more together.
- Be with siblings longer. (Not all saw this as a benefit)

Challenge:

- Too many small kids around.
- Younger kids scared around older students.
- Kids will be treated as if they are younger.
- Not sure how this will help with my learning.
- Just moved to this model and now we are moving back?
- Limited options available now, this would make it worse.

Question 3: What are your thoughts on a 5-8 program that includes an English grade 5-8 program in the same school? What are some challenges, what are some benefits?

Benefit:

- More sports teams.
- Increased options.
- New friends before we go to ABJ.
- Bilingual school.

Challenge:

- Could lose some students to EIPS as they are single track until grade 6.
- A lot of new bodies in the building.
- We would be less encouraged to speak French.
- Create competition between the French and English.
- Atmosphere would change and we would have loss of speaking French in all parts of the school.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School would be crowded.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Archbishop Jordan</b></p>	<p>The conversations at Archbishop Jordan were with the leadership groups from grade 9 and the 10,11,12, leadership class. It was a dialogue form and did not use an electronic system.</p> <p>Grade 9 Summary of Benefits to keeping grade 9 at ABJ:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gr 9 students can adapt to high school environment before being fully immersed.</li> <li>● Chance to work with and get to know your high school teachers and peers.</li> <li>● Get used to high school expectations.</li> <li>● Get used to the semester system.</li> <li>● More options and better equipment- AP, Band.</li> <li>● Easy access to lunch options and businesses at emerald hills shopping center.</li> <li>● Better understanding of high school programming and planning for your future.</li> <li>● More friends because EVERYBODY is here.</li> </ul> <p>Grade 9 Summary of Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scary being with Grade 12 students.</li> <li>● Overwhelming amount of people.</li> <li>● Grade 9's are looked down upon by older students and grades (maybe a bit more than grade 10's would be if they were youngest)</li> <li>● Not a real high school- grade 9 separate programming.</li> </ul> <p>Grade 10,11,12 Summary of Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Beneficial because they love being here--large point of growth---prepared me for grade 10 and not walking in to a new high school and not being aware and prepared in grade and I had friends.</li> <li>● knew where I was--less in grade 10.</li> <li>● High school kids learn about mentorship and teach them the ways of high school.</li> <li>● New Canadians get extra aid to integrate into Canadian Culture.</li> <li>● It's a privilege to come to ABJ in grade 9.</li> <li>● Making new friends.</li> <li>● Exposed to older kids for extra curriculums.</li> </ul> <p>Grade 10,11,12 Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I came from a K-8, so grade 9 give me a junior high experience and not from an elementary into a high school.</li> </ul>

- School is too small, need more room.
- Grade 9 PATs shouldn't happen in a high school.
- Grade 9's don't respect diploma time.
- Students can be immature.

Noted: Students asked if given the chance would they not have wanted grade 9 at ABJ. Overwhelmingly they said "no." Just now that they are through it, nice to not have it so they have more room.

Students offered the following feedback:

If grade 9 stayed, best case scenario...

- Make the school bigger--expansion over portables MORE ROOM.
- Have grade 9's have an orientation day before coming to the school.
- More separate from the school--we wouldn't have them in the way or in the hallways --more division.
- If there is an expansion or portable having gender neutral bathrooms would help alleviate the stresses on their current plumbing.

If grade 9 stayed, worst case scenario...

- Nothing changes.
- No orientation day.
- Over-power the high school portion of the school and all the programming will be catered to the nines rather than high school kids
- Class sizes become TOO big for teachers to help all their kids
- Harder to learn if there's too few sections for high schools because grade 9 are taking precedence
- Not enough bathrooms.
- Less options offered--too linear and not enough vocational education offered.
- Grade 9's would be treated more poorly by high school kids and there's too many of them in the school --over-populated.