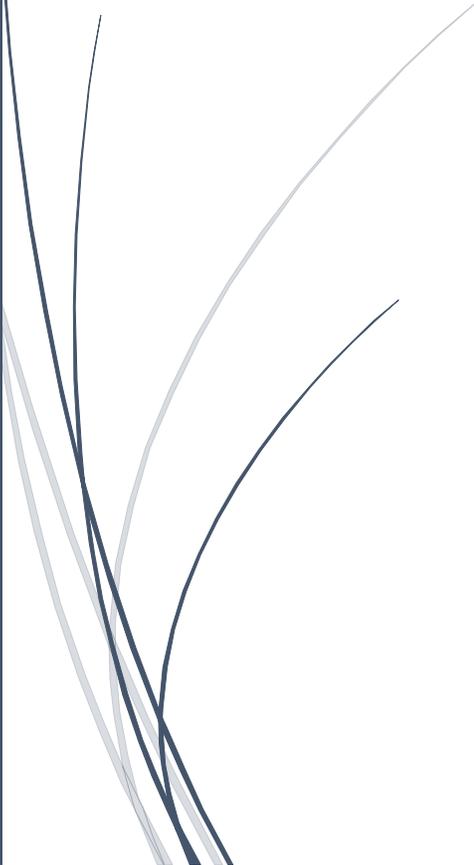




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A Teachers' Guide to Educating 8th Graders



Class of 2021

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This project was inspired by the book study for The Innovator's Mindset by George Couros. One of the many wonderful points in the book is the importance of including student voices in our education decisions. As part of this journey, I continued the book club discussion with our 8th graders - the class of 2021. We talked about what they wanted educators to know about 8th graders, and if, given a voice, what they would say and/or change about their education experience. Students were given the task of creating their own list of thoughts and suggestions, working individually or in small groups, and were assured of complete anonymity. With the exception of a few spelling, grammar and punctuation corrections (*and School vs. Learning by Mr. Couros*) this document is exactly as written by the students and I am excited to share it with you.

Mrs. Margaret McNamara

School vs. Learning

by George Couros

“Here are some of the ways where school and learning can become divergent.

School promotes starting by looking for answers. Learning promotes starting with questions.

School is about consuming. Learning is about creating.

School is about finding information on something prescribed for you. Learning is about exploring your passions and interests.

Schools teaches compliance. Learning is about challenging perceived norms.

School is scheduled at certain times. Learning can happen any time, all of the time.

School often isolates. Learning is often social.

School is standardized. Learning is personal.

School teaches us to obtain information from certain people. Learning promotes that everyone is a teacher, and everyone is a learner.

School is about giving you information. Learning is about making your own connections.

School is sequential. Learning is random and non-linear.

School promotes surface-level thinking. Learning is about deep exploration.”

My 8th grade recommendations for teachers

Math, Ela and Science classes should be after lunch when we're more awake.

SS and Tech could be 3rd and 4th period.

Students should have the ability to listen to music while working.

When all work is done we should be able to go to library or other class to work on something.

Have a breakfast vending machine like in the high school.

Fit art class into the curriculum because it tends to help certain student with anger and emotional detachment issues.

Have teachers at the beginning of the year with all classes create activities to have all class members understand each other reducing conflicts.

Gain trust of student by consistently engaging in activities that mean something to them, in turn gaining deeper respect than just because they have to and instead because they want to.

Identify teacher qualities and match teachers with individual students with similar qualities so they don't conflict. This gives students a greater level of focus and results in less conflicting behaviors.

Add more clubs based on student interests.

Lengthen the time between classes in consideration of those who have to see teachers in-between class and those who have class on the other end of the school building.

8th Grade Teacher Guide

1. Students do not like when they have to do work on vacation.
2. Students hate when they are taking tests and it's quiet.
3. Homework should be worth more in grades.
4. Offer more extra credit.
5. Do not study for tests that we already took.
6. Students should be allowed to use their phones if all work is done.
7. School should end sooner for summer vacation.
8. Students should be able to learn based on what they are interested in.
9. We should have a say in what is in our lunch menu.

1. Students don't like to do repetitive work, like in music class.
2. Music should be replaced with study halls so we can get work done if we don't have any other time.
3. Students should be able to listen to music while they are working if they have head phones.
4. If a student says they have to go to the bathroom teachers should not be able to stop them.
5. More extra credit if students are failing.
6. Teachers should not be able to take students personal items away. They could them give them a warning and if they break a rule more than twice they should get kicked out.

• **No music class**

- Student should be allowed to listen to music
- More Chicken Nuggets
- More technology
- More PowerPoints
- Air Conditioners
- Chose classes based on what you want to do with your life

School. A topic that frightens me to this day. I have a hard time with my school. I have considered homeschooling many times due to this fact. The atmosphere of most public schools are harsh. Now, I may be still a kid, but there are many things that I think needs to be improved, and added, into the school curriculum.

- There have been many studies showing that adolescent minds are slower in the mornings. Now speaking, I get up at six o'clock, and get ready. By the time I get to school, I'm already starting to fall asleep again. If the starting of school times is an hour later, it may provide a healthier, and easier learning environment for students.
- If there is more of a one on one experience in schools, it would be beneficial to the student to receive the help that they need.
- Lockers are a big part of the modern-day school experience. They get trashed inside. There is vandalism inside them. There's a combination that you have to remember. If all work was on a technology device, there would be no need for paper waste, or large crammed lockers. And, hey, why not do nature a favor?
- There is a wide arrange of student with different personalities, needs and preferences. If you take into account their preferences, and put them in classes they will enjoy, they will be more willing to learn and work hard.
- Art classes are vital to learning and engaging the mind. If you take that away, you can affect how they learn. In my 8th grade class, I don't have any art classes, and as a particularly artsy person, I miss that.
- Many subjects I take today, I will never use in the future. If we eliminate all the unwanted subject that we will not remember, nor use in the future, we can focus on the things we do need to learn.

These are only a few choice problems that I believe need to be fixed the most. I hope someday, things will change, and accommodate things that are most important to students.

- *Being able to use phones for learning purposes

 - *More time between classes

 - *Do more group projects

 - *Allowed to bring drinks in classroom

 - *Choose your class order

 - *Be able to go in any hallway

 - *Use technology more often

- * Have as many people as you want at a lunch table

 - *During lunch getting to go outside any time

- *Start learning the language they want to take earlier in school

 - *More hands on projects

 - *Start school earlier in the day

- ❖ Learn about what we are interested in
- ❖ Pick the topics for the book we need to read
- ❖ We should learn more about what we **NEED** in life
- ❖ More partner projects instead of individual
- ❖ We should be able to snack more during the day
- ❖ Be able to move around more in the day
- ❖ Use the bathroom without asking
- ❖ Teachers should get to know students better
- ❖ Less individual presentations
- ❖ Less busy work when teachers are out
- ❖ Choose the people you want to work with
- ❖ More art classes instead of music class

Teacher`s guide to 8 graders

- Get to know them-relate to the students.
- Instead of ignoring the student because you are the grown up, listen to their suggestions, ideas and complaints.
- Instead of punishing a student right away, try to talk to them so they understand and stop their behavior.
- Even though the students take advantage of the internet, give them more online game privileges. Just don't give them YouTube or sites that are not appropriate. Some mindless games can be beneficial other than school education, such as hacking, coding, skills and many more.

Changes Needed to our Education

I would like more opportunities to do homework on online.

After lunch I would like an extra 15 minutes to go to the bathroom, get a drink and talk to friends in the halls after the bell rings.

I would like the right to choose my own lunch instead of only being able to eat a set lunch.

I would like it if we were separated into lower and higher intellect groups.

I would like if we had the right to choose our own class periods.

It would be better if the teachers understood the students better and could connect the students' interest rather than something totally different than what they interested in.

School would be more interesting if we had the right to choose what we want to learn, like art, music, etc.

It would be more fun if we could have groups of kids that are not as disruptive.

Allowing us the choice of going out of class after we finished working.

At the age of 15-16 we should be able to take Driver's Ed class.

Changing our current education

1. I want more choices in what classes I take and how long I take them for.
2. Have more opportunity to be with friends.
3. Get to pick when and where your free time/study halls are.
4. Have homework personalized to my intelligence level.
5. More lunch food choices.
6. Longer breaks between classes.
7. Have tests on current topics not on things we learned months ago.
8. School supplies breakfast as well as lunch.
9. Larger class selections.
10. Only have units on what matters to you individually.

Changing School for the Best

- everyone gets a study hall at the end of the day so it limits homework
- there should be a breakfast in the morning so the students would have more energy for the day
- depending on what career students want, they should be able to manage their schedule so they can help start their career (but through elementary and middle school there would be history and all of the normal classes that we have to take to get a generic education)
- longer lunch periods
- depending on their career choice, high school students should have the chance to schedule visits to the places they want to work
- have a wider budget to help students start their career by helping with their extra-curricular activities
- the students would still have to take math, English, history and science, but they could opt out of gym, home and careers and health.
- take our opinions into consideration
- let us have fun in school and have free periods

-Do work more relatable to our future careers.

-Foreign Languages to be optional

-Coffee in the morning.

-TV in the hallways

-AC

-Leave when we want

-No music class

-Wi-Fi

-Carpet classrooms

- Should be able to listen to music
- Have no lockers and just carry your bag
- I don't understand why we learn the stuff we do, stuff we won't use in the future, but not how to do things like our taxes and paying bills
- Should be able to go places without having to bring a pass everywhere
- Learn different things based on what you are interested in
- We should be able to be connected to the school Wi-Fi
- On nice days we could have our class outside and enjoy the weather
- Don't sit too much in one class period or at all through the day
- Have more comfortable chairs
- We should be able to have our phones in class and use them for educational purposes
- Have more school events to raise money for middle school and high school experiences
- Should be able to wear the shorts and shirts that we want without constantly being reminded of the dress coded
- Shouldn't get in trouble for simple PDA.

- No music class
- Better food
- Students should be able to listen music
- No locker checks
- Allow games on computer

- Choose what classes you have each period
- Option to listen to music when doing individual work
- More group work
- More use of technology
- More study hall opportunities
- Slightly longer lunch periods
- Ability to eat silent snacks in class
- More athletics
- More clubs
- Different homework based on IQ
- No hall passes
- Choice of where your locker is
- Keep STEAM
- Choice of teachers
- Choice of chairs
- Connected to school Wi-Fi

An eighth grader telling a teacher how to manage other eighth graders

Rules:

1. Give out relevant homework
2. Make sure your students are paying attention, if they are not paying attention try teaching a fun lesson and make them want to pay attention.
3. Only use snow days when it is **COMPLETELY Necessary!!!**
4. Fidget spinners are fine as long as they don't cause distraction, examples: putting it in front of face, banging it on the desk, tossing it, etc.
5. If a student is acting stupid or silly ask them why opposed to yelling. They might be having a bad day.
6. If teaching a lesson such as social studies or science show as many visual aids as possible.
7. We should have a break period in the middle of the day after lunch.
8. We should have better chairs and toilet paper that doesn't feel like sand paper.
9. When transitioning to another school such as 8th graders going to high school we should have a ceremony celebrating their time and patience going through the school system.
10. Each counselor should take more time to listen to the students and try to fully grasp the situation.
11. We should be allowed on the school Wi-Fi and have outlets for students to charge their devices.
12. We should have elective classes. People who want to argue should not be allowed to participate.
13. Allow wearing hats
14. Allow sunglasses

Teachers Guide to 8th Grade

- We don't like work when there's only 7 days left in the school year.
- Our brains shut down when 4th marking period comes.
- We are self-conscious about everything physical.
- Very hyper the couple days before break (won't want to work).
- Get annoyed easily towards the end of the day.
- Hormones are amplified.
- They like reactions from bad behavior.
- We hate it when were put in the same class with opposite people from us.
- Don't like certain substitutes (when he/she is complete opposite from teacher).
- When lost and confused with work we don't want to ask for help.
- We want to per treated like adults when we act like adults.
- Hungry all the time.
- Teach us what we need to do when we get to high school.
- Punish the right people.
- Work better with the right friends.
- Don't like when teachers read the students work while the student is working.
- Don't like public speaking.

Teachers Guide to 8th Graders

- We don't like work when there's only 7 days left of school.
- Our brains "shut down" when 4th marking period starts.
- Self-conscious about everything physically.
- The few days before breaks or weekends we're very hyper and excited (won't work).
- Gets annoyed easily towards the end of the day.
- Hormones and attitudes are amplified.
- They like reactions from bad behavior (some more than others.)
- Hate it when put in classes with the "wrong" people.
- Don't like certain substitutes (complete opposite from teacher.)
- When lost and confused they don't want to ask for help.
- They want to be treated like adults when acting like one.
- Hungry all the time.
- Learn about stuff actually needed for high school.
- Don't punish people equally (just because you don't know what happened) punish people the way they deserve to be punished.
- Sometimes we work better with our friends.
- Don't like when teachers hover over shoulder while working reading work.
- Don't like presenting/public speaking.
- Want teachers to listen and understand.

List

Homework is like busy work

I'd like teachers to know that I'm actually a pretty cool guy

We should be able to read book that were interested in

Teachers should know that sometimes teenagers get hot headed

We should start school later in the day

We should be more interactive - aka move around

We should be able to listen to music or other things to help with our work

We should be able to eat snacks or drink during classes

Should have more access to technology - things like iPad for Castle Learning

Our cell phones should be connected to the school Wi-Fi so we can look thing up for work (with restrictions like on computer)

Less books because most of us are so unorganized

Once and a while we should be able to have a fun day to get stress out

More activity during lunch time

Bigger tables during lunch

1. Our classes should be geared toward our dream job or the job we want to have in later life.
2. The math we are taking isn't relevant to me and other students. I really think I will never use half the things I was taught.
3. There should also be Driver's Ed.
4. There should also be less tests. Your future really shouldn't depend on test and passing them.
5. We should have more freedom in classes, also we should be able to pick our classes. Like take 2 years of math and other topics in middle and high school then be able to pick your classes.
6. If your work is done you can go to the gym or to a student lounge.
7. We should be connected to the school Wi-Fi.
8. Have iPad instead of books.
9. Have the option to take online classes from your house.
10. Teachers should be more interactive.
11. Have a second language as an option.
12. Prove yourself to show you can have your phone out during class.

1. We should get our classes and pick what period we want them.
2. Choose your teacher for your course
3. Homework based on your abilities
4. Teach us life skills.
5. School needs to start later - kids are too tired for school
6. If you have a study hall you shouldn't have to go unless you owe work
7. Have a class to teach common sense
8. Teachers have to be straight forward
9. Use laptops as a digital folder and to do your work
10. Games in cafeteria
11. Have more rights
12. Different chairs in different classes
13. Treat kids with respect
14. We should have a student lounge
15. School needs to supply Advil

1. When the kids go outside they should be able to play what game they want during lunch as long as it is appropriate and if there is a problem with the game it should not be banned. But they should ban the person that is not playing the game the right way.
2. Don't give too much homework - maybe one page or less a day
3. In all classes the teachers should make that class more interesting, fun, and funny
4. Should have better food, given more choices.
5. Have longer lunch periods
6. Have more fun outside/ more activities
7. When having lunch have a movie play while everyone eats
8. Choose your own partners/ as long as you can work together
9. Have more field trips
10. Have better chairs to sit on (if the teachers have good chairs so should we)
11. Have all the teachers be nice and understanding
12. Have Wi-Fi available to everyone in the school
13. Have school shirts so everyone can wear one, whether they play a sport or not
14. If someone has something to say to someone else, they should not give their opinion unless it's nice
15. When it's the end of the year everyone should get a certificate
16. Have a graduation ceremony for the 8th graders
17. Allow hats and sunglasses
18. If some students are not behaving don't cancel the field trip or other fun activity. Just don't let the bad kids participate
19. Allow fun games in school

What Teacher Should Know About 8th graders

- They have bad attitudes
- Some kids don't like to pay attention
- Call us young adults not kids
- Say what's on your mind
- Listen to music while you work
- Pick topics we like
- We talk too much
- We like to fool around In classes
- We'd like to be able to walk out of classes when we need to
- We'd like to be able to ask to read a different book that the one assigned
- We try to not talk when teachers are talking but we can't always do it

- 1) Allow students to read books about what we want to do in our future.
- 2) Allow us to choose our own classes
- 3) Have us take classes based on the career we will choose in the future.
- 4) More activities in the classes
- 5) Have different classes In the school
- 6) Easier work
- 7) Have online classes
- 8) A go home early day once in a while
- 9) More freedom
- 10) More privacy in bathrooms
- 11) More accessories In the classes
- 12) Mandatory homework

List about what teachers need to know about 8th Graders:

- The teachers give out too much homework (it may not seem like it to them)
- More time to do the homework (ex: Math packet due in 2 days)
- More hands on experience (a Makerspace period!)
- More projects to do with others
- AN 8TH GRADE ART CLASS!! (art was awesome)
- Some time to listen to music while working (it helps you focus(need earbuds))
- Some online classes
- More break time (time between periods, maybe five minutes)
- More enforced rules (too much harassing/bullying)
- An extra year in the MS (It went by too fast!)
- An opportunity to type some work
- WIFI!!!!!!
- More time outside
- More time in gym class (maybe 1 ½ periods every other TWO days)
- A choice either to go to gym or outside during lunch
- Another entrée served (maybe someone has an allergy or doesn't like the food)

Teacher's Guide to 8th Grade Students

- Many 8th graders want to be treated like adults, but when some are treated like adults, they act like children. Not all, but there are some that don't take things as seriously as they should.
- There are a handful of 8th graders whose decisions are affected by what their peers think.
- I think that the school should get students more involved in Art class.
- Teachers should not assume that every 8th grader is irresponsible.
- Teachers should take more action when they see or hear a student bullying/harassing another student or more (like if a student is verbally or physically hurting another student). The teacher should get the student who is bullying another, tell them that what they did was wrong, and inform his/her parents about the situation.

- I. Choose your own classes
- II. Serve better food
- III. More field trips
- IV. Sell useful things at school store
- V. More hands on activities
- VI. Have a design class to make anything we want
- VII. Do not be afraid of lawsuits and add more outdoor appliances
- VIII. Have a class where students can go at study hall or where students can go and read/play games/talk
- IX. Have better quality bathrooms
- X. Have benches in the halls
- XI. Have more comfortable chairs in computer labs

- ◆ Have digital homework, books, and worksheets. This will reduce use of paper and conserve our trees
- ◆ Have a short break during the 40 minute class period
- ◆ Get to choose when our classes are
- ◆ Get better and healthier lunches and longer lunch period
- ◆ Have school start later because teens need more sleep because they stay up later
- ◆ More relaxing chairs
- ◆ Get to choose the classes we want to take to help us with our career goals
- ◆ Less controlling/mean teachers
- ◆ More music playing
- ◆ Better air conditioning/heat
- ◆ More choice of what we want to do in class
- ◆ Get to wear what you want as long as there is not swear words or anything else overly inappropriate
- ◆ Get to create clubs that we want to do if other people are interested
- ◆ Have nicer bathrooms, locker rooms and, classrooms
- ◆ Better equipped technology and equipment
- ◆ Be able to go outside more, like maybe during study halls
- ◆ Get to leave early on Wednesdays
- ◆ Have at least 4-5min in the hallways between classes
- ◆ Not to have swim in gym class
- ◆ Everyone should get at least one study hall
- ◆ Start learning your language earlier
- ◆ Make everyone fully participate in Gym
- ◆ Have breakfast in the morning
- ◆ Be able to have snacks in class but be aware of allergies and not making messes

I think that we should split up the kids that try in school and the kids that don't care so that the people who do want to learn won't be distracted by the kids that don't

I think that hands on learning and experiments help most kids learn better because it stays in their head

I don't think it was fair this year that we couldn't do certain things because of some badly behaved kids. I think the kids that haven't ever gotten in trouble or don't have a bad reputation should be rewarded by being able to go on certain trips

I think working with a partner is better for me because it helps me be more confident, but some people don't work well with partners so we should have the choice based on our personal capabilities

I think study halls are very good because most people forget about homework at home but they tend to remember in school. I think study halls should be silent so people can focus better but that students who don't owe work should be able to go to a separate room/lounge such as the cafeteria to hang out

I think kids need motivation so at the end of every month every person that has handed in their work or gotten good grades should have a day off or go on a fun field trip

I like the STEAM schedule we have now because it gives the day some variety

- Make our own decisions towards which classes to take
- NO MUSIC CLASS..... the teacher is HORRID.
- Put AC in all the rooms
- Assure every student a study hall
- Less homework
- Student lounge in all 3 buildings
- More vacation time
- Supply writing utensils
- Shorter school days
- Keep bathrooms open (not locked)
- Make sure there is no lead in water fountains

Making Education Better

1. Be able to focus mostly on what you have an interest in and plan for the future.
2. Use technology to focus on homework and learning.
3. People who care about their work ethic should be put into higher leveled classes.
4. Let students make their decisions on what classes they want to be in, and what level they should be in (easy or hard)
5. Have more hands on experiences and inform each student about what they can do.
6. Be comfortable with your teacher so you can have a better experience and be interested.

- Students should be able to listen to music while doing work
- Why should I learn all this common core math when I could be perfecting my own art skills so I can get better in the future
- Students problems like bullying or harassment should be taken care of correctly and not just doing a half job at solving it like they do now sometimes. Students should be able to address the situation and not be ignored and pushed away because the vice principle or whatever has other things to do, like paperwork for nothing.
- Students should be able to hold hands or hug whenever like in the hallways. But some teachers think it's a bother to people and it's inappropriate, what's wrong is the teacher's opinion because some cannot understand relationships or love. (my own opinion is that the PDA rule sucks and it's just pure crap, it's stupid and I won't follow it I'm sorry)
- We shouldn't have a time limit for the bathroom. Example: some students have stomach issues, don't time them
- Students should be able to choose their teachers
- Teachers should realize a student's feelings and not ignore the problems they are facing
- Teachers should be more laid back, but not too much
- Every subject should be offered to us, including art and such for anyone in any grade. (like how us 2016-17 eighth graders didn't get art this year or in sixth grade. I find that terrible)
- Teachers should have presentations on sensitive matters to make students and their thick minds understand it's not funny to joke about.
- Students should be able to speak their minds freely without being judged
- Students shouldn't be judging other on their disabilities, likes, sexuality, etc.
- Say that a student is minding their own business and someone is harassing them and won't stop, even with a teacher or adult stepping in, they should be able to hit them at least to knock some sense into them.
- Teachers shouldn't be quieting students when they are speaking their minds
- Students should be able to choose the genre of book they would like to read, instead of being stuck with non-fiction. What if a student doesn't like that genre ??

- 1) Classes relevant to our careers
- 2) Listen to music during working time
- 3) Less time sitting in chairs
- 4) Choose classes that are relevant to us
- 5) Teachers need to know what we need in life
- 6) Less busy work
- 7) Have online classes/lessons available online
- 8) More freedom in school all together
- 9) Choose if language is needed
- 10) Unblock sites/freedom to do what you want

Better school lunches

More food in lunch

Better teachers

More freedom for lunch

Drinks outside

More time in between classes

Bigger lockers

More study halls

Better technology

Nicer teachers

Pick your own classes

More ac

No music class

UN lock bathrooms

Phones in class and time to do homework

Computer class

Life lesson class

No ela or math labs

More freedom outside like tackle football and wrestling

Gays goes in different bathroom

Let kids talk to a DASA officer when they want

Free period

More sports

No common core

Newer computers

Better tablets

Game room

Change school rule "guilt by association"

You shouldn't be able to get in trouble for defending your self

Teachers Guide to 8th Graders

- ⇒ Teach subjects or topics that are voted upon
- ⇒ Allow phones during class
- ⇒ Let students bring drinks into class
- ⇒ On the first day of school teachers should have a chat with each student to see what they like
- ⇒ More hands on projects
- ⇒ Allow students to dress how they want
- ⇒ Group people that excel in a subject in one class
- ⇒ Be more strict to prepare for high school
- ⇒ Better chairs and desks
- ⇒ Start 1 hour later
- ⇒ End 1 hour later
- ⇒ More passing time between classes
- ⇒ More study halls
- ⇒ Offer Breakfast
- ⇒ Allow students to choose what they do in gym

- **We should have shorter classes.**

We should have shorter classes because some people can get their work done in 15 – 20 minutes and you should be able to go do something other than sitting wait for people to finish so you end up having to sit for 40 minutes then go to the next class and have to sit for 40 more minutes.

- **Make the lunches better and make snack/drink prices cheaper.**

They should make lunches better because the lunches in school are sometimes soggy like the chicken patties or chicken nuggets. The snacks and drinks should be cheaper because it's a \$1.25 for a water and you can go to the store and buy a bigger drink or more snacks for \$1.

- **We should be able to learn about what we want to learn in school.**

1. I cannot work in groups

Working in groups terrifies me beyond belief. I cannot work in groups because I am so self-conscious that I cannot work with others without nearly curling up into the fetal position. I am an introvert. It may not seem it, but I hate people. Plain and simple.

2. We need our own devices

Giving us our own devices provides us freedoms that we do not have currently. We need freedoms. Without them we will mold to society's norms and never leave our comfort zones. Without freedoms we cannot discover ourselves the way we should.

3. We need more relevance

Our schedules should be more relevant to us and our interests. Without interests we will not discover ourselves. And we will become empty shells of human beings never venturing outside of our conformity.

4. We need some down time

Going from class to class nonstop is tiring and face it idiotic. We should have some time to relax and wander, hang out with friends outside of lunch.

5. We need diversity acceptability

We need more acceptability for more diverse people (aka LGBTQ+ individuals). Because face it there is no acceptability for anybody anymore and I am sick of it.

1. More choices in the courses we take
2. We need less homework and more hands on curriculum such as we do in gym or technology class
3. We need better lessons not just busy work
4. We need longer gym classes because as generations go on physical fitness is diminishing
5. We should have classes based on our ability or skill in that subject
6. We should have classes angled towards our future jobs skill set

- No Homework
- Teachers actually talking to the children/working with them
- More field trips
- (tech class) working on people's houses, cars, computers
- Stop treating us like idiots
- Take classes that we interested in

1. Classes should teach what the student wants to do in their future
2. Students should be able to have longer time in-between classes
3. Get better food for lunch
4. Have more class trips for the good students
5. Longer gym and lunch periods
6. Classes should be shorter - 20 mins.
7. Able to go to the bathroom when you need
8. Wi-Fi connected
9. Do all your work from your phone
10. Don't have to carry books only iPads
11. More games while teaching
12. Everyone should have a study hall/ lounge time/ play time
13. Better heat in the winter
14. Air conditioning in the spring/ summer
15. Classes of your choice
16. More vending machines
17. Do not lock the bathrooms

- Learn what we are interested in
- Read the books we want to read
- Pick the classes we want to take
- We should learn what we need to learn not things we won't use in life
- More partner and group projects
- More art classes
- Be able to get up and move around more
- Use the bathroom without asking
- Have the teachers know you better
- Teachers should trust students with more responsibility
- Less presentations
- Less individual work
- Less busy work when teachers are out
- Work with the people you want to work with

Teachers guide to the 8th graders

- They want us to give less home work
- They want to go outside more often
- They want better food
- They don't want to have to take foreign languages
- They want better and cooler field trips
- They want more technology
- They want to be able to decide what teacher they want
- They want to be able to eat outside
- They want to visit the high school more often

In my opinion I think the school should take the time to list the people who don't deserve to go on school field trips, so the kids that actually do their work and appear to the teachers to be a good a student, shouldn't have to be punished and not be able to go on these field trips.

I think kids should have more interactive classes because that may get their attention and they'll want to learn more

Instead of spending school money on vending machines, use it on air conditioners because kids will get over-tired and worry too much from the heat

Start having lunch outside

{GUIDE TO EIGHT GRADERS}

- 1) More subjects that we think we need / choose our own
- 2) Students should use PE class for other activities other than exercise
- 3) Staff should lower the extremity of the PDA rule so students could at least hold hands
- 4) Some students have a higher difficulty doing certain subjects / paperwork (MORE EXTRA HELP)
- 5) More studying on electronic devices for students
- 6) More extra-curricular activities (clubs, classes, sports, etc.)
- 7) Allow fidget toys ONLY for people in need for one (ADD, ADHD, OCD, etc.)
- 8) Have more subjects that peek our interests and / or fit them
- 9) Have some extra time in the beginning of classes for students that did not finish their work
- 10) Eighth graders should be allowed to travel in hallways without being watched (security cameras are ok)
- 11) Student should be able to choose whoever they can work with as long as they can concentrate
- 12) Allow students to choose the projects that they want to do for that subject (the teacher cant choose)
- 13) Staff should be aware that students have bad days and hard times at home. They should let them relax somewhere quiet so they can be calm until they are ok
- 14) No matter how many times a student asks for help, help them. They might have a certain disability in that subject or class
- 15) Students should have the choice to wear a school "uniform" (shirt bracelets, hats, etc.) BUT those who have chosen to wear one have to wear one for the remainder of the school year
- 16) Students should be able to wear hats and extra piece of clothing as long as they aren't distracting
- 17) Staff should remember that students are individuals and have their own mind
- 18) Student council should be able to choose the lunch / breakfast menu, as long as it's healthy
- 19) Students should have drawstring bag / handbags that they are able to carry their materials for classes
- 20) Students should have Wi-Fi access

21) There should be heat in the winter and A.C in the summer

22) If school is in session, before a holiday, students should wear their costumes AS LONG AS THEY ARENT DISTRACTING / INAPPROATE AND ARE FIT FOR SCHOOL

23) Students should be allowed to stick up for themselves (self defense)

WHAT I WANT

- **No Music class unless you plan to pursue it as a career**
- **Have more play time**
- **Have longer lunch time**
- **Update the school (air condition)**
- **let us use all websites – no blocking sites**
- **Allow students on Wi-fi**
- **Watch more fun movies**
- **Play more games in class**
- **Have more free time**
- **No dress code**
- **No homework do all work in class**

- Don't ask to go to the bathroom
- Free period during the day
- Free lunch
- More Breaks
- Later start time for school
- More lunch time
- Nap room
- Vending machines in the halls
- Fix the broken down walls
- Air conditioning in whole building
- Student devices on Wi-Fi
- Online classes
- More janitors
- Better security
- Make it so gym teachers can't go in the locker rooms

More amusing work - something interesting

No foreign languages

Water fountains that work all the time

Music should get banished

Good food for lunch and breakfast

Every now and then have a fun day

Skate Park

No dress code

AC in school

Learn more things

Riding bikes for outside time

Get to pick the field trips

More study halls

Color printers

Drink whatever we want – not just water

Carpet classrooms

Use our phones for learning

Get to pick classes

Allow fidget spinners

Awards for doing well

What Teachers Should Know About 8th Graders

- Students take other classes, not just your class
- Students have bad days (issues at homes, friends)
- Learn what we **NEED** in life
- More partner/group projects instead of individual
- Have homework as a personal option
- Be able to move around more during the day
- Be able to have snacks whenever
- Be able to use to the bathroom without permission
- Teachers should listen to students and not always believe what other teachers say.
- Less busy work, like when teachers are out
- Work with the people you want to work with

TEACHER GUIDE TO 8TH GRADERS

1. Students don't like to have work over any vacation
2. Students' time should not be wasted on worksheets that don't matter
3. More extra credit work
4. Students should learn through their hobbies
5. Better food
6. All students should get iPads and do all work on them
7. Have music every other day for only half the year there is not a lot to learn

Teachers Guide to 8th Grade

- We don't like work when there's only 7 days left
- Our brains shut down when 4th marking period comes
- Self-conscious about everything physical
- Very hyper the couple days before break (won't want to work)
- Get annoyed easily towards the end of the day
- Hormones are amplified
- They like reactions from bad behavior
- We hate it when we're put in the same class with opposite people from us
- Don't like certain substitutes (when he/she is complete opposite from teacher)
- When lost and confused with work we don't want to ask for help
- We want to be treated like adults when we act like adults

Teachers guide to 8th graders

- They don't like all people
- Boys are usually crazy
- Be careful of where you seat them
- Some will talk back
- Some do not stay on task
- Most take learning as a joke
- They usually over-react
- Often they have bad attitudes
- Tired in mornings
- You should teach based on our interests
- We like to pick the topic we learn
- We fool around in the hallways
- We don't listen to rules
- We work best while listening to music
- More people would eat school lunches if we had better choices
- We don't like public speaking
- The good kids should get to pick the people in their classes
- NOT ALL STUDENT ARE BAD!!!!

Teacher's Guide to Students:

- Give us more discipline
- Maybe do more class projects/participation
- Give us more class work/homework
- Have two teachers in the same room for more supervision & help
- In the beginning of each period, give the students a 15 minute study hall for any owed/homework/class work
- More security cameras in the school, to "keep an eye on everyone"
- Maybe have more computer/technology class work
- Student's would like to have about 5 minutes at the end of class period for "free time"
- Have several class trips
- We'd like to work with student's that are in higher grades

The Teacher's Guide to 8th Graders

- Instead of brushing a student off because you're the "grown up" listen to their suggestions, ideas, and complaints
- Get to know your students better, so they can feel like you understand them.
- Instead of resorting to punishing a student right away, try to compromise with them so they stop their behavior and are less likely to rebel because of the punishment.
- If they have to go to the bathroom, don't take risks, just let them go.
- Understand that a lot of things digital like games and coding can be educational and you should not think of them as "uneducational"

There should be absolutely no homework

More freedom during the day

The cafeteria should actually care about the food they make

Have fun when learning

We need air conditioning

Give us recess

Serve breakfast

Keep the bathrooms open

WORKING WANTER FOUTAINS...WITH NO LEAD

Tell lunch ladies to use hair nets

WHAT I WANT OUT OF SCHOOL

- **NO MUSIC CLASS IT IS USELESS**
- **To be able to choose who is in your class**
- **Have no books and just carry an iPad**
- **Have AC in all rooms**
- **Have longer lunch hours**
- **To be more trusted to go to the bathroom when we have to no matter what**
- **Be able to use your phone in class and to call/text your parents**
- **Don't block websites that are fun**
- **Have Ps4s and Xbox Ones in every study hall**
- **Less math each year because most of the stuff is useless for what I want to do**
- **Bigger gym and better basketball hoops**
- **Let anyone use the elevator if they want to**
- **Shorter school days**
- **DON'T LOCK THE BATHROOMS**
- **Don't have a police officer here we are not criminals**

A teacher's guide to 8th graders

- ✓ More games
- ✓ Electronics
- ✓ Bullies gone
- ✓ A Prehistory of biology class (Ancient living things)
- ✓ BETTER FOOD
- ✓ More hands on
- ✓ MORE FIELD TRIPS/ For select students
- ✓ More space subjects
- ✓ Allow some devices
- ✓ Surveillance
- ✓ Comfortable chairs
- ✓ **ADD GAMING ROOM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

1. WE ARE YOUNG ADULTS AND WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE ADULTS.
2. We have a lot of attitude most of the time..... not all of us but most of us do
3. Our opinions matter
4. Sometimes we tend to over-react
5. Let us eat in class.
6. Don't get mad at us when we say something that's not on topic.
7. Some of us do not act like young adults but most of us do at some point and time!
8. Student should make our own schedule.
9. Pick our own seats in class.
10. Let us listen to music in class if we are doing our own work.
11. Let us take breaks
12. Let us chose our own classes
13. Drinks in class
14. We hate it let me say it again HATE it when you call us up to the front of the class.
15. We hate it when you make us read when our hand wasn't up or when we don't like reading in front of the class.
16. Don't make fun of us.
17. If we are talking to our partner about something don't yell at us if we get a little off topic please.
18. Don't fight with us.
19. If we have to go to the bathroom just let us go because you don't know if the person you say no to will pee on your floor.

- Students need to be allowed to listen to music during their work time in class if it helps them with their work
- Students should be allowed to have internet in school so when they are frustrated, they can do something on their phone or talk to someone
- Teachers need to understand the relationship and friendship of friends and loved ones
- Students should be able to make their own decisions
- Students should be allowed to be with loved ones during school and allow PDA
- Teachers need to understand what students are going through at home and/or out of school
- Students should not be afraid to hold hands because of teachers and adults say for them to stop
- Students should be able to only learn things in the specific grade we are in
- Students should have more time walking around the halls so we don't need to sit all day
- Teachers should allow students to be around friends and not be so strict
- Teachers need to not give homework to students during a weekend or 'no school' days
- Students should have improved lunches, some students are not eating their lunch
- If students are hungry, allow them to get a snack or drink
- Teachers need to care more about what they are doing rather than telling students to stop doing what they want to do
- Students need freedom rights so they are not forced to do something they can't do or what they don't want to do
- Teachers shouldn't be allowed to control students
- Students should be allowed to go into the hallways during lunch, whenever they want, because it is their free period

1. Figure out what the student is interested in
2. Figure out how they learn
3. Know if a student needs certain things to learn better
4. Teachers need to make it more interesting so the students don't get bored
5. Students should be able to choose their classes
6. Students should be able to take breaks in-between classes
7. Serve breakfast for students who didn't get to eat at home
8. Schedule homework at the beginning of the week so students can figure out when to do it, if they have things going on during the week
9. Put the more harder/harder thinking classes after lunch

We should.....

1. Have a free period each dya
2. Be able to go outside for study hall and chill
3. Have a break room for students with games and food and refreshments
4. Hands on experience with students
5. More lenient staff
6. Honors passes
7. Be able to listen to music while doing work
8. Everybody should be able to use their technological devices when needed for work instead of using paper and killing the rainforests
9. More field trips
10. Be able to leave school to go to Stewartss during lunch or study hall. FOOD IS LIFE BRUHHHHH!!!!
11. Better seating choices
12. Teachers listen to the students more
13. Students be able to decide what they want to learn
14. Students can make their own schedules to work around their time
15. Unblock websites that are appropriate
16. Students should have school Wi-Fi if wanted
17. Food in class
18. Take the classes they need and are necessary for their future

What teachers need to know about 8th graders:

1. We need more homework reminders!
2. Teenagers are human beings and we make A LOT of mistakes
3. We need to start school so much later so we don't fall asleep during class
4. We need to get up and move around more (we sit too much)
5. More SNACK TIME!!!!!!
6. Take classes online @ home
7. Gum & music help us concentrate
8. iPads instead of notebooks!!
9. Lots of teenagers in my grade have anxiety problems, teachers need to know that
10. We should be able to make long distance calls from school
11. Students want to be connected to Wi-Fi

Teenagers overall are a group that somewhat depend on stereotypes in and out of school. They are considerably important because whatever one in the group does, the rest are most likely to follow the leader.

Some are most likely trying to fit in with a certain group so they feel they officially 'belong' someplace. This is a form of trying to find something or someone(s) to chain themselves to so that they don't have to depend on adults all the time while trying to become independent human beings.

Everyone is anxious about something, there should be choice of if one has to present something to their class or not.

Anxiety. This is something the whole world goes through, it can cause problems and also be the result of one. It starts becoming a bigger problem with all the homework and tests when worry about grades is high.

At the time of being a teenager, people are choosing what they want to do in life. Choices are hard, and so is change which unfortunately also leads to anxiety. Everyone should help everyone else in these choices and changes.

Teachers and students are human. Some things are inevitable.

Teamwork helps, group projects are something that is tolerable for everyone.

Insecurities are also inevitable.