

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING INTERVIEWS:

Special Education,
STEM/Robotics, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, FFA, Athletics

The following information was compiled as a summary of GMB's interviews conducted with Mason Public Schools specials groups. These interviews are designed to provide GMB with a deeper understanding of who Mason PS is currently with how it delivers education, as well as what Mason PS vision is for educating its students in the future. This list is NOT an all-inclusive list, but a snapshot of basic information regarding each of these educational programs.

GROUP:

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Presently the program is crunched with its needed space to operate. Many of the classes are spread out through the various buildings. Resources to meet the needs of this program are lacking, specifically:

- Diverse learning spaces: Sensory rooms, outdoor learning spaces.

- Additional in-class resources.

- Growth of programs to meet needs of student development within the programs: Peer work, outside groups/agencies.

- Greater storage space: Program needs, student work, resources for development of various programs.

STEM/ROBOTICS:

Currently 2 teachers (Ben & Jason) share the responsibilities of this program at the HS level (Physics, Applied/Robotics-VEX/FRC/Drafting/Mechanical/Wood Shop/Small Engine). Presently the program provides options for students through the 10th grade. No further opportunities to take advanced classes in this area due to limitation in space, and staffing. Many resources available (due to DART donations) however, the lack of space to unbox those items contributes to limitations within the program.

- Greater curriculum development, higher level opportunities for students

- Increase in learning spaces: Group work, technical working areas, practice areas,

- Technology options: 3D printing capabilities, Mill machine, updated computers with computer lab/s.

- Greater storage space: Program development, student work.

PERFORMING ARTS:

Band (Jazz), Choir, and Drama make up the performing arts for Mason PS. These are a strong community supported groups. The programs have been very successful on a state level, and have seen growth.

Continued growth has maxed out much of a solid learning environment for all these programs:

Need expanded instructional space: Band/s, Choir, Drama classes.

Small instructional areas: Practice space.

Auditorium updates: No black box presently, Lighting, Sound, seats, intermission area, etc. etc.

Technology needs: Keyboard lab, Up to date computer options.

Greater storage space: Program growth, student needs.

VISUAL ARTS:

Very successful program for Mason PS. Greatest concerns revolve around ability to increase options for students through higher level opportunities, and spaces for display as well as storage of student work.

Program is limited due to staffing and options in curriculum.

15 course options with only 2 staff: Prohibits growth, limits deeper level learning.

Greater space needs: Ceramic options increase, outdoor option desired.

Technology: More access to computers, more advanced program applications on computer, Lab option.

Greater storage space: Program growth, student work.

FFA:

Very relatable program for many students in Mason PS. 80 students presently in program, 55 active in community in various areas. 1 staff member provides the curriculum for all phases. Relationship space between disciplines and programs presents the biggest challenge.

Staffing needed to add program options for students: Food component, greater increase of current curriculum.

Greater need for increased space: Fishery in classroom presently, livestock barns, sugar shack.

Technology upgrades: Development of research options, internet access in livestock areas.

Greater storage space: Program growth, student needs.

Athletics:

This area has seen some of the more recent upgrades and improvements. However, newest improvements are 10 yrs. old at the HS, and 20 yrs. old in other buildings and facilities. Practice space is still a top need to service many of the sports programs in Mason PS.

Practice space: Many sports, male & female, practice in inadequate areas.

Greater water access for maintenance & upkeep purposes

Improved drainage on fields/fencing.

Upgrades to parking lots

Technology: more power access across the sports at sites,

Locker room upgrades across district.

Greater storage spaces