

Edina High School
Class of 2014
Graduation Survey

January 2014

2014 Senior Exit Survey

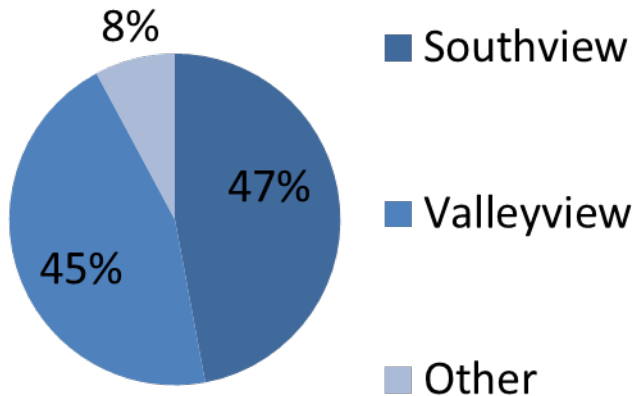
- Survey initiated by the EHS Site Council
- Administered to Graduating Seniors in May 2014 as part of their graduation requirements
- All students required to complete prior to receiving cap and gown
- Administered via Naviance, including both multiple choice and 4 open ended questions
- 600 survey responses received and compiled
- Over 2000 open responses!

The Class of 2014

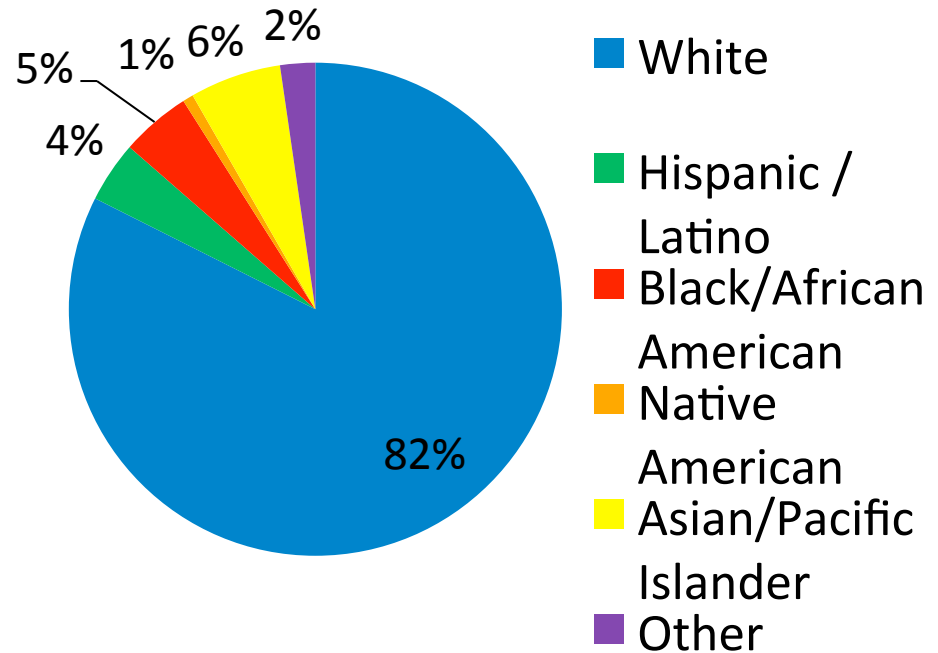
51.0% Male
48.9% Female
0.2% Transgender



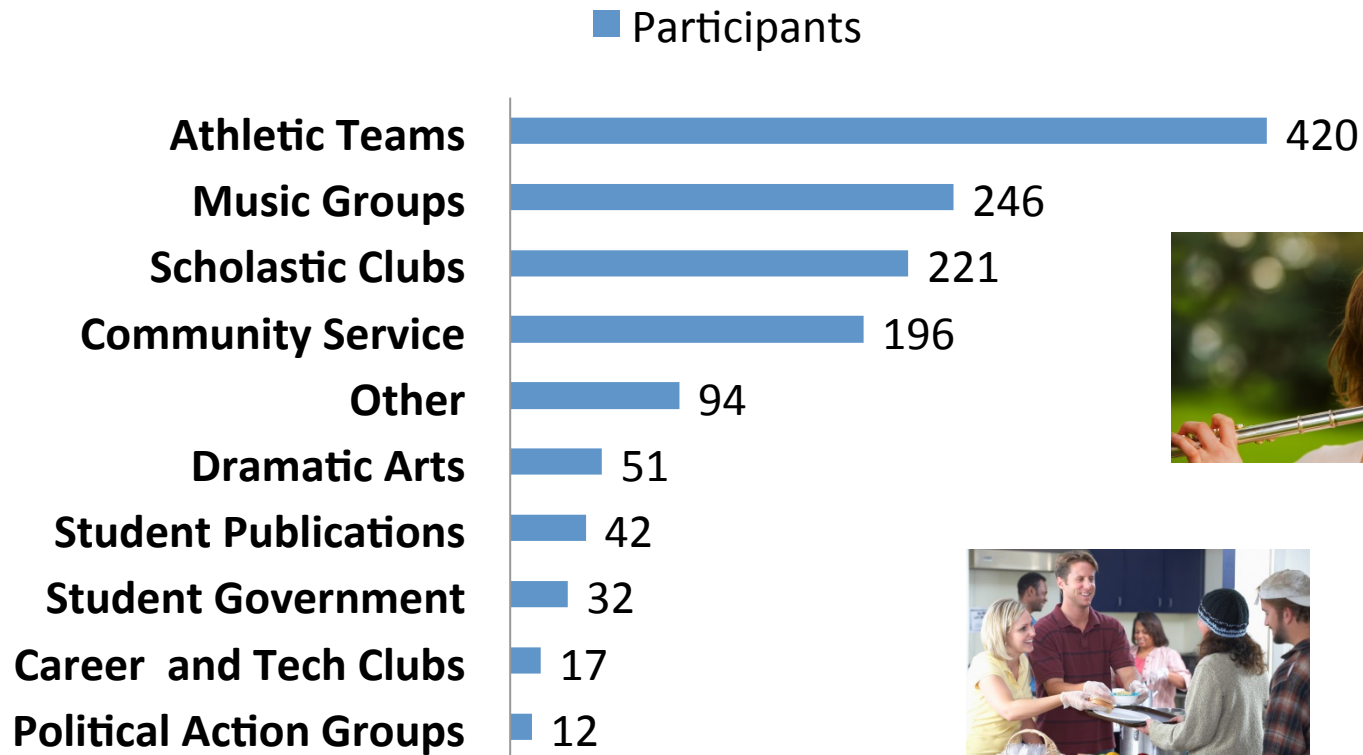
Middle School Attended



Race/Ethnicity



Outside Activities



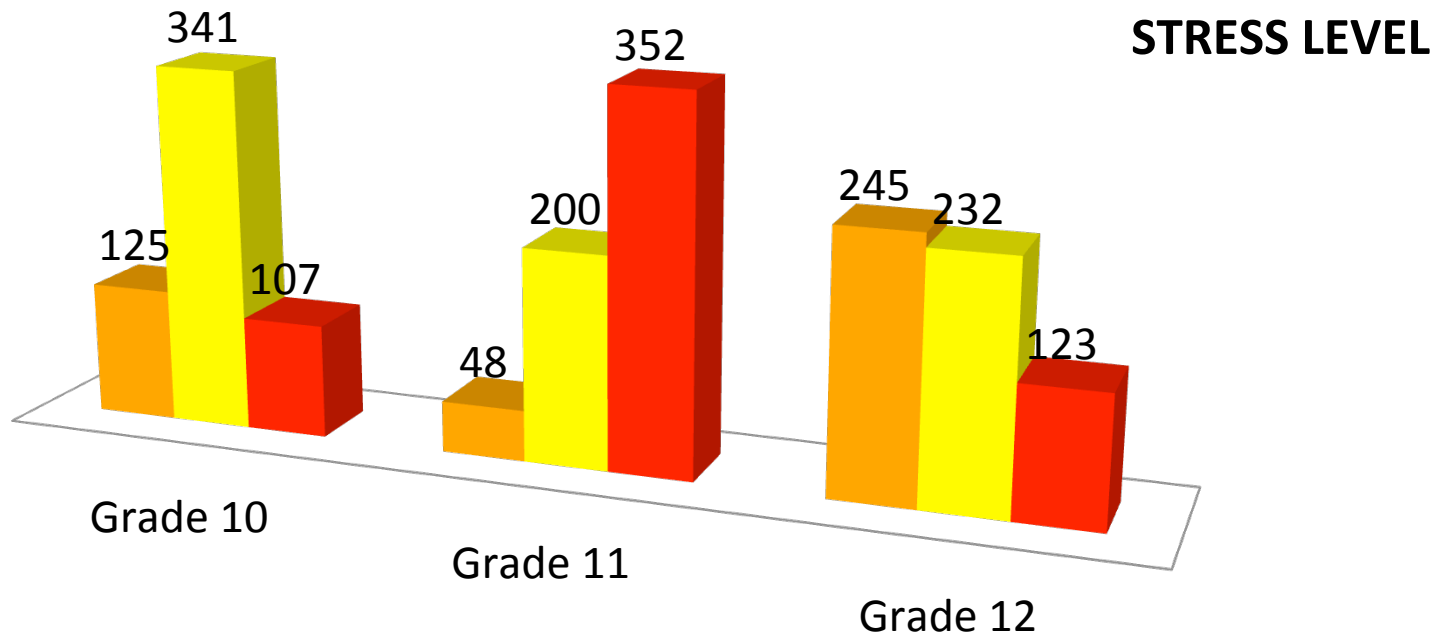
35% Did not work a job their Senior year

13% Worked 16 or more hours a week

Stress is part of the student's lives peaking in Grade 11

Describe your stress level

Occasional Moderate Severe

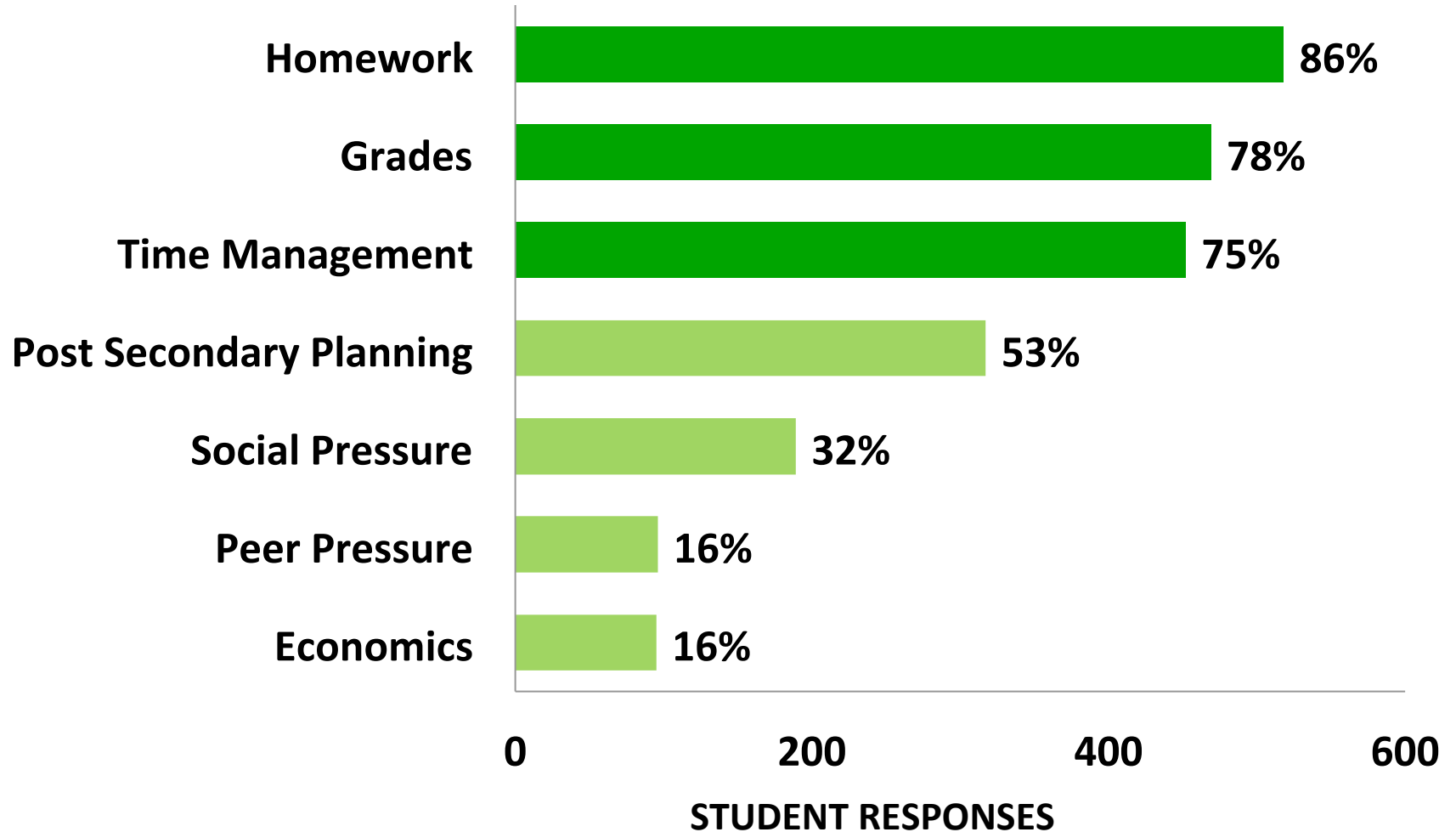


Student Comments - Stress

- I would do something to change the stress level all students face at Edina. I believe it is above average at Edina because of the high standards that are set for us.
- I think the biggest thing EHS can help is by preparing their incoming sophomore for the amount of work that they are about to receive. Also, they should have prepared us for time management between school, work, sports, etc. My junior year was my busiest year and also my most important year academically. I had to try and balance school, work and sports at the same time and it was difficult at times, especially towards the end of the year when the homework load got bigger.
- Junior year I chose to take Hard classes, play a sport year round, and work a job. I should have picked 2 of these, and let the third drop as I quickly ran out of time and energy
- I was already a fairly driven and motivated student, but I wasn't prepared, mainly Junior year, for the vast amount of work that came with the classes. I burnt myself out that year and struggled senior year to maintain a high level of concentration and drive.
- My personality wouldn't allow me to relax on grades in exchange for a larger social life and more extra curricular activities. As much as I'd want that to be true, I know I would run myself into the ground if I attempted as much. I did what I did and I know that was as much as I could manage
- not having to put as much pressure on us. I get that we need pressure in order to succeed but I got very stressed at times and I don't think that kind of pressure is necessary for people our age. We are still trying to figure out who we are but were being pushed to do it so fast.

The leading cause of the stress are homework, grades and time management

What were the causes of stress during High School for you?



Student Comments – Homework

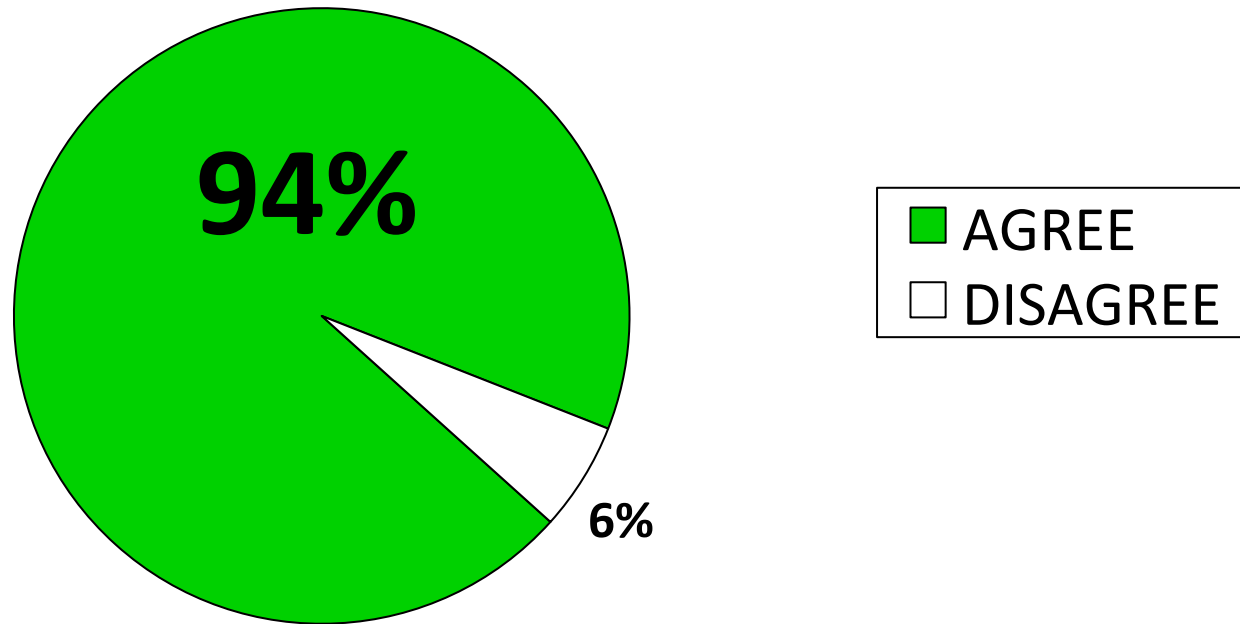
- If I could change anything, I would change the amount of homework the students at Edina High School receive. There is a direct correlation between the amount of homework a student has and the amount of stress they are under. This can lead to anxiety and depression. There is no reason why students should have to do 3 hours of homework a night after being at school for 7 hours. There is a lot of value in being active and sitting at a desk at school and then at home for a total of 10 hours isn't healthy.
- I think I could've been better prepared mentally if I would have known how much homework I would have daily in all my classes. Also if I knew how to better manage my time with the increased homework, trying to balance extracurriculars, sports, and fun.
- The A Day/B Day schedule at the middle schools really taught me more to procrastinate than to use my time wisely and efficiently. I was not prepared to have homework for every class every night after being used to the schedule at middle school.
- It was quite a big change switching from block schedules to periods. The homework load was a lot heavier and something to adjust to.
- I could have prepared better for High School if my middle school had offered AP classes freshman year. That way I could've taken maybe one AP class to ease me into the larger workload that high school would throw upon me starting Sophomore year.
- I could have been better prepared by checking out all of the classes that Edina offers because I didn't realize how many were offered. Also in middle school you have about a half hour of homework a night at most where in high school you have about 2 years of homework a night so I was not prepared for that.

“Relax a bit. Do your best in everything you do, but realize that one bad test grade won’t be the end of the world. What matters most is that you’re happy with who you are, what you are doing and where you’re headed. Don’t worry about what others think of you; they all have their own flaws and insecurities, too. Everyone does. And remember, no problem is worth losing a friend over. To keep it simple, just do your best and be yourself! Most importantly, remember this: you’ll live without your Starbucks.”

**Advice to Incoming Sophmores from a
Student in the Class of 2014**

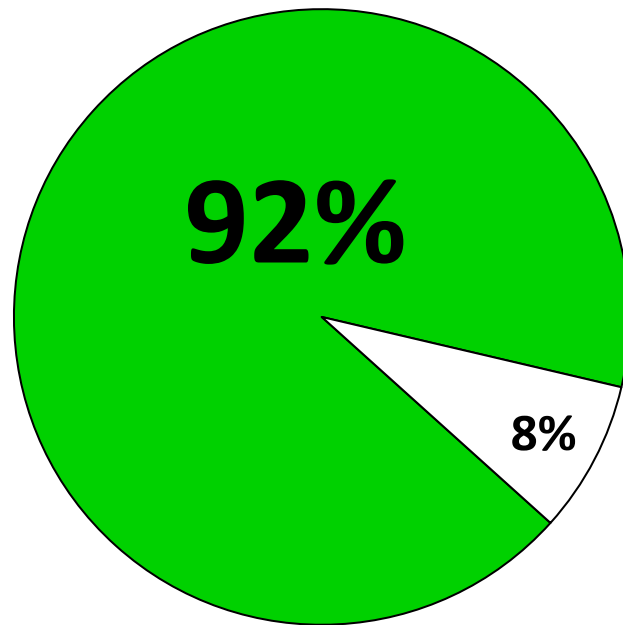
Students had an overwhelming positive experience at Edina High School

I had a positive high school experience at Edina High School

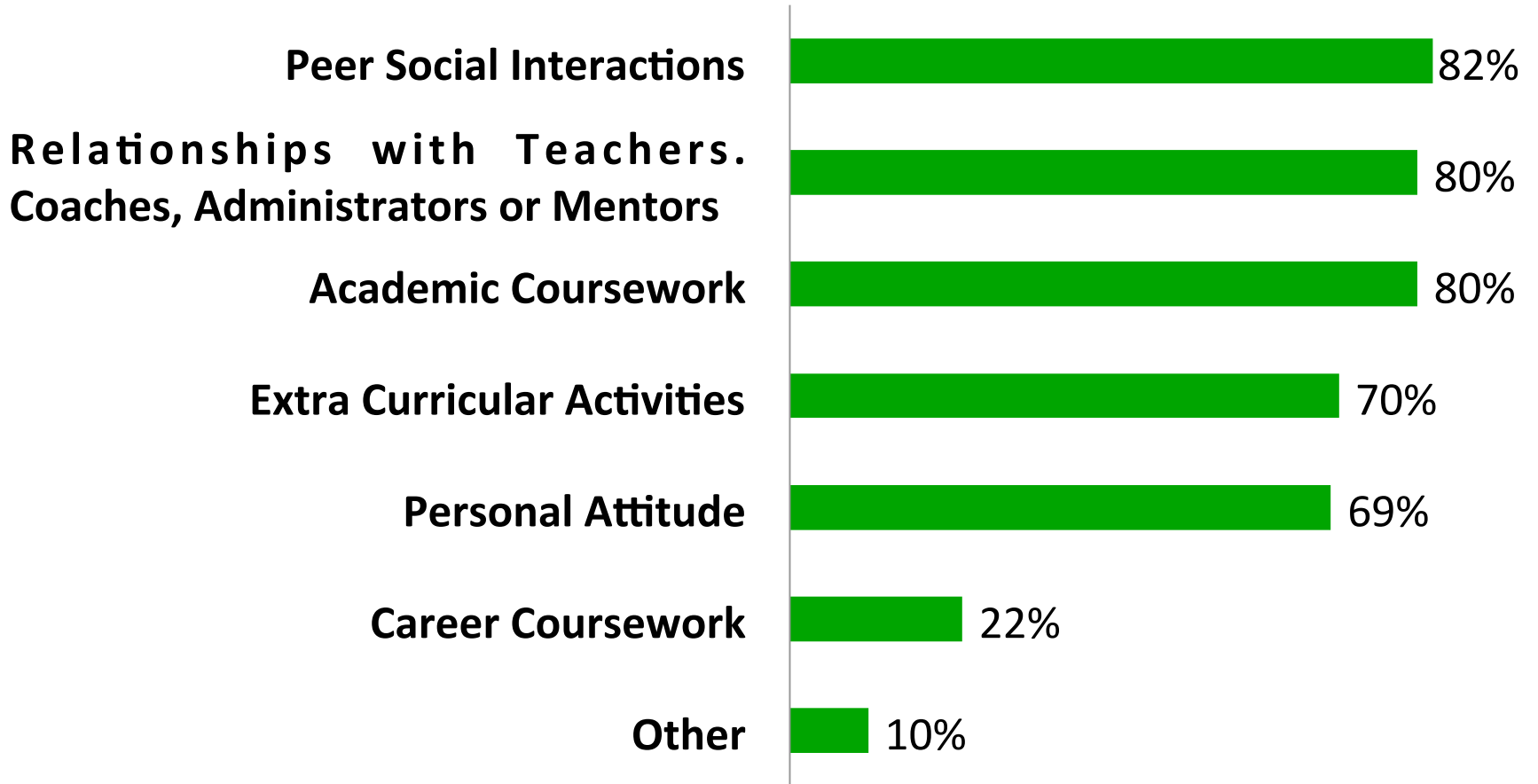


Our Minority Students had an equally positive experience at EHS

I had a positive high school experience at Edina High School



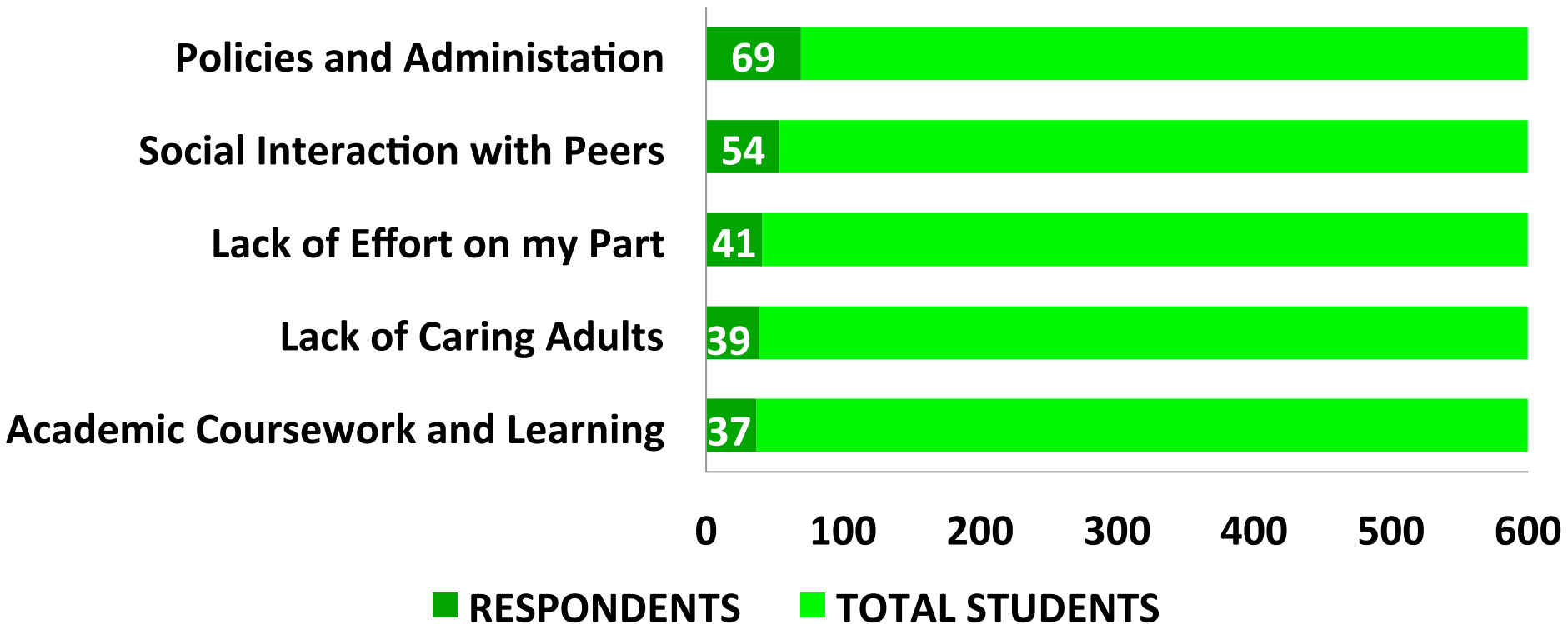
Factors contributing to a positive experience at EHS



STUDENT FEEDBACK

- My high school experience was fantastic! I had a fantastic relationship with all of my teachers and other students. I was able to be involved and take classes which interested me.
- I can't imagine a better experience.
- Overall, in my experience there's not much that could be done to improve the education I received at Edina High School. The availability of extracurriculars coupled with the rigorous classroom curriculum kept me both challenged and interested in my education.
- I believe that Edina has a great way of making this scary time in ones life as positive as possible.
- I think Edina is a perfect place for any High School student!
- I had a great experience at EHS. I had mostly great teachers and supportive people around me, which I think is all you can ask for.
- I think you guys have it pretty much figured out.”

A small number of students saw the following areas contributing to a less than positive experience at EHS

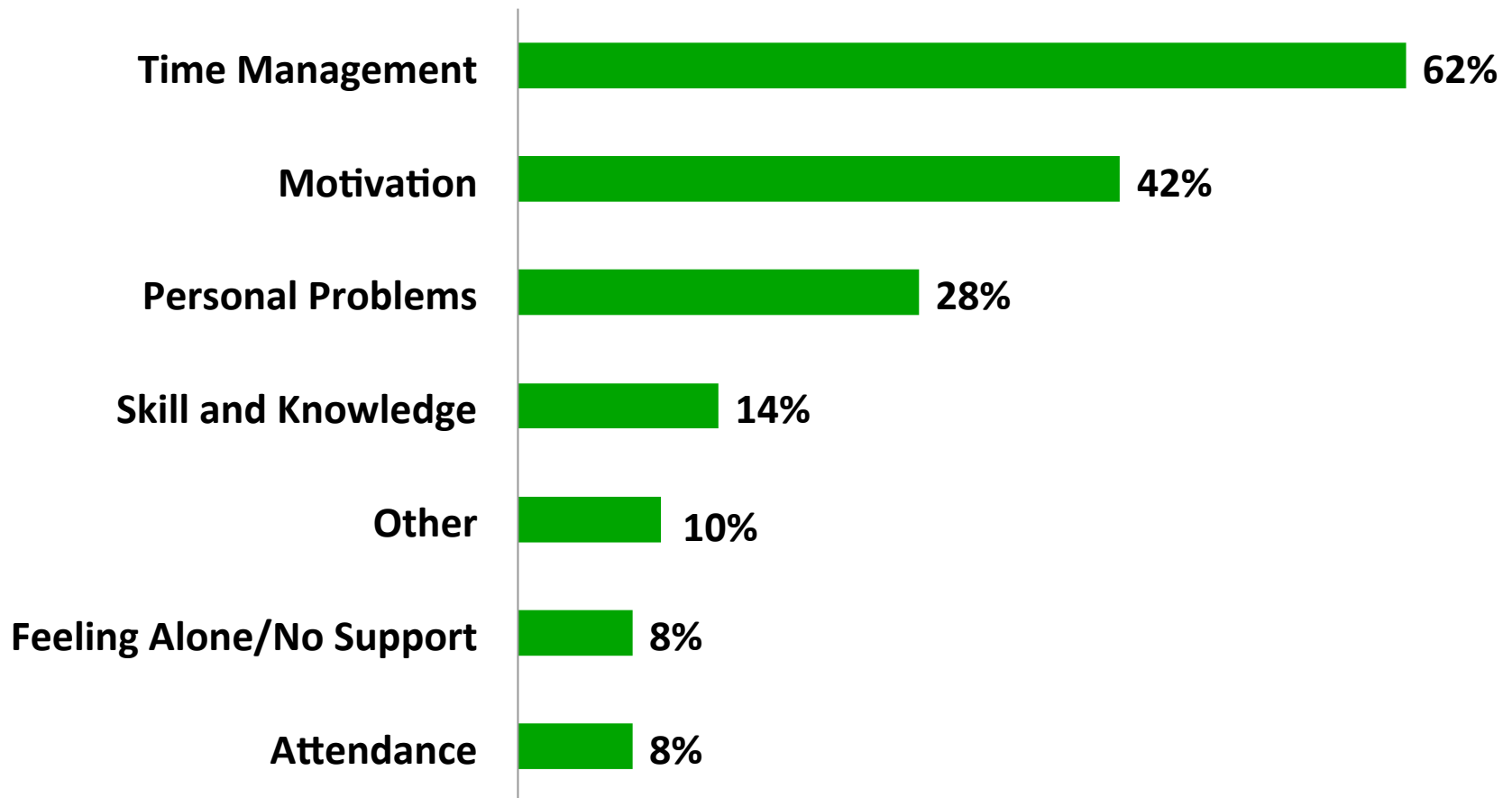


STUDENT FEEDBACK

- People at Edina are very judgemental and I only can think of 1 or 2 teachers that had a positive impact on me.
- More welcoming environment with peers.
- At times, classes don't feel very collaborative because people are afraid to show genuine care for and interest in their schoolwork.
- No matter what I say it's not going to change. Whenever anyone does one of these types of surveys their suggestions are never actually used.
- Help at home along with motivation could have also helped me a lot.
- I would also say there is a very elitist attitude that both the staff and students need to change.
- Don't have such pretentious over-demanding policies, rules, guidelines, and expectations.
- I think my high school experience would have been more positive if adults were more attentive to the interactions between students and the behavior of students. It would have been better if there was also more support from adults and peers.

Time Management was the biggest obstacle to success at EHS

The biggest obstacle to my succeeding in high school was.....



Student Comments – Time Management

- I think I could've been better prepared mentally if I would have known how much homework I would have daily in all my classes. Also if I knew how to better manage my time with the increased homework, trying to balance extracurriculars, sports, and fun.
- Be able to better manage and juggle priorities when certain classes and/or activities became busier than normal at certain times of the year
- I think time management needs to be taught more.
- Gotten better time management skills and advice. Most stress was based on poor time management. Mostly our own fault, but better preparation for incoming students would be very much appreciated because I am scared how this will effect me and my peers as we go on to college.
- Time management issues and ability to seek assistance were mostly self inflicted.
- *Change about your experience...Wrote things in my planner.*

What could be done to improve the high school experience at Edina High School?

- We received over 500 responses to this open ended question
- The single highest response theme was...**NOTHING!**
- Most mentioned themes in order of number responses received:
 - **Collaborative Time**
 - **Curriculum**
 - **Teachers**
 - **Parking**
 - **Get more involved**

Collaborative Time - Student Comments

- There is a lot of work involved with classes and having more time to do it would be great. For example extending collab time would help. You would get a better chance to talk with teachers and do homework.
- Collaborative Time was a great change this year, expanding that in any way I think would be very beneficial. (Similar comments suggesting more or longer collaborative time was given more than 30x)
- One thing would be to make all teachers available every collaborative time.
- I also LOVE the Collaborative Wednesday program. Since I live in Minneapolis, sometimes I find it harder for me and the other Minneapolis students to be able to come in before or after school to talk to teachers, and having that schedule every Wednesday made it possible for both me and the other students in the same situation.
- Edina is a wonderful school system. The addition of Collab Time this year was a great way for students to catch up on homework and teachers. A lot of AP classes give a ton of homework. I wish we had more time in school to do homework.
- This isn't an improvement so much as it is feedback but I LOVED colab wednesdays. I was able to get a ton of homework/studying/test taking/help from teachers completed and it made it so much less stressful and overall benefited my experience and academics. Please keep it up. It is a great improvement.
- Make collab wednesdays more geared towards teachers and getting help because for myself and many other seniors, it was more time to go out and grab lunch

Curriculum - Student Comments

- The English department needs to return to respecting students, their opinions, and actually teaching us how to write, not how to watch a movie. " (second most frequent comment)
- Less busy work
- By eliminating the need for gym credits, students would be able to apply themselves better in courses that they enjoy.
- Make more classes blended and flipped. I felt like it not only helped me learn but also made me work independently and practice time management.
- The math curriculum (Adv Algebra/FST/Precalculus track is very redundant)
- More science classes

Curriculum - Student Suggestions

- Maybe add more classes that have to do with finance and managing money. That way we know what we're doing once we're in college with some money.
- Increase math requirement to 4 yrs, improve English program by covering more grammatical concepts in the class.
- I sometimes wished there were more intermediate classes between AP and regular... especially for APULL and regular US Lit. The regular classes were much too easy, but the APs had too much homework.
- More coursework that would have helped me finding and pursuing a career.
- I would offer some type of standardized test prep (ACT & SAT)" and "a unit on college essays"

Teachers - Student Comments

- I had a great experience at EHS. I had mostly great teachers and supportive people around me, which I think is all you can ask for.
- The faculty have great ideas on way to improve their departments
- Make more classes blended & flipped, Szporn teaches this way and I felt like it not only helped me learn but also make me work independently and practice time management.
- Students should be more aware of the help their counselors can provide, because they know a lot and students, in my experience, very rarely go to them for help with anything.
- Up to this point, whenever I talk about my experience at EHS I always say how I truly appreciate what I have been able to take away academically
- Eleventh grade literature was by far the best class in my high school career because I learned how to think, read, and write successfully.
- My high school experience was fantastic! I had a fantastic relationship with all of my teachers and other students.
- Make sure teachers are giving their students the full opportunities to succeed. For example, ensuring they have more office hours, are teaching applicable and comprehensive manner and actually taking time to review and update their lessons plans on a yearly or even semester basis
- To improve our school I feel like teachers need to be more approachable and try to be more one on one with students
- Some teachers were more willing to help out than others.

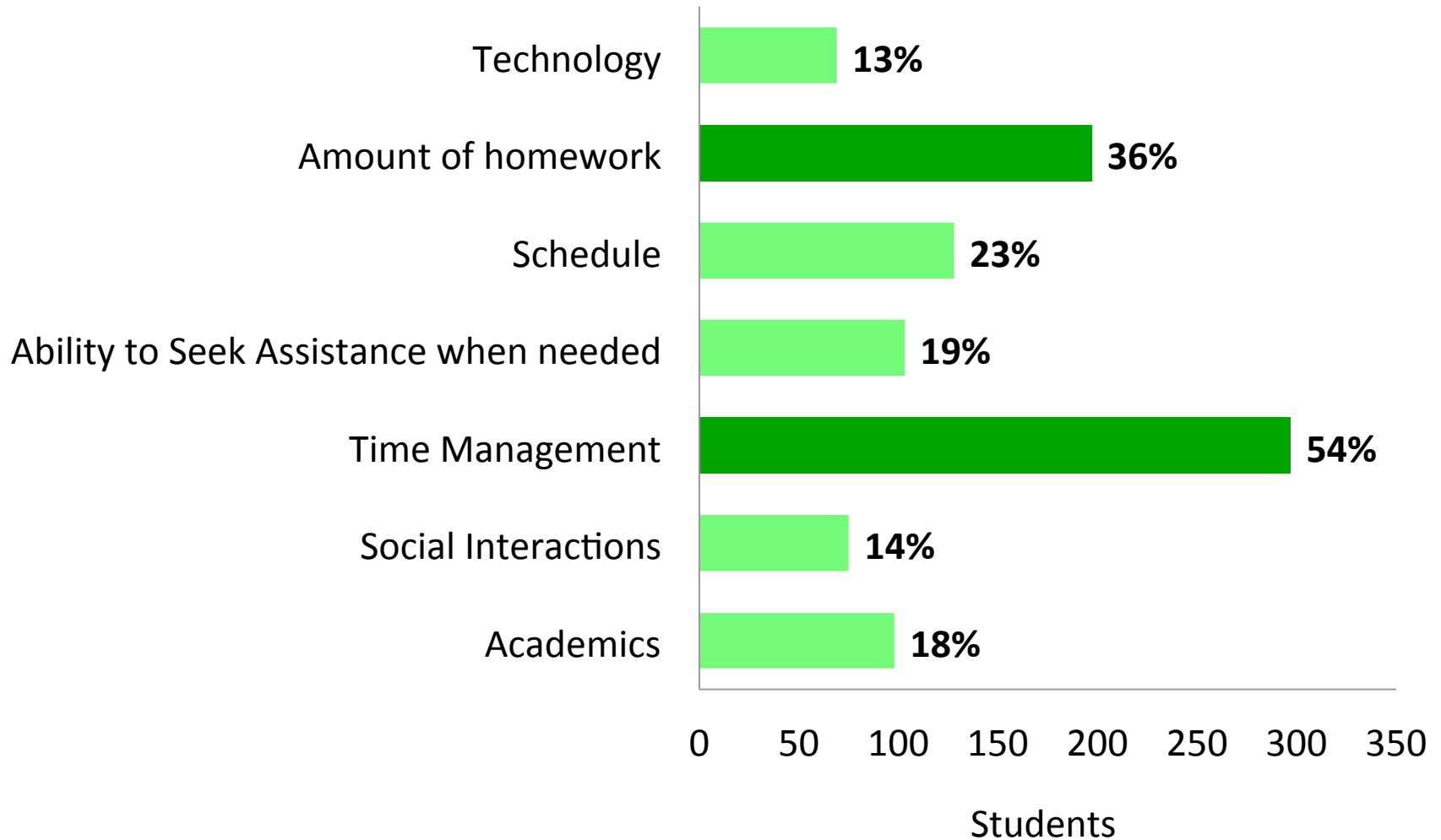
Parking – Student Comments

- Seniors should get priority over sophomores for the parking passes and that was not the case 2nd semester of 2014. The exiting out of the parking lot is a mess and there needs to be a better system. The high school should expand the north lot down towards the track.
- Fix the parking situations. Make it that all seniors are guaranteed a pass and the juniors and the sophomores have to have their names be entered into a raffle for the remaining tickets.
- The parking lot is a mess. As a senior I wasn't able to get a parking pass either semesters while I knew sophomores that did. I think seniors should be able to get parking privileges. Maybe a better way for students to leave the parking lot too?
- Fix the parking system and give seniors first access to parking permits. It was terrible not being able to drive to school everyday just because I applied for a parking permit alone. It was even more frustrating seeing sophomores drive to school alone, some just simply applied for the permit with a car pool that they never used.

Involvement – Student Comments

- Get everyone more involved
- Tell students to get involved and increase the number of opportunities for students to get involved and make students aware of these opportunities. Students should also be made aware that they can start their own clubs as starting and running a club was one of my best and most influential high school experiences.
- The high school should do a better job of sending representatives to the middle schools and informing students of the many different classes and opportunities offered at the high school. When I came in 10th grade, I didn't really know much about things like Student Council, Windigo, or the wide variety of electives offered. I definitely would have taken different classes if I knew more about them.
- Encourage more students to get involved with activities and advertise the EHZ thespian shows as much as the athletic activities.
- Allow more students to be able to become involved in activities they are interested in. For example Increase number of positions on student council.

81% of the Students felt adequately prepared for high school but there were areas of concern:



Students had lots of ideas on how they could have better prepared for High School

- Learn time management !!!
- I think I could've been better prepared mentally if I would have known how much homework I would have daily in all my classes. Also if I knew how to better manage my time with the increased homework, trying to balance extracurriculars, sports, and fun.
- The A Day/B Day schedule at the middle schools really taught me more to procrastinate than to use my time wisely and efficiently. I was not prepared to have homework for every class every night after being used to the schedule at middle school.
- I was told 9th grade was comparable to the level of standards i would be held to in high school. then got slapped in the face 10th grade.
- I would've engaged myself in middle school more. When you're in middle school you think the grades don't matter until you reach high school at least that's what I thought.
- Don't allow retakes in at least 8th and 9th Grade. we don't get redo's in high School or college or any other part of life. It would have stayed on top of my homework better if I had been in the mind set that I MUST do well.
- Use the same essay format in 9th grade that we use at the high school
- I think it would have been great to have a class, maybe in the summer, that would help teach kid how to take notes for ap classes. I also would have found it helpful to know that our grades in 9th grade went towards our gpa.
- Get in the habit of reading textbooks.

We also asked students how often they had the following experiences at Edina High School

- **Opportunity to work and get to know people of different backgrounds or skill levels**
- **Fellow students who knew me well and cared about me as a person**
- **Fellow students who made me feel that I had an important contribution to make to my school**
- **Opportunities to work with other students on projects that seemed worthwhile**
- **Challenging individual work**
- **Opportunity to select wide variety of courses**
- **My personal learning style was understood**
- **Teachers who knew their subject well**
- **Teachers who explained their subject clearly**
- **Teachers who knew me well and cared about me as a person**
- **Teachers who were responsive to my learning needs**
- **A school environment safe from intimidation and harassment**
- **A supportive administration who cared about me as an individual**

Students encountered many great things about Edina High School

- Teachers who knew their subject well – *Frequently/Sometimes 99%*
- Teachers who explained their subject clearly – *Frequently/Sometimes 99%*
- Fellow students who knew me well and cared about me as a person - *Frequently/Sometimes 98%*
- Challenging individual work – *Frequently/Sometimes 97%*
- A school environment safe from intimidation and harassment – *Frequently/Sometimes 95%*

The frequency of these experiences were not as high and should be seen as areas for improvement

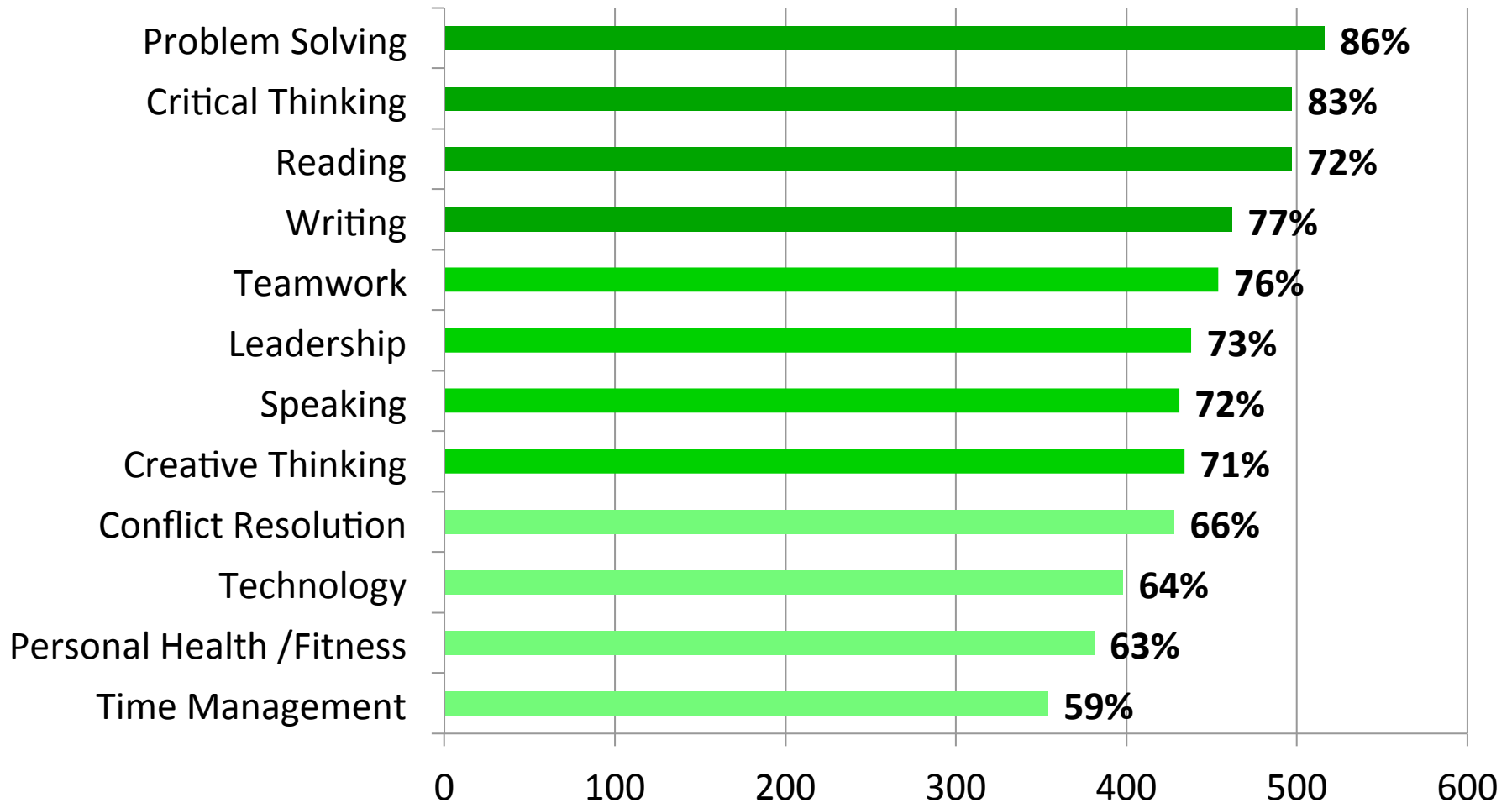
- My personal learning style was understood and taken into consideration by my teachers — *Sometime /Almost Never 66%*
- Opportunities to work with other students on projects that seemed worthwhile — *Sometime /Almost Never 65%*
- Opportunity to work and get to know people of different backgrounds or skills — *Sometime /Almost Never 59%*
- Fellow students who made me feel I had an important contribution to my school — *Sometime /Almost Never 50%*
- A supportive administration who cared about me as an individual — *Sometime /Almost Never 46%*

We asked students how well EHS actively developed knowledge in the following areas:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork
- Creative Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Conflict Resolution
- Personal Health/Fitness
- Time Management
- Technology
- Leadership

EHS actively developed the knowledge and skills of the graduates

STUDENT RESPONSE WELL/VERY WELL



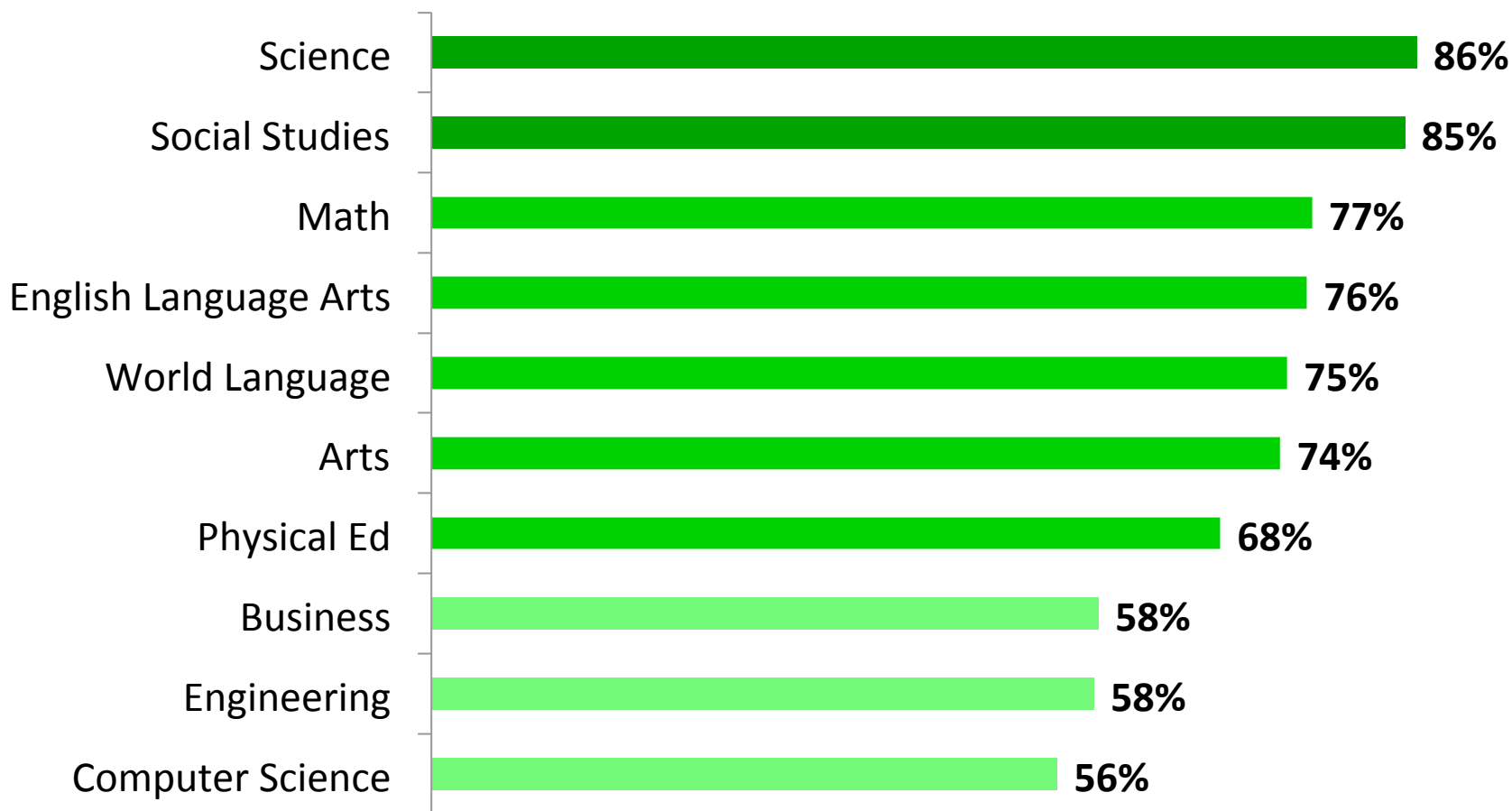
We asked students how well EHS prepared them academically for their next life experience in the following subjects:

- English / Language Arts
- Math
- Social Studies
- World Language
- Science
- Business
- Arts
- Engineering
- Computer Science
- Physical Education

Core academic work scored high

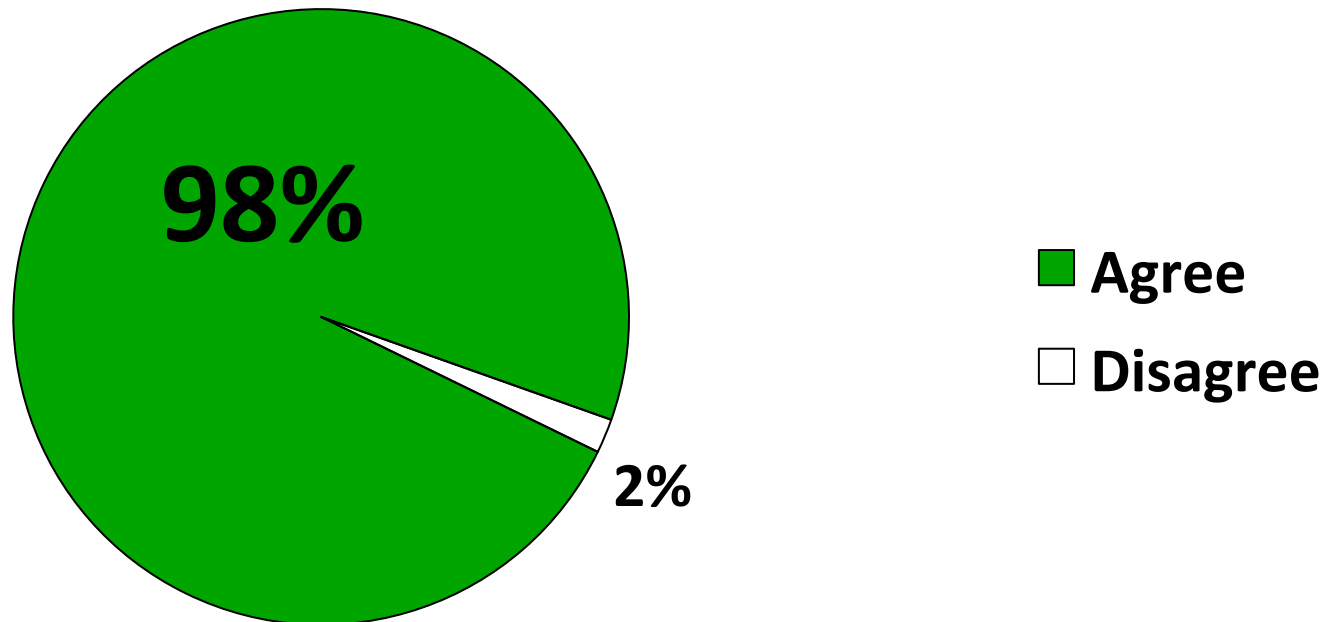
Electives may reflect difficulties with the question structure

STUDENT RESPONSE WELL/VERY WELL

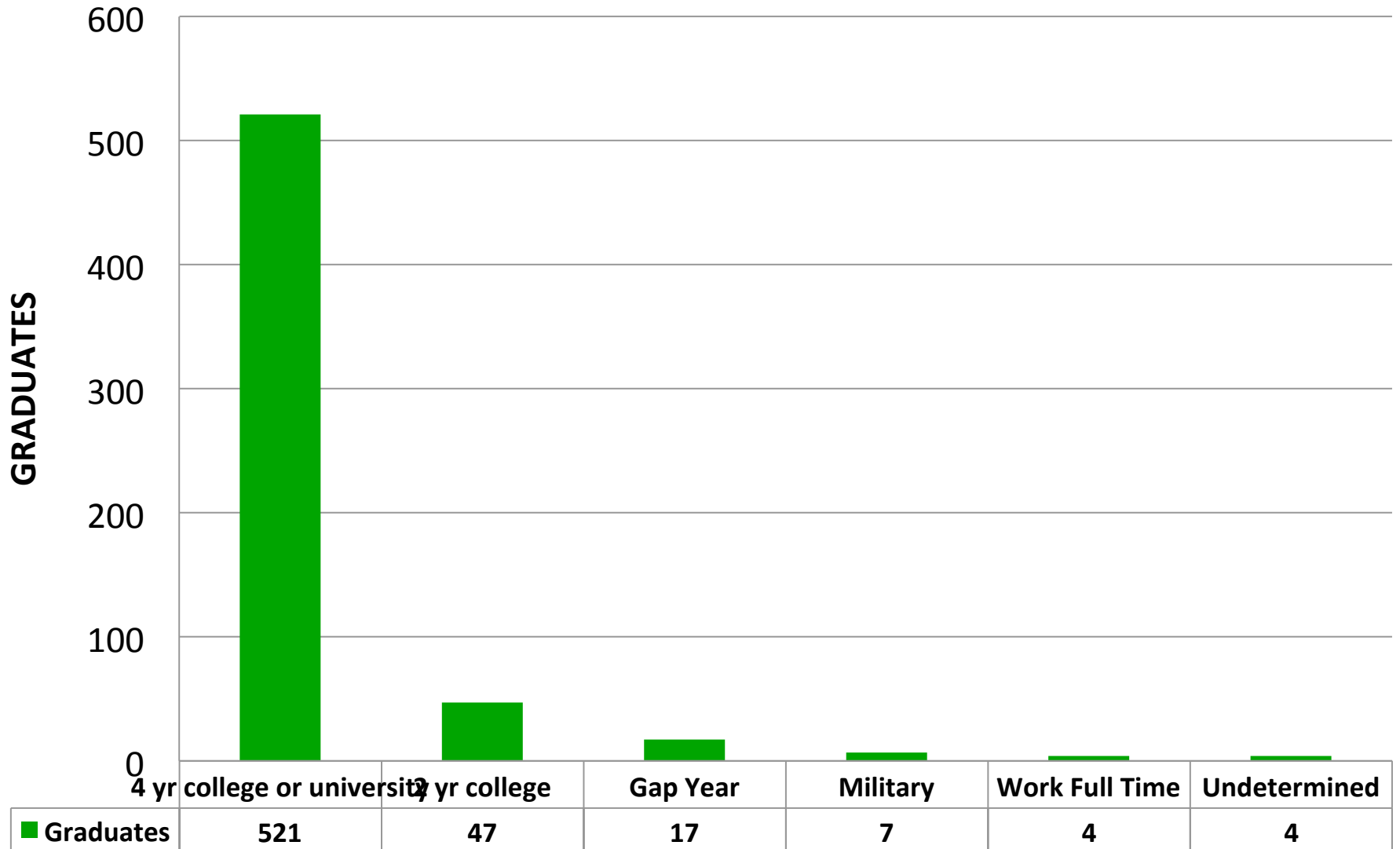


EHS graduates were comfortable in their ability to transition into their post high school plans

I feel comfortable in my ability to transition into my post high school plan



Post Graduation Plans



Our graduates may be moving on but they didn't leave without a few words of advice for the incoming Sophmores.

They left 19 pages of amazing insight!
Here are some of them.....

- It's not really scary. It's a lot better than middle school too, because you get a lot more freedom and there are a lot of awesome new people to meet. Also just remember to be open to new opportunities. It's super fun to join a sport or a club even if you're not necessarily the best member.
- Be yourself. there's only one of you. Don't worry about who you'll sit with at lunch. Remember to eat your lunch.
- Have fun and be yourself. Definitely challenge yourself but don't try and do everything. Sometime in high school take an AP class; the earlier the better. You are going to find that you can accomplish so much more than you thought. Go to the sporting events, go to the dances. Be engaged throughout high school because it only comes once. School will be so much more enjoyable if you put a little into it. Have fun!!!!
- Open your mind up to the people, opportunities, and coursework. Don't drink, work hard on your schoolwork, and find an extracurricular that you are passionate about. Surround yourself with people who share your ideals and bring you up, not down.
- Don't let your GPA reflect a lazy freshman/sophomore year.
- Work hard! don't get behind at the start because its a lot harder to dig yourself out. Get involved and find a group of people who you can be yourself around!
- Get good sleep, and eat a good breakfast!
- Accept that you can't do everything. You can't have it all, and that's going to have to be okay. The more you kick yourself for not doing this, or not doing that, the more you're going to distract yourself from what you do have. Just be present in the moment and do your best. It's good enough. But don't let anyone dismiss your feelings. It's okay to feel bad about one thing or another, or to feel insecure, or to complain. They're not good emotions to have, but they are valid and worth expressing. Anyone who tries to dismiss that isn't worth your time.
- The harder you work the luckier you get.
- Listen during class. Especially math

- focus on yourself and your achievements rather than what you appear to achieve to others.
- Do not take AP stats even if you think you are smart. Don't be afraid to branch out and try new things. Work hard junior (and even sophomore year), start your common app in the summer, do the ACT/SAT stuff early in your junior year... really there's a ton of specific things I could write down, but it doesn't really matter, high school isn't something you can learn from reading someone's exit survey, ultimately you have to live it yourself. Three years may seem like a long time, and to be honest sometimes it really felt like it, but when you reach the end it feels like it flew by. So enjoy it, you're going to make a ton of mistakes, none of which could be avoided with even the most specific of advice from me, but learn from them, that's high school. The only advice you should take from me is work hard and enjoy it, you'll be in my position sooner than you can fathom.
- Enjoy the ride- all of it. Edina prepares you like no other! Take advantage of the amazing staff- they want you to do well!
- Take at least one AP class, and stick with it because even if it seems hard, it really gets easier and it is only one year. I would also encourage them to stay in a fine arts (band, choir, orchestra) because it is such an easy way to get to know people from the other middle school and upperclassmen. Especially for band, it was a good feeling to know others before the first day of school and get familiar with the school. I would also suggest that they go to the school before the first day of school and walk through their schedule a couple of times just to get to know the building. I suggest taking some classes for the teachers and doing classes with friends.
- Give back to the Edina community as much as you can because they do so much for us. Be responsible and don't give into peer pressure it is not worth it.
- Do your homework. Almost every assignment is worth doing and in some way, it will help you with something. The teachers we have, I feel, give us homework that will help us become better and smarter students. Also, do not cram. Finally, if you don't understand something, get help even if it's not from your teacher because the other teachers will help in any way they can. Get involved with as many activities as you can as early as possible. You'll make friends that much quicker and it's good to just put yourself out there. You can always quit if you don't like it but you may as well give it a try!

- One of the best things you can do for yourself is find an adult other than a family member (from school or not) who you trust and who cares about you because there'll be times you need advice or help or a confidant who's not your mom. No one will remember that one time you came to school with a giant zit on your nose or the time you tripped on the stairs. What you see on Instagram is only the best looking part of someone's night. Don't compare yourself to others. Allow yourself to make mistakes. Don't be afraid to talk to someone who's ""too cool"" or ""too weird"" for you because chances are they're probably really nice people. And if they're not don't take it personally.
- Just remember that you're all going through high school, you're all a little confused and you're all making mistakes. Celebrate each other and enjoy yourself because you'll only be a teen once. There's no doubt that EHS is a large school with unfamiliar faces, classes, and halls which take a week to maneuver around. Just grab your schedule and ask anyone and they will personally walk or help you in any way you need.
- Try to do and turn in work that you're actually proud of.
- Take risks, have fun, get your homework done and in time.
- Branch out right away
- Don't spend too much time on your phone, life is happening around you.
- Start trying as hard as you can sophomore year, and start making a plan for the future. Get your stuff done, the hard work really pays off.

Thank you to the EHS Class of
2014!