

Comments from the Parent Survey

- We are concerned that our son received quite a bit of teasing this year, because it was his first year at St. Helena. It has improved in the last month or so.
- We are very pleased with St. Helena. We think our children are getting an excellent education! Thank you!
- We are extremely satisfied with St. Helena! My only concern is that our child is not always academically challenged. However, the social, spiritual, and emotional growth has been wonderful. We are very pleased with the school and all it offers our child.
- I don't see a point to them learning French. Why don't they learn Spanish? I think they would benefit more.
- We feel there is too much fundraising. We overpaid tuition to help cover some the fundraisers, yet we still get asked to donate more, more, more. Overall this is a great school and our child is doing well; although, we don't get much positive feedback from the teacher.
- Communication with parents can be improved - flyers & newsletters should be dated, signed, and the writers of these documents shouldn't assume we all know what they are talking about.
- St. Helena is a very good school in some aspects, but the understanding of diversity needs to be worked on.
- My grandson has made major progress since attending St. Helena. It is a family oriented school, which kids don't get in public schools - pride and respect for others love.
- We would like to see less papers coming home and have more access to news and events online on the school's website instead. Please consider removing the French curriculum and adding Spanish.
- Thank you for making St. Helena such a "home" and a community. I feel that part of the education is in making its village-like atmosphere; and that consequently they (the children) learn from the inter-social communication (and conflict) as surely as they do from their workbooks. Accountability and responsibility are challenging elements to teach, as it takes the participation of every member. It is hard to measure it in a survey, surely – so there is two cents more.
- While the handbook clearly states the school's expectations, it doesn't always appear as though all children are disciplined or expected to follow the handbook equally. Parental involvement is focused on fundraising, not educational input/improvement.

- I would not send my child to any other school. I have great respect for Jane Hileman. Sheila runs the office like a Swiss watch.
- I would like to see an academic overview night in the fall. This would give teachers the opportunity to talk about the curriculum, homework expectations, and discipline. It would also allow teachers to introduce new curriculum (i.e math).
- Too many loose individual full-page notes from office. Would prefer one sheet with all notes for the week or month. Also lots of “loose” schoolwork not clipped or bound in books. All grades should have a Friday folder to bring home. Extracurricular events and school programs are not scheduled with working parents in mind. Why not schedule evening music concert/band and choir or 3:00 instead of 2:00 so it’s the end of school and kids could go home with us.
 - CCW
 - 2 band concerts
 - Track and Field/Award Programs
- Thank you for the many things you all do!
- The school is great! The only thing I would recommend is more supervision after school making sure of whom kids are going home with. Teacher and parent in parking lot.
- Our children love St. Helena and so do we. St. Helena provides our children with an excellent opportunity to learn and grow. Although there are a few things we would like to see changed, we would highly recommend St. Helena to everyone.
- Foreign language should be a larger part of the school. This is an aspect that needs strengthening and is becoming required for H.S. and college.
- We’ve experienced new staff 3 out of 4 grades and honestly feel that the newer staff is not teaching enough material, lacking homework assignments compared to public schools at same grades, and not preparing them for the next level. Issue addressed by several families with teachers and principal. 2). Children not given enough time to eat lunch! Attempted to address with teacher and school board. No change. 3). We will attempt one more year at St. Helena, however, if we do not see our child taught at the appropriate level expected, we will look to another private school or public next year. Waiting to commit to new gym because of this.
- Playground is monitored, but it is just a blacktop.
- I would have liked to have been notified when (student’s) work was not brought in on the date it was supposed to have been. It seems in some cases (student) work was up to a month late sometimes without me knowing.
- Diversity is acknowledged. Book club is fabulous!

- Being a single mom and trying to do what I can, I do feel defensive in my child rearing and my volunteer work more from the staff than from the parents of St. Helena. You cannot hold us to the same criteria. We all come from different circumstances.
- I highly dislike the new math books – very confusing. Teachers communicate for the most part with parents, but not when we found out late work gets a failing grade. They didn't let the parents know at all.
- Additional homework should not be a punishment for inappropriate behavior in the classroom. More monitoring on the playground. The new math books are great, however other books might want to be looked at.
- Regarding governance – it is not that we have no opinion (as checked), but rather that we don't know what is happening within the school board. Communication about that group is much too limited. The Volunteer Network provides wonderful support for school programs, but not necessarily for parents and students.
- St. Helena is a great school. I have two children that go here. I would tell anyone about this school.
- I would love to see the middle school students doing more complex/difficult art projects. I would like to see middle school students do more community service/outreach together, not directly involving St. Helena Church/School. St. Helena is a great place to be!
- Great school. The principal, teachers, and staff obviously love our children and look for their academic success.
- This school is an amazing place and I love every moment.