

# **Imagine Wilbraham Day Education Ideas**

**What will learning look like in the future and what can Wilbraham do to respond to these changes?**

- **Bilingual and multicultural education**
- **Could there be options to take higher-level grade levels?**
- **Technology**
  - **Wilbraham needs to be on top of technological changes and the changing needs of our country and world in ensure we are working towards a higher quality of life**
- **I walked more than 30 min in the day - Home School**
- **There needs to be accelerated classes for gifted students**
- **Better tech tools and education in the middle schools**
- **Proper use of cell phones**
- **More individualized**
- **More online/less on location**
- **More choices for parents**
- **Promote home schooling**
- **Online**
- **Focus a bit more on careers - skills - real world skills - life skills**
- **The school lunch options need to be improved. There needs to be focus on what children (teenagers) actually do eat (more fruit, yogurt and how grain breads)**
- **More hands-on learning experience for the students**
- **There is a problem with bullying on the school busses. They need shorter route times. Some kids travel 20 minutes.**
- **The public schools need to be realize how home schooling is becoming the only appealing option for involved parents because of changes in public schools**
- **The acquisition of knowledge and skills to each generation must be interactive and limited to the larger community**
- **Do not allow new/pc philosophies/beliefs to destroy that which made America great! Keep Christ in Christmas. He is the reason for the season.**
- **Need more support for teachers that are teaching advanced classes**
- **Back to basics w/o the use of technology - kids don't know how to talk to others or do research through books**
- **Combining disciplines should improve learning**
- **Connect youth and adult/senior citizens' populations - facilitate collaborative learning opportunities for each to learn from the other: ex. youth teaching computer classes to adults.**
- **Learning apps for students via smart phones**
- **Smaller classes at the elementary level**

- Longer class times 4/week of 75 min not 5/week of 45
- Text books on e-readers
- Be conscious of history and traditions while being open to ideas from outside and adopting and integrating the best ideas from around the world: broaden horizons
- Need more support for gifted students

**We just opened our new high school . . . what's the next big idea or project for enhancing our schools for quality learning?**

- Bring in speaker to teach true history not PC stuff
- Teach more community involvement for students and responsibility for (one's) own actions - tough love works
- Skate park/outdoor rec center
- Connectivity with other systems - other cultures
- We need a teen center for middle schoolers and high schoolers
- Fiber optic - high speed internet key
- More advanced courses in lower grades
- Lower class sizes
- IEP needs need to be adhered to in specials or extra classes
- Maintain it
- Can we work on improving the middle school?
- Tie - in MRHS Tech ed and engineering programs to "STEM"
- Companies like "FloDesign" to inspire more student interest in energy alternatives creative more green jobs as part of our economic recovery process. Matt Kibbe - [mkibbe@charter.net](mailto:mkibbe@charter.net)
- A dentist office
- Performance standards for teachers
- More streets paved
- New police station
- Stress responsibility and high standards in all schools
- Quality learning is really about experiences - work with businesses to connection with our schools
- Can the school libraries be increased? It is difficult to get the literature needed to prepare my children
- Increase volunteer opportunities
- Maintain them
- Continue with good teachers
- Quality teachers - more advanced courses
- Teaching our teachers so our quality education continues
- Maintain the facility needs of each school
- Cultivate/promote critical thinking and self-reliance

## **What might we do as a community to strengthen our commitment to education and learning in our community?**

- **Support the family unit**
- **Support more small business**
  - **Small insert in times bi-weekly/monthly**
- **Would like to volunteer at schools. How?**
- **Engage citizens on sub committees.**
- **Re-activate and enrich school councils.**
- **Expand use of MRHS for public events**
- **Involve kids in practical activities like “senior” programs. Excellent “Senior Prom? Last night**
- **Teach our kids the truth not PC version**
- **Support the needs of teachers for supplies**
- **Support our library**
- **Teach more life skills. Have people from community come in and talk to kids**
- **Parental involvement**
- **Cultivate critical thinking**
- **Root our children in the constitution and the values and principles that made/make WRHS and America great – honesty, relevance, thrift, hope, humility, courage, gratitude, individual responsibilities**
- **Foster a thirst for knowledge and truth --- and liberty**
- **Give our children the wings of self-reliance so they can pursue their happiness. This will strengthen wills.**
- **Create a vehicle for volunteerism**
- **Another library**
- **Thank you! Ms. Hostins and students. AAAAA+++**
- **More parks**
- **Support teachers**
- **Organize a community dialog forum on issues facing town and nation. Ex. What is truth, family, diversity culture, arts, sustainability, history**
- **Oppose abortion – support marriage between one man and one woman = family**
- **Fiber optic high speed internet**
- **Put the focus on academics instead of athletics**
- **Encourage the community to enter schools**
- **Improved and increased special ed services**
- **We need to connect talents with students (we need a photographer, chess player to work with our teens)**
- **We need to ensure that our students are educated on the subject material and to learn how to be a productive and successful person in their lives**
- **Community noticeboard**

- Increase utilization of public access TV
- Modernize aspect of town website

### **What kind of learning experience can our community bring to adults to make Wilbraham a better place to live and work?**

- Entrepreneurship workshop
- Wilbraham by-law review session – line-by-line
- Retraining of out-of-work people not endless handouts
- More interactive website
  - Not as great on i-Pad
- Extension courses
- Unbiased education on the principles of which our country is founded on
- More use of the schools for activities for all ages
- Have evening programs at the library like they do at the Yellow House in Palmer
- More varied classes and workshops at library and senior center
- Offer a scrabble group
- Expanded library hours
- A good sign at Main and Burt lane announcing library programs
- Weekend library hours – expanded adult ed - parlay the new MRHS
- Extension courses offered at library
- Have the older citizens create: chess clubs, scrabble clubs, photography club. Have high schoolers teach: computer skills, technology 101
- Use of library more a new or larger senior center
- Expand senior services
- Extension courses for adults: languages, crafts, home repair
- Expanded adult ed programs
- Encourage re-education for adults unemployed - not government dependency

### **How do we attract young families from other areas to Wilbraham to increase our student population and sustain school funding?**

- More family activities to increase family values. Bring back the sense of neighborhood communities.
- Do we need to attract more families?
- Stop locking up land for trails everywhere.
- Lower taxes.
- Ensure quality education programs continue in the best interest of learning so the student GPA's, MCAS and success rate is high.
- Affordable housing
- There needs to be something for the kids to do. There needs to be jobs, affordable housing and supportive schools.

- Increase awareness of outdoor activities
- Teach true American History, not revised to fit PC requirements. Teach creationism as well.
- This is a trick question. An increase in student population does not translate into sustained school funding.
- The community is not open to diversity. There is a core culture of bullying. The children are not kind.
- There needs to be more value placed on academic excellence. At this time children who do advanced work are harassed.
- Lower property taxes
- Wi-Fi- High speed internet.
- Do we need more families?
- Offer range of subjects: AP. International Baccalaureate Program.
- Education, housing, public safety.
- Affordable housing.

### **What can the school community do to better connect with the business community and provide value to them?**

- Increase volunteerism
- Expand internship opportunities
- Vocational Ed – not everyone wants to go to college
- Home businesses come in to HS to talk about their careers – what day to day is like.
- Tour local businesses
- Offer a variety of volunteer programs for students at local businesses to educate them.
- Teach free market principles to our kids
- Teach value of work not government dependency
- Internship opportunities
- Work study programs
- Workshops, school papers, work release, internships
- Use student organization to extend invitations to these groups
- Take expertise from seniors in town to our students
- Internships and how small businesses work
- Values to succeed no matter what
- Volunteer and internships through out high school years

### **What can the businesses of Wilbraham do in the future to be a part of the education efforts of the schools?**

- Teach family values (traditional)
- Offer intern programs to current students

- **Hire students**
- **Create mentor system**
- **Offer jobs**
- **Could the tutoring programs and after school care businesses focus on academics and provide homework help? Could they enforce reading time?**
- **Foster, inspire and engage the entrepreneurial spirit.**
- **Inspire individual hard work and ideas**
- **Advocate for fiscal concessions in trade for mentoring and apprentice programs**
- **Internships, speakers**
- **Interns, apprenticeships, talks at the schools**
- **Communicate with the school guidance departments – their services and mission**
- **Can anything be done to improve school lunches? Could we get local fruits and vegetables the might eat?**
- **Internships**
- **Offer jobs**
- **Work with the schools for values and also help to improve the kids' needs**
- **Local business seminars**
- **Get involved – with business classes**