

Determining the peacefulness of a school

Gladville High School – School Profile

Motto: *“To know is not enough”*

Gladville High school has 967 member student body that is 58% female and 43% male. 27% of the total student population were born in another country. The attendance rate at the school is 95% and the retention rate is 80%. The student population is fairly stable with only about 4% new enrolments during the year and about 2% transferring to other schools.

The school principal is a woman and she has been in this position for the last 7 years. The staff at Gladville is 60% female and 40% male.

There is a high level of achievement at the school and a wide array of subjects are offered in the curriculum. Team athletics is also compulsory. If students are not completing their assigned work, they are required to attend detention sessions. These are often very busy sessions. Parents are invited to the school on special occasions, but there are not a lot of these throughout the year.

Students are actively engaged in the decision making of the school. There is a student elected body that meets with the teachers monthly to talk about issues and ways to improve the school. There is also a monthly student newspaper produced by and for the students.

The school has in place a number of policies that aim to make all students safe, including an anti bullying, sexual harassment and drugs policy.

There are security cameras throughout the school and there are security guards employed by the school. At some time during the week all teachers are rostered to assist with student management between classes and during break times. The parents are happy about this, but the students find it a little overwhelming.

There have been three students expelled for bringing weapons into the school. There have also been 10 students suspended from school in the last two months for fighting. The school is often covered in graffiti on the weekend and windows are broken, but these are quickly removed and repaired, respectively.

Determining the peacefulness of a school

Cheerton High School – School Profile

Motto: *“One word changes everything”*

Cheerton High School has a student population of 1672 that is 48% female and 52% male. 37% of the total student population were born in another country. The attendance rate at the school is 80% and the retention rate is 70%. The student population is slightly transient with about 12% new enrolments during the year and about 18% transferring to other schools. The school has just recently been painted and some parts rebuilt, including a new library. Many students travel by bus to attend this school, and in fact pass a few other schools to get here.

The school principal is a man who has been in this position for the last 9 years. 60% of the staff is female, 40% are male. The majority of the staff has been teaching in this school for 8 or more years. The school staff has been attending professional development together.

There is the usual scope of student abilities in the school ranging from the high achievers through to those that are struggling, but all students are encouraged and all types of achievement are recognized, including athletic and artistic endeavours. There is a debate club that competes against other schools in the area. There are some compulsory subjects as well as a lot of other subjects to choose from. All students have a “teacher as mentor” so that each student has a specific person who is responsible for checking their progress and supporting their learning. There are no detention sessions at this school. There is regular communication with parents and they are encouraged to attend school whenever they can.

There is a student from each class nominated to attend monthly meetings with teachers to talk about issues and ways to improve the school. These meetings are not well attended. There is a weekly newsletter, but it is produced by the teachers with little input from the students.

The school has in place a number of policies that aim to make all students safe, including an anti bullying, sexual harassment, racism and drugs policy, but these have not been reviewed for at least three years.

There are security cameras throughout the school, but there are no security guards employed by the school. At some time during the week all teachers are rostered to assist with student management between classes and during break times.

There have not been any students expelled from the school. However, there have been 15 students suspended from school in the last two months for fighting and stealing. There are some students that carry small weapons but the teachers don't seem to know about them. The school is often covered in graffiti on the weekend and windows are broken. It takes a while for these to be removed and repaired, respectively.

School Profile

1a. Which school would you choose to attend?

1b. Explain why, giving specific reasons.

2a. Which school do you think is the most peaceful?

2b. Explain why, citing specific information from the school profile to demonstrate your decision.

3. Describe a peaceful school from your perspective.