

Sv 2 - In what ways is the New Hartford Central School District excelling in the pursuit of its mission and where might there be opportunities for growth?

Identifier Key: Parent/Guardian (P/G), Student-Elementary School (Elem), Student-Junior High School (JH), Student-High School (SH), Teacher (Teacher), Staff (Staff), Community Member (CM), Other (Other) \*respondents could select multiple\*

What happen to the dress code? Having a stronger code of ethics and discipline when it comes to bullying or misconduct. Working with parents, but not letting them or the students run things. WAY to much "scared to offend someone" atmosphere. Not allowing spouses of district employees on the Board of Ed, that is a conflict of interest and completely unprofessional. – Elem, Other, CM, P/G

NH has always prepared their students well for whatever their next step is after high school. – Elem, CM, P/G

I believe there should be growth at the elementary level with the very basics. The reading program has continued to shift and there were 3 different programs in 6 years. We need consistency and research based practices. – Elem., CM, P/G

Need more transparency from the school administration. Pull back the curtain and empower the teachers. We have way too many administrators and way too much of the school budget tied up paying the administrators. Cut some and hire more and pay the teachers more. – Elem, JH, P/G

Allowing more students to attend programs outside of New Hartford such as PTech and Ctech. – Elem., JH, Teacher, P/G

Working to create a positive culture. It's disheartening when I go to an open house and it's filled with negativity from the instructors about how poor their environment is. This is not to say that the environment is poor, it's just pointing out the fact that the forward facing employees to the community (teachers) are consistently making negative comments to families about the district. The positive environment and proud to work her district mentally is long gone. I'm not sure where the blame is for that, but I do think everyone needs to be held accountable for this culture. Top down and bottom up. – Elem., JH, SH, P/G

Teachers are given the building-level support they need to meet the needs of their students. New Hartford is utilizing BOCES programs and has increased different pathways for graduation, such as sending more students to P-tech. New Hartford needs to continue to increase continuity between buildings district-wide, district decisions need to be made with input from staff that work directly with students every day and the new superintendent has to have a vested interest in the community and school district. – Elem, Staff, CM, P/G

Less computer, more outdoor time and inter generational involvement (between grade levels and in the community) less about behavior and morals (leave that to the families) – Elem, Other, P/G

More support for special education students and teachers. – Elem., P/G

New Hartford hires strong teachers.- Other

Hopefully receiving more community input and hoping that the elected board members follow through with what the community wants. – Other, CM, P/G

Growth of physical plant and equipment may not be necessary. Rather, it would be better to maintain existing infrastructure and to focus on appropriate upkeep, ie sprucing up the rundown facade(s) versus wasting \$\$ on expanding sports programs, pandering to student athletes and their families. As to growth and moving away from homogeneity, perhaps the district should demonstrate its commitment to DEI by hiring a person of color with a strong educational background who demonstrates a broad, experienced worldview to run the district instead of hiring another grouchy, middle-aged, white male, near the end of his career who treats our teachers like crap, while daring anyone to come to his door and question his approach or authority and does not take constructive criticism at all well. This is where the district can achieve growth. Hire someone that actually wants the job. Someone who will be excited to lead the district and its next generation of students into the future. - Other

We need improved communication , transparency and staff that is valued. – Other, Staff

Although the district offers several AP courses to maintain its high National and NYS ranking it does a disservice to students by not offering more College Now courses that are accepted by just as many colleges. Why can a Whitesboro student graduate with 30 college now credits and NH student cannot? - Other

Opportunities for children in the Arts is wonderful as compared to other Districts, but there is room to grow. 1- offer internships specific to student's artistic skills 2- instead of limiting the public celebration of student athletes who are accepted to colleges for sports, include those accepted for other skills- Arts, vocations, high academics, military, etc. 3- have "tracks" for kids interested in specific areas of study & offer classes that will benefit them as they pursue those studies at the collegiate level. (ie: a math & science track, social sciences, languages, music, engineering, etc.) – Other, CM

Schools can never provide too much information and education on real world topics for their students. History in all its aspects, civics(the U.S. Constitution, how laws are made, how governments, big and small, come into being and evolve), practical in depth math skills(how to balance a checkbook, how to calculate discounts), and, perhaps most importantly, The Golden Rule and its historical impact throughout civilization. – Other, JH

Excelling in the curriculum and offerings for students. Growth for mental health, practical life skills offerings. - Other

New Hartford CSD has incredible teachers and support staff in its elementary schools (I cannot speak to the other levels). These employees are student focused and provide engaging learning opportunities everyday. I applaud the movement toward cell phone free school days. Unfortunately, the upper levels of administration (above the Principals) seem out of touch with the realities of our student and teacher needs - despite evidence-based communication to the contrary from teachers, parents, and community members, upper administration found it appropriate to eliminate class sections and increase class sizes (redistricting is not the answer), reject notions that our elementary school students have more needs than ever (yes, covid had an impact on academic and social skills), ignore personnel and resource shortages in many areas (classroom materials, subs, etc.), ignore classroom temperature issues, and are not always transparent with their decisions and the process taken to make them. – Other, CM, P/G

good education – JH, SH

NHCSD has a great push for STEM and all the AP Classes to get those that go onto college. Where are they at recruiting the next trades person. Electricians, plumbers, carpenters are needed and will be getting paid more than that of college students. Don't want to here about BOCES, New Hartford should have a program in place for those interested in trades. Get them to use a measuring tape, look at blueprints, look at what electricity does. Simple building trades class that could be tied into Utica University Construction Management Program – JH, SH

if the school mainly Jr high were to have a little but more freedom, one of the main things is to bring back airpods, they were banned for absolutely no reason, you couldnt control your phone through them and last year I was very happy and focused with using them during my study halls etc, the banning of them is irrelevant, also when I asked why out of just curiosity, I got no response. - JH

Bullying, fighting, drug abuse and delinquency are still prevailing issues within our school district and students. Although the school claims to be progressive on the topic of bullying and mental health topics, they have failed and continue to be ineffective. I can say with honesty that many students in this school district feel regularly unsafe and unhappy. - JH

I think its good that we can't use our phones during class I feel that it helps us focus, but on the other hand some students focus a lot more while listening to music in their personal airpods. I also think that junior high students should be able to have theirs phones at lunch or maybe even in study halls to feel like they have a little more freedom. - JH

It is doing well with the roof. There are opportunities to fix the bathrooms (half the stalls don't even lock) and give kids an opportunity to sleep more - JH

Excelling are the amazing teachers Growth would be bringing back celebrating the major US holidays. Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving ect .... – JH, P/G

The district is doing well in fostering high standards of education and working hard to meet those standards with each new class. Opportunities for growth center around encouraging a positive work environment for the teachers and aides along with the support staff. – JH, SH, CM, P/G

I think the District continues to excel in its academics and the courses offered. I am looking forward to seeing the District expand in providing students with other career paths & options through trade school, etc. I would like to see increased unity within our District amongst administration, faculty, staff & parents, along with more community & fun learning experiences & events for our students. I feel our students work very hard through the academic week, & deserve to have some fun events to encourage them to truly enjoy school, and engage with staff & classmates. - JH

Acknowledging religious holidays. This is both an advantage and a disadvantage for NH. I appreciate the new acknowledgement of religious holidays this year, however, kids aren't being educated about the matter, making it have no point. If these holidays are just seen as a day for no new instruction then kids won't understand the importance of this holiday for other kids of the religion. - JH

NH does a nice job of helping advanced learners. However, too many people seem to recall the grand days of NH and are riding on reputation rather than seeing the current reality of how the programming is no longer as strong as it was 20 years ago, as compared to the region. - SH

acceptance. everyone here is mean - SH

My child is only in first grade so I only have one year as a parent in the district but I see many areas of growth (not many areas of excellence). I think communication needs to be improved. This is my number one complaint. Also, I believe there needs to be enrichment activities for the elementary students (we have programs in upper grades but nothing for the younger students. Many kids are bored and this leads to behavior problems. Lastly, there are MANY serious behavior problems (even in kindergarten) and the teachers do not have enough support. I would strongly suggest implementing a school wide PBIS. – SH, P/G

you guys let students be creative in their own ways but you also say no to too many things the students want to do because you act like you can't trust us. - SH

The NH school district excels in appearing to outsiders as a competent district. As for room for growth, the district needs to stop ignoring the voices of the students. The school's environment is as toxic as a comic con's bathroom, and any step outside the social norms students take is immediately ridiculed. The district needs to take steps to prevent bullying, instead of ignoring the issue. And that starts with finding a superintendent via a PUBLIC search, one that listens to students, one that isn't greedy, and one who isn't completely oblivious to what happens in the school each day. - SH

I can't really think of something sorry. - SH

Not that I can think of - SH

take the phone policy out - SH

By giving students their phones back. - SH

Have good curriculum but we should have more clubs - SH

It offers a great learning environment with knowledgeable teachers. - SH

We have a very good education system compared to other school districts, but the amount of homework that we have to complete every night is a lot. - SH

I think that our opportunities are great here and that we have a lot of options to prepare for our future. However, I think that our workload is way too much. Every night I have at least 4 hours of homework and I stay up late every night and I am always tired. A lot of the homework that we get is legitimately to further our education but some of it is unnecessary and just wastes my time. - SH

no more phone policy !!! - SH

Give me my phone back - SH

Its not, actually caring about students - SH

The bullying in the middle and high school is outrageous. Administrative staff is biased against minorities when addressing discrimination because they wish to keep the peace with racist, ableist, and homophobic parents that could potentially be upset. Students who are a part of minorities do not feel safe in your school. I am a transgender student with a physical disability and I do not enjoy coming to school. I love to learn, I get fantastic grades, and I love my classes, but the amount of hatred shown to me publicly within the school has led to multiple suicide plans and mental health hospitalizations. Everything that is said to me is said within earshot of a staff member. Every time I report incidents I am told by school staff that “maybe they didn’t mean it like that”, even when the bullying becomes physical. If the school cannot fix the bullying situation it will maintain its streak of 1-2 kids in the psych ward per month. Protect students, not asshole parents. - SH

The New Hartford Central School District is excelling in the pursuit of its mission to upgrade and enhance security features to its current facilities through the capital improvement projects now taking place. The district is also enriching its education program by implementing a new course geared toward career exploration. This will give students a more in-depth experience in the work world and help them make important choices concerning their future goals. Some areas of opportunity for growth would be in communication and collaboration. It's important to collaborate with stakeholders in making large decisions such as hiring a new superintendent. We do not need another superintendent who will take advantage of our district's offerings. I truly feel that his hiring agent did not have the best interest of the district at the forefront of their decision. We now have the same agent doing the current search and I fear the same results as the previous outcome. Listening is communicating. - Staff, CM

The District excels by striving to hire and support the best teachers within the profession. - Staff

Outstanding teachers and lots of course options. - Staff

I think the district is doing a good job in pursuit of its mission. There is always room for growth. Providing more opportunities for students to learn the basic needs to survive after high school would be beneficial. More opportunities for career based learning too. - Staff

Faculty is very attuned to their students and meets them on a personal level. It's very obvious they care for their students and give it their all. There should be less emphasis on AP and more on the whole student and their goals - which shouldn't necessarily be college. Let the teachers do what they have been trained to do, better to meet the individual needs of each student. - Staff, Teacher

The district truly does a great job in hiring high quality faculty and staff. One way the district could grow is to direct more resources to college and career readiness. - Staff

New Hartford Central School District excels in educating our youth, and having an excellent graduation rate. Opportunity for growth may come in the form of a stronger board of education. - Staff

Excellent in AP offerings...and STEM. Needs more foreign language offerings. Should be offered in elementary (especially Spanish). Need less standardized testing and more integrated, immersive experiences. Need more music sessions w elementary kids ...and better schedules so HS can play more than one instrument. - Staff, CM

Programs available to kids, advanced placement classes, college prep, inclusive environment. - Staff

I believe there are many dedicated employees. I think administration needs to ask questions of and listen to the people who are affected by certain decisions made by them. - Staff, CM

No comment - Staff, CM

Better serving our neediest students. - Staff, CM

NHCSD offers a diverse curriculum for students in all subject areas. They offer many core courses and also numerous electives. Teachers in the district are very dedicated and put in a lot of effort to support students. - Teacher

There might be opportunities for growth in community involvement and school pride. There seems to be a lack of involvement in the school community and I see it at all levels. There does not seem to be care about individuals and it can be as simple as, "How are you doing? or can I help you with something? There seems to be a lack of community and reaching out to others at all levels. – Teacher, CM

I don't think it is excelling by any means. We need major growth! the morale is completely down in every building. So much has changed over the last ten years. Administration (upper, not principals) talk down to teachers and do not treat them respectfully. We are not valued and neither are our students. Upper Admin needs a major readjustment! – Teacher, CM, P/G

Excellence is present in a dedicated teaching and non-instructional staff that cares about the students. Growth opportunities are many: the most important being a true sense of leadership and vision from district-level administrators. We need top-tier administrators who will define a clear vision, work to get buy-in from stakeholders, and move New Hartford forward, rather than resting in a static state built on reputation. – Teacher, CM

New Hartford has historically excelled in the hiring of quality teachers for the classroom. In general, the hiring process has gradually gotten worse when it comes to the quality of the candidate pool and the lack of transparency with interview committees. Leadership and communication is where growth is needed. Leaders should build relationships with teachers, students, community members to enhance communication and making sure that all students and teachers feel valued. Our biggest opportunity for growth is who we hire for this position and other central administration positions in the near future. We need a more collective use of our resource available in the New Hartford Education community. – Teacher, CM, P/G

The New Hartford Central School District excels at providing rigorous and relevant curriculum and instruction to address New York learning standards and frameworks through the Curriculum Cycle and Curriculum Alignment Process. However, it still struggles to create an atmosphere of transparency and trust between the district and its students and their families, district staff, and the greater New Hartford community. - Teacher

I think the current mission statement is too vague. I don't think we do enough to promote innovation (technology needs to be updated), citizenship (it would be nice to have students regularly involved in community projects), or integrity (I can't think of an example of this being "taught" in the elementary schools). I think we all know that the district values excellence, but we need to do more to ensure that various types of excellence are valued and that ALL students have the supports they need to achieve excellence. I think the Portrait of a Spartan competencies better represent what our district should be helping its students cultivate, but the competencies have not really been presented to students, staff, and the community or formally incorporated into instruction. - Teacher

Excelling - Impressive extracurricular offerings, considerable opportunities for professional development, and a wide array of course options for students in different fields. It is clear that the District is committed to providing students with everything (curricular, extracurricular) they possibly can. Opportunities for Growth - Low morale amongst faculty/staff, lack of transparency on major district-wide decisions - Teacher

I think we are doing well in creating a future focused learning environment, but I think there are more pressing things to focus on. As a teacher for over 20 years, I am seeing that today's students are lacking in basic skills(reading, writing & problem solving). We need to be sure our elementary students are focusing on the basics and MASTERING them before we worry about teaching them all the "bells and whistles". Then they can focus on building on those skills for the future at the secondary level. It seems some students are pushed through, despite not having met basic criteria for their grade level. I am very concerned about our long term financial stability. Since Dr. Tangorra has been here, the amount of positions created to do the same work seems fiscally unsound (communications dept, TOSAs, Student Services, etc.) Starting salaries of new teachers seems inequitable, and what we choose to spend \$ on v. what we should spend \$ on leads to my concern. - Teacher



NHCS is falling short in all aspects of the mission statement. It's embarrassing to have to constantly pick up the slack of our upper admin so that we appear to parents that we are doing the absolute best for their children. Plain and simple, we are not. The elementary curriculum is in utter shambles, the SPED dept is completely overwhelmed and under informed about what they should be doing, and the upper admin is nowhere in sight. I think before you offer another superintendent exorbitant amounts of money and benefits to work here, you should look at the actual needs of the district. You can start my finding someone who will hold our assistant superintendent accountable. You can also make sure our building principals are able to do their jobs and not be micromanaged. If a principal says we need another section or need mor personnel, that should be priority #1. This district puts admin first and student/teacher needs at the bottom. It has to stop or we will continue to flounder. - Teacher

There is a complete disconnect between the administration and faculty. We seem to have an absentee superintendent. Not once has he embraced being at NH. – Teacher, P/G

I think NHCS excels in it's integrity. However, I feel like we need growth in the areas of a guaranteed and viable curriculum and some semblance of school spirit and community. - Teacher

There are always opportunities for growth. One very weak area is in what I call "critical thinking with deductive reasoning". Students' learning is so geared to succeeding on a standardized test that they lack creative problem-solving skills. It hasn't mattered what new things Asst. Superintendent Hyde has implemented over the last 10 years. I continue to see this problem grow. Even if we use "modules" that teach less rigid question-answer structure, the students are arriving at the high school level unprepared for the demands of rigorous STEAM courses. I do not agree that we are a STEAM district. When compared to similar districts near Syracuse, we do not offer the problem-solving based curriculum. Sure we have AP classes but even with that, some AP STEAM teachers are playing catch-up because the foundation is not there. As you can tell, I have a lot to say about this but not enough room. – Teacher, CM, P/G

New Hartford provides lots of programs for the academically successful/motivated students. However, in some cases, students are inappropriately placed in regular education classes because we don't offer a special education program in district that services these students. In some cases it takes away from the learning of the majority. The modifications or expectations that are made to help these students be successful can compromise the integrity of the course that the other students are working hard to achieve. The population in the school district is changing as more transfers are happening and we need to adjust to be able to service this new population and support our teachers who are receiving these students and expected to have them meet the same standards. - Teacher

The district excels at holding students to a high standard. In many ways, academics are prioritized. Students have many opportunities, both academically and after school. Faculty and staff are treated as professionals. - Teacher

Excelling: I believe New Hartford continues to maintain its tradition of offering rigorous course offerings and most students have largely met that challenge. I hope the next superintendent will continue to promote high expectations in the classroom and will not be bullied by parents who think they can change that. Opportunities for Growth: I'm not sure that NHCS is maintaining its value of integrity. I've noticed that the district panders to certain families whether they are students, teachers, or prospective employees. I want a superintendent who does not feel pressured to bow to those with influential last names and ultimately grounds their decisions in the best interest of students and staff. We need to hire the best candidates, not those with the best last names. We need to maintain high standards for all students and not relax them because wealthy parents threaten lawsuits. On a similar note, NH has lost its reputation as a district where teachers come to teach. - Teacher

Educational opportunities are varied. Transparency and communication continues to be an area of need – Teacher, P/G

We clearly have high achieving students and good results. Our administration is top heavy. Money is being nitpicked at lower levels but not questioned at the higher levels. Telling us they don't have money for more teachers but having teachers on special assignment and a superintendent that was going to many conventions. – Teacher, P/G

Our teachers and staff are top notch experts of their craft. They work hard and care deeply about their students. I would say the same about our principals. Building principals and teachers carry the weight of the excellence, innovation, and integrity that we foster in our students. We create the community that feels like home for our students. But then the feeling of community seems to stop beyond these groups. While I realize that being a superintendent is a busy job, it can be done with a level of care for staff and community. We do not feel valued or appreciated at all right now. Not as a student, teacher, parent, nor community member. – Teacher, CM, P/G

They offer a very diverse educational program They should make two classes mandatory for graduation, personal finance and public speaking classes. - Teacher

New Hartford is a special school community. We have involved parents, innovative & passionate educators, and excellent students who, beyond the classroom, are talented musicians and athletes. One area of improvement is leadership. Professionalism & respect have been supplanted by micromanagement & targeted bullying. Administrators & teachers have fled. A bloated bureaucracy has been added. The toxic culture has led to low morale & turnover, which in turn impacts students. Our leaders are not interested in our students, rarely if ever attending events. Parents & teachers feel unwelcome & unappreciated. Rather than confronting issues like racism & bullying, they're swept under the rug by the PR team. Improvement would begin with a superintendent who is involved & has the trust of parents and teachers. A leader who is focused on preparing gritty, empowered, & valued young people instead of on test scores & rankings. Someone who embodies the district mission & leads others by example. – Teacher, CM, P/G

I am not sure we are helping ALL children excel. We base a great deal of weight in test scores and often do not push other methods in which children might find success. We offer no STEM opportunities at the elementary level. Our special education services for those mainstreamed is pieced together with them being tested on assessments that are way above their level. We offer no enrichment opportunities for elementary either. – Teacher, CM, P/G

The building leadership here is second-to-none. With an outside perspective, I can confidently say that the community (and, specifically, parents and guardians) have a keen sense of how kids should prepare for school and are understanding of the high expectations teachers have for them. I have not been in a district with both of those community characteristics present at the same time. Opportunity for Growth: there is a top-down model of communication here that I've seen eat districts from the inside out. I don't know what has happened in the years prior to my joining the team, but I was surprised to find limited transparency and obstacles in the way of voices from the bottom trying to be heard, either by the BOE or District admin. Like in any district, there's a rigidity (maybe, a fear) of moving away from traditional practices to keep up with 21st century needs and expectations. Change is [always, generally] slow. - Teacher

Students in New Hartford have a wide variety of curriculum offerings to meet the varying needs and interests of students. Most students who further their education in college feel they have been adequately prepared. Curriculum offerings need to be reviewed periodically for updates based on changing interests. Staff also needs to remain stimulated and educated so they can better meet our students' needs. - CM

Keeping class sizes small at the elementary school level, removing cell phones from the classrooms and embracing efforts to monitor student mental health all help the District in its mission. Bullying in schools needs to be better addressed as well as communication with the school community and the greater New Hartford community. The fact that the District is including residents in the Superintendent search is certainly a step in the right direction. - CM

There needs to be more transparency and responsiveness to the taxpayers who fund the school district. Fiscal responsibility is lax and the growth in taxes is astronomical. Busses have very few students on them and there is no need to spend more money to transition a new superintendent. These individuals make 6 figure salaries and earn more than most community members. Any new leader selected should already be able to manage the school district. We need a fresh perspective with fiscal responsibility as a top priority. There is an opportunity to grow the engagement with the community who supports our schools. These surveys are a good step in that direction. - CM

Opportunities for growth in community events and recreation. Partnering with town resources to allow for greater community services. - CM

There has been numerous appointments by the board that do not focus on the needs of the students but rather the PR of the district. The district needs to focus on the needs of the students, bring back advanced math and reading at the elementary level, remedial only focuses on part of the student population – CM, P/G

Its mission has always been to provide an excellent well rounded experience with opportunities not only to excel academically but in diverse extra curricular activities as well . Creating an atmosphere where each student feels part of the same school regardless of varying abilities and interests is hugely important in combating bullying . We don't want to be a school that promotes the idea that we are a population of the academically talented or financially well off . We need to encourage students to embrace everyone in tangible ways. For NH to be known as fostering inclusion for all will truly be the key ingredient in graduating students ready to make a positive difference in the world. – CM, P/G

I feel that it is important to focus on academics not on DEI! It is important to realize how what appears to teach inclusion is further dividing students/parents/teachers and the overall community. As an educator and parent there is NO room in the classroom or academic environment for individual preferences to be taught, conveyed or implied to students within the school district. I should not know a teacher/staff members sexuality preference/religion/political stance/gender pronoun preference etc. These are NOT academic nor do they belong in a classroom or school. I support everyones right to their own beliefs and I strongly believe those should remain out of the classroom and school. We, the parents will teach our children the personal, moral, religious topics NOT the teachers and the school. I see the division that separating individuals in to classes (i.e., race/gender/religion/political) is doing and is dividing people not celebrating individuals rights. STOP PUSHING IT – CM, P/G

Good school reputation. Opportunities for growth : teacher quality & dedication. Admin strength & adherence to contract. Ability to inspire, motivate & raise educational standards. Address drug problems to improve, not ignore, the situation. - CM

I would like to see administrators from this district making policy/decisions so it is abundantly clear they will do what is best for the current and future students of this district – CM, P/G

NHCSD has a great push for STEM and all the AP Classes to get those that go onto college. Where are they at recruiting the next trades person. Electricians, plumbers, carpenters are needed and will be getting paid more than that of college students. Don't want to here about BOCES, New Hartford should have a program in place for those interested in trades. Get them to use a measuring tape, look at blueprints, look at what electricity does. Simple building trades class that could be tied into Utica University Construction Management Program – CM, P/G

Can always improve with communication, inclusion and transparency. - CM

It is excelling in terms of the students grades and it could improve in its implementation of DEI policies – CM, P/G

It's not excelling at all, in fact I see it as declining. More disciplinary problems, lower quality experience for the students overall than it used to be. - CM

I like big butts - the other brothers can't deny – CM

Teach the "Classics" and remove from the curriculum any "DEI" content. They are a waste of classroom time. - CM

Preparing students for college has always been forefront. I believe there needs to be more preparation and opportunities to explore other paths for students who choose not to go to college. - CM

Having four children that have graduated from New Hartford, I feel it has a lot of educational opportunities available for students and does a good job helping support students with disabilities. Parents and students statements and concerns should be taken much more seriously with corrective actions put in place. Mrs Hamilton is grossly inappropriate with her comments during her "life lessons" and I had multiple discussions with the district with no positive outcome or discipline on her part- just a suggestion that they could place my child in another teachers class. A DASA form was never completed on the Art teacher for the racially offensive poster in to the Art Show. The district should support more inclusivity by things like Pride week (currently it is not allowed). Coaches should be required to play all students on their team, just not the best players- too many games are played where students that consistently show up for practice never get playing time no matter the score. - CM

Excelling in the curriculum and offerings for students. Growth for mental health, practical life skills offerings. - CM

I think the District continues to excel in its academics and the courses offered. I am looking forward to seeing the District expand in providing students with other career paths & options through trade school, etc. I would like to see increased unity within our District amongst administration, faculty, staff & parents, along with more community & fun learning experiences & events for our students. I feel our students work very hard through the academic week, & deserve to have some fun events to encourage them to truly enjoy school, and engage with staff & classmates. – CM, P/G

In what ways is the New Hartford Central School District excelling in the pursuit of its mission and where might there be opportunities for growth? – P/G

I think the school lacks in integrity. There is a lot of bullying that gets swept under the rug. There is a lot of selfishness among administration that does a great disservice to the students. In order for a successful school you need happy children taught by respected teachers. We need small class sizes to ensure each child is heard and we need to help our teachers be the best they can be. – P/G

Most recently the district is trying to engage with the community. Ensuring a checks and balances system of review is in place.

Doing well with academic offering. Needs to improve special education supports. Air conditioning is desperately needed. – P/G

General excellence, love the leadership in terms of the risks of technology (limiting cell phone use, etc), but may need to increase focus on student integrity given reports of increased ease of cheating/academic dishonesty using technology. – P/G

More transparency regarding staffing matters– P/G

We need more diversity in New Hartford. – P/G

I believe our teachers and support staff are our greatest asset. We need a superintendent who supports our teachers and staff, increase the morale in the district. We need someone who is an "out of the box" thinker, and is willing to make positive changes. We can't keep doing the same things over and over expecting different results. We need a new perspective and a new set of eyes on our district, putting the needs of our students at the forefront. We need a leader who is present and visible in the community. Someone who values our parents and takes pride in our district– P/G

The quality of academics is one way the District excels. There is an opportunity for growth in lower-level athletics. What is the reason for denying a place on a modified or JV team to all those who wish to participate? There is no room for favoritism. – P/G

I am pleased overall, but feel that there are some provably poor teachers at the high school, as measured by repeatedly horrible AP scores every year. My son graduated with eight APs (five 5s, two 4s, and one 3). The teacher with the "3" had a class that was almost exclusively 1s and 2s. There are a handful of these teachers with abysmal scores across the board. Get on their asses! And one teacher has a history of showing unapproved movies in class. – P/G

Our district needs to stop prioritizing administration over teachers and students. Our students deserve small class sizes and teachers that are able to focus on their learning and the only way to do that is to have a manageable number of students in each class. Our schools need to make sure that all of our students have enough time for lunches, class, asking questions when they don't understand things, things need to stop being rushed through to get so much done in one day. Our students are not going to learn anything by being rushed through lesson after lesson just to get as much pushed into one day as possible. Our administration needs to start listening to our teachers who know the students, who know the curriculum, who know what it takes for the students to understand the curriculum. – P/G

failing-citizenship & integrity.policies appear to care abt a tolerant & safe community, but failing at delivering that to children. Harrassment & bullying, especially of marginalized groups is widespread. Mental health issues are abundant & handled poorly.If kids do not feel safe, respected, & protected, there is no way they can focus their energy on learning. All focus goes to survival. No one can thrive in that kind of environment. Yet, there are districts where this is not the case, so it does not need to be this way. New leadership needs to change the school culture and environment drastically. TEACHERS & STUDENTS need to feel safe and protected-not fearful of retaliation if they try to do the right thing. School needs to stop pandering to groups or families with certain status & start protecting the rights of all the students & teachers. This has gone on too long. Also, 2000 total characters does not count as true community input or openness and transparency in search process. – P/G

We do have a bunch of really good teachers and class offerings. Bullying is not dealt with in a timely or satisfactory manner. It is typically swept under the rug by the administration. Also, sports and even some awards are clearly based on who the student's parents/family are and not the student's actual merit. If it is an old New Hartford family, the family has money or political or professional sports connections, those students always get preference over others who may have more talent, but fewer or no connections. I know many families who have dealt with this and become disillusioned with the school district. Some that have even moved out of the district purely for these reasons. – P/G

Communication and Transparency can always be improved upon– P/G

Rigorous Academics, and Quality Teachers– P/G

Excelling: generally seems like a good learning environment (at Hughes) Opportunities: better safety/security measures, smaller class sizes, higher wages for teachers, drivers, support staff– P/G

The district needs to re evaluate its approach to have a more inclusive curriculum. – P/G

NH excels at being ahead of the curve when offering students new opportunities, education and more. While this is an area where the school excels, it leads me to the opportunity for growth. NH focuses so much on being “the best” with certain things that critical things that are more important to students go overlooked. Student:staff ratio; as evidenced by the cuts to certain grade sections at the elementary level. Going from 3 classes to 2 classes is a big jump and stressful for students and teachers. Additionally, the resources available for neurodivergent students are minimal and not a priority at all. If a student is at the top of their class, they are fully supported, and if they are at the complete opposite end and have an IEP, they are supported, but many of the mid-level, 504 students are an afterthought and not a priority for the school. It's very disheartening to know that my child has to literally fail to get certain supports in place- why wouldn't we want to be proactive? – P/G

The district has been keeping us informed on their progress and asking for input which I think is important. The fact that they enlisted the help of Superintendent Search Consultant and District Superintendent of OHM BOCES Patricia N. Kilburn, Ed.D. shows how important they are taking this task of finding a new superintendent for our district. The web page also has a wealth of information on the search including the timeline and FAQ's. I hope the Board actually uses the input from the community and faculty when choosing candidates to interview and not be influenced by outside political pressures. – P/G

Opportunities to grow is to ensure we are hiring the best and the brightest for instructional positions. Limiting search's for qualified teacher because they are “too expensive” is not helping the district excel. A focus on the Science of Reading and rigorous PD in tiered interventions in our k-6 buildings. Orton Gillingham/Wilsons for our Tier 3 students needs to be the schools responsibility not the parents or the Dyslexia center that is wait listed. More robust continuum of Special Education services, for example integrated co-teaching, 15:1 program. The district continues to excel athletically yet our JV and Modified facilities are shameful. When VVS and Camdens facilities put ours to shame we need to refocus our capital projects. Our lack of gym space to accommodate winter sports needs growth. – P/G

Excellent educational opportunities as well as athletics– P/G

We're still in the elementary school years but with Delta programs being removed from the schools it looks like it's going in the opposite direction as far as growth– P/G

We would like to see an accelerated program for the elementary schools. Also, tracking within the class levels would be beneficial. So you could have 3 (or 4) different tiers of math levels for example (they all meet at the same time), but each teacher would have a group to work with (not necessarily their core group of kids). This would allow for better instruction and growth. The top performing students could work together and continue to be challenged instead of being bored with material and instruction that is well below their level. – P/G

As a parent of students in the district, I feel the district puts forth good effort in the course options and offerings, especially at the secondary level. There seems to be efforts made to keep class sizes manageable, however, trends are showing an increase in enrollment and a decrease in entry level teachers in the area to replace retiring teachers. This will mostly likely lead to larger class sizes and/or a decrease in the variety of classes offered in the future. Teachers need to be prepared for this, and Administrators need to be thoughtful on how to reallocate resources to provide the best curriculum map possible when this happens. I also feel there is too great of focus on AP Courses. More focus should be given to Dual Credit Courses. A greater number of students would graduate with college credits through Dual Credit Courses, and the credits would not be based on one single (and expensive) AP exam. – P/G

If a student is in need of services such as speech, language, etc, your staffing has been poor. – P/G

Better pay for these hard-working teachers who do not get the appreciation they deserve– P/G

NHCSD excels because parents have high expectations of their children. That's the short version, the district doesn't do anything magical. The same mix of great teachers and administrators, and mediocre/terrible as many other area districts. We, the parents, despite the unwelcome vibes given off by Tango and trickled down, are the reason for the excellence, citizenship, and integrity. I implore you, almighty BOE, please find a superintendent that excels at partnering with the community through action, not just words. – P/G

Good teachers, opportunities for advancement & clubs, academics, sports Opportunities for growth- history of US , Educating & Enforcing anti-drug / vaping– P/G

Excelling by identifying and hiring top educators and staff members. Opportunities for growth particularly in administrative support to educators and staff, transparent leadership and decision making, and commitment to excellence in facility resources. – P/G

Excelling: hiring great teachers and staff to support the students. Growth opportunities: listen to and apply teacher feedback more. – P/G

New Hartford needs help in all areas. – P/G



New Hartford School District is a great District. I think the District needs to start looking at more CTE options as I believe this is going to be a change NYSED will be starting to push. I also think the District needs to look at the performance of certain teachers because I hear as a parent from other parents about how bad some teachers are and saw this first hand with my daughter. We need to start pushing students to not only think about college, but careers in trades because not every student will want to attend college. – P/G

Setting high standards– P/G

Communication. Clear and Concise direction, discipline, and fair community balance. – P/G

New Hartford has the best music programs and marching arts programs. I am deeply disappointed that the district has decided to bring politics into the school by recognizing religions. That is a parent's choice to expose children to religion and does not belong in school. My son is a senior this year and because the district will not allow activities to take place on religious holidays that most children do not recognize he missed out on social opportunities and travel with the Marching band. It's shameful that we are in 2024 and the district has decided to move backwards. – P/G

Excelling: teaching students the fundamentals of reading and writing. Understanding the development of the child by continuing to allow rest time in kindergarten. Opportunities for Growth: more differentiation for higher level students or bring back opportunities such as the Delta program. Some kids are not being challenged enough at the elementary level. It is important to remember that what is fair is not always equal and this statement should apply to the entire spectrum of scholars not just the lower levels. There should also be more opportunities for younger students to engage in real life situations to help teach kindness, empathy, and being a good friend. Perhaps these lessons will decrease the amount of hatred that is spewed during adolescence. – P/G

excelling - programs offered growth - EQUITY, INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, acceptance, fostering growth/tolerance/respect– P/G

Excelling - rigorous curriculum, great teachers and staff Opportunities for growth — P/G

I feel NH has terrible morale, the teachers complain in front of students and it is not an enjoyable or productive learning environment. I work in a neighboring school district and this attitude would not be tolerated else. – P/G

Although our school district is not as large as the Utica School District, we are still bigger than Clinton School District. However, in recent years, we have seen fewer students gaining admission to Ivy League colleges. This is concerning, as it suggests we may not be providing enough opportunities and support to help our students reach their full potential. It's crucial that we take proactive steps to ensure that all students, particularly those who are aiming high and working hard to excel, are given the guidance and resources they need to succeed at the highest levels, including admissions to top-tier universities. – P/G

no answer– P/G

Excelling with graduation rates. New Hartford needs to either redistrict or add on to buildings in order to keep class size low and make sure there is enough room for all within the buildings. Class size shouldn't be determined by size of building. Some of the schools are old and running out of space. – P/G

The district excels at recruiting quality educators and staff. It can do a better job at updating its facilities and advancing program offers. – P/G

Obviously graduation rates are excellent. They are failing in curtailing bullying. Some of this behavior is likely being reinforced by staff, such as Mr. Benson who is short tempered and a terrible role model. – P/G

Excelling in educating students - offers wide range of courses all areas -hiring instilling exceptional dedicated teachers staff -leaders in their profession and upcoming Opportunities for growth areas - more outreach programs for clubs (not athletically inclined) & elective classes that focus on life skills for adulthood and bonding with others opportunities Program on self care/well mental health incorporating yoga /stretching sessions and the like for half lunch periods perhaps. Need more anti -bullying campaigns and a safe advocate on premises whom students can turn to without facing social nor academic repercussions \*Most importantly bring in local resources and speakers/advocates @local CFLR educate all students by the masses@ seminars stress of mental health wellness check's &spread word providing posters literature resources & references throughout classrooms. Implore you PLEASE at very least check out this App called: ItsOk & advocate it far-it has saved thousands– P/G

Seriously? – P/G

On an individual level we have found the teachers of our students to be exceptional. The curriculum is extremely– P/G

Excel-Strong academics programs, plentiful opportunities in music and arts; including orchestra and marching band, plentiful opportunities in sports. Growth-continue to support teachers as best as able– P/G

Continue to engage all students through creative collaboration in academics and sports. Looking beyond the simple goals of the best grade or the most wins. The real wins are making sure everyone is learning or playing. Advancing the best doesn't mean leaving the less behind. This should be our new objective “ no one willing is left behind “– P/G

Excelling in the curriculum and offerings for students. Growth for mental health, practical life skills offerings. – P/G

The School District needs to move away from technology in the classroom and use less screen time. Kids learn better from hands on sensory input. These senses from numbed while staring at a screen. Technology in the classroom is not a good resource, it works to remove the educator from the education. Elementary Schools need longer lunches and more recess play time. There is no reason why Elementary kids should be have "gym" time in there classroom. this is inexcusable. – P/G

I think the district is thriving with its goal of wanting to achieve excellence. I think that excellence looks different for all students. Just because student doesn't graduate with high honors doesn't mean that they haven't achieved excellence. I think by listening to building principals concerns and those concerns brought by the teachers that advocate for the students could help upper administration help all students achieve their version of excellence. – P/G

We are achieving excellence in many academic areas and in sports and music programs. However we need to attract more experienced teachers and staff members who can add to our faculty and staff. We need to improve morale in our district among the staff members as well as within the community. – P/G

The district is strong in the arts and sports , weak in education. – P/G

Organization and curriculum– P/G

While we seem to offer lots of support for individual students through access to counseling, OT, PT, and speech services, we could do much better in our intercultural awareness and inclusiveness. – P/G

We have a vast array of extracurricular activities. This is a great strength of ours. Our teachers are another great strength where we excel. We need to improve top down communication as well as district out communication. We also need to improve the morale of the faculty and staff before we lose any more of our great employees. We have a need for improving our buildings and athletic facilities. There have been some improvements as of late, but there is much more to do. – P/G