

STUDENTS' THOUGHTS ON EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS AND RENOVATIONS

Students in grades 3rd through 5th were asked to give their thoughts on the existing playground and what playground renovations would mean to them. A sampling of the actual letters they wrote is below.

One reason I think we need new playground equipment is because it would be better for our safety. I know many people who have gotten into the rugged old swings and they broke and they ended up hurt. I love swinging but I don't want to end up hurt. If we get newer, safer equipment, stuff like this wouldn't happen.

I would like a new swing set and a merry-go-round. I don't like swinging no more because the swings squeak and sometimes break.

If our playground was to be rebuilt, I would like to have more shade, a merry-go-round, less sandy, and more big stuff to play on. The reason I want these things is because we barely have any shade and a merry-go-round and big stuff wouldn't hurt.

When I go outside for lunch recess, it fills me with sadness to see the children play on the broken equipment.

Do I have fun on outside? Yes, I do, but not as much fun because sometimes I think I will fall and hurt myself and someone else like my friend. I would feel a lot better knowing I would not get hurt. A new playground would mean knowing nothing will wobble or be rusted and not hurt my friends.

This is why I suggest we get new playground equipment. First off, the water fountains are not working. They are rusted and the one that works has hot water with dirt in it. Second, it makes me be in a sad mood to see all the kids having to play on the bad equipment - they don't seem to have as much fun on broken equipment as on new. The swings are squeaky and broken, the big yellow tower has chipped and lost bolts, the see-saws are chipped and have loose bolts and I worry about safety. Third, it would be nice to have more equipment because we have so many students. I would love tether ball, merry-go-round and more slides.

We have old playground stuff and that stuff is falling apart. I would suggest a new merry-go-round.

When I got outside at recess, I feel sorrow for the kids who play on that equipment. I don't play on the equipment because it's too ugly and broken and that's sad. I don't have fun outside because the equipment is too rusted up, the paint is chipped, the swings are broken and the big yellow thing is squeaky.

It makes me feel good when I go outside but it's not that fun when you're tripping over gum balls and stepping in mud. I do have fun on the playground but sometimes the same old things get boring. I wish we had a jungle gym. If we had a better playground, I would feel a whole lot better. A new playground would mean a lot to me. It would mean you actually listen to us.

Some of the kids at my school that play on the 3rd and 4th grade playground get hurt a lot because of our equipment so we need to get more awesome stuff for our playground. If we don't get newer stuff, we will just keep on getting hurt. So we need to get more new equipment. And I was one of the ones that got hurt on the swings. So please put new stuff on the playground.