

Exchange Summary

Novato Unified School District
December 9, 2021

What is on your hearts and minds as we prepare for winter break?



PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



44

Participants



58

Thoughts



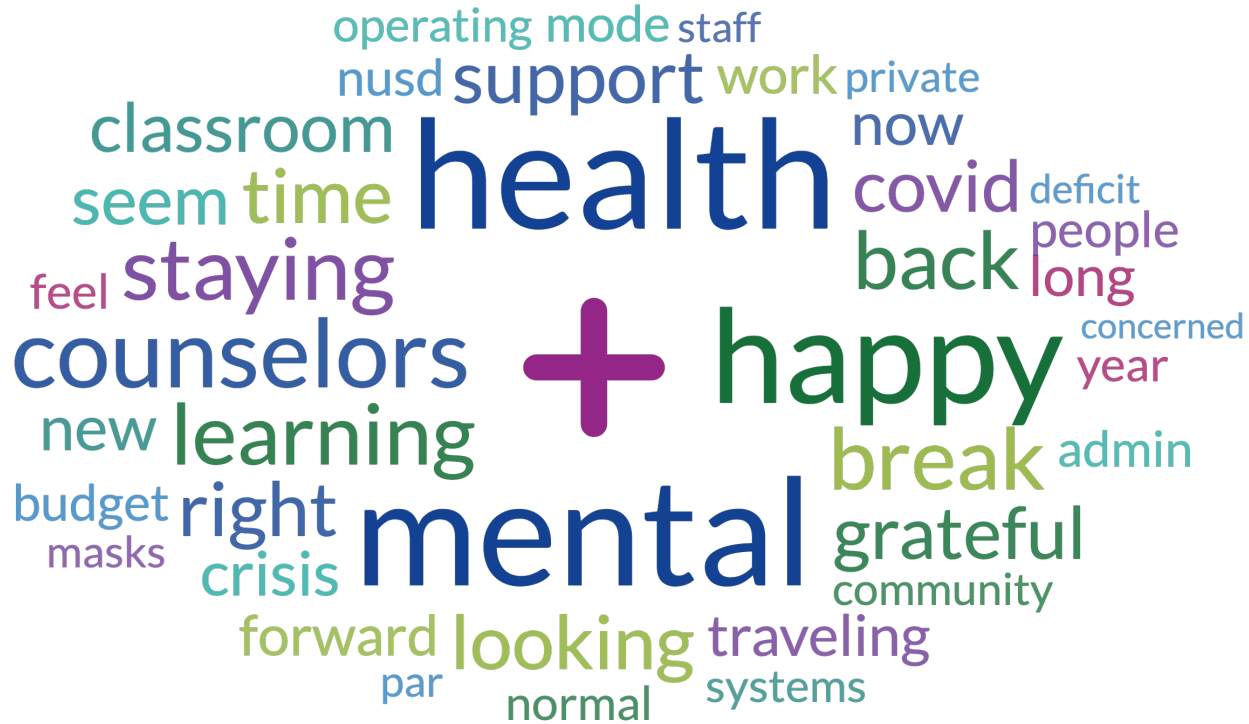
405

Ratings



WORDCLOUD

Top Rated





THOUGHTS

Key Thoughts



Mental health of students and staff should be taking center stage right now, superseding academic initiatives. We still have a shortage of counselors. We are seeing many students and adults struggle right now. We cannot be successful learners or teachers while struggling internally.

4.2  (8 👤)
Ranked #1 of 58

Student mental health issues are on the rise and really significant. Younger students are acting out (impulse control), older students are acting in (depression, anxiety, eating disorders); both impact learning and life

4.1  (6 👤)
Ranked #2 of 58

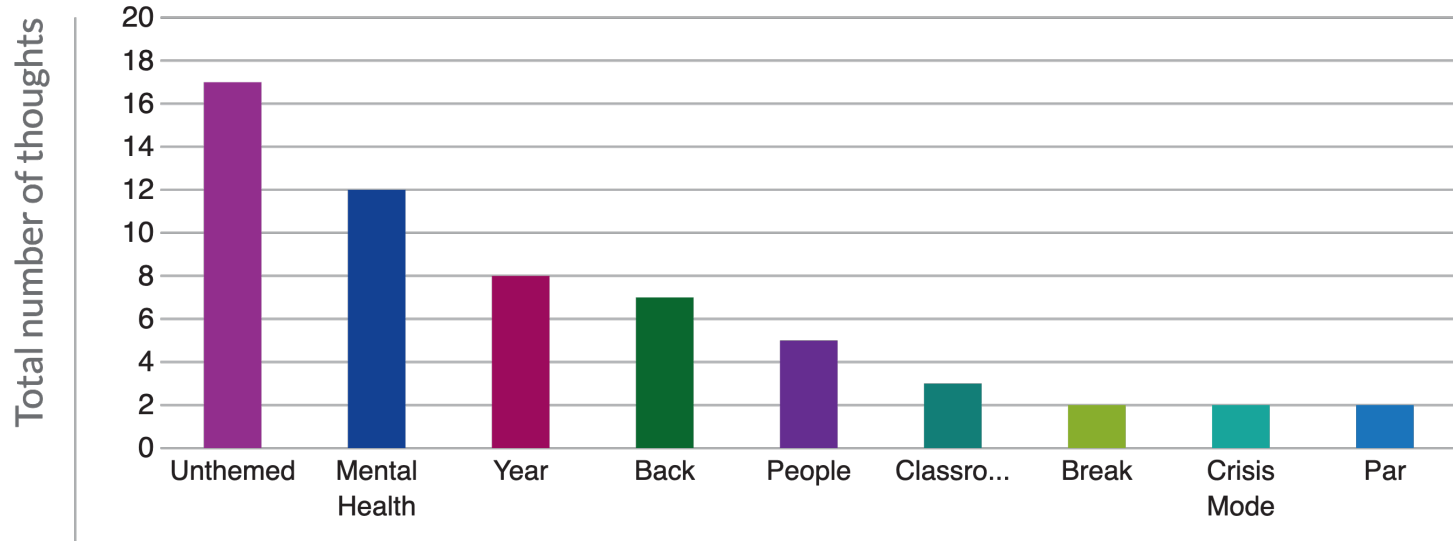
Very happy to have a long break I need time away from any work thoughts

4.0  (14 👤)
Ranked #3 of 58



AI GENERATED THEMES

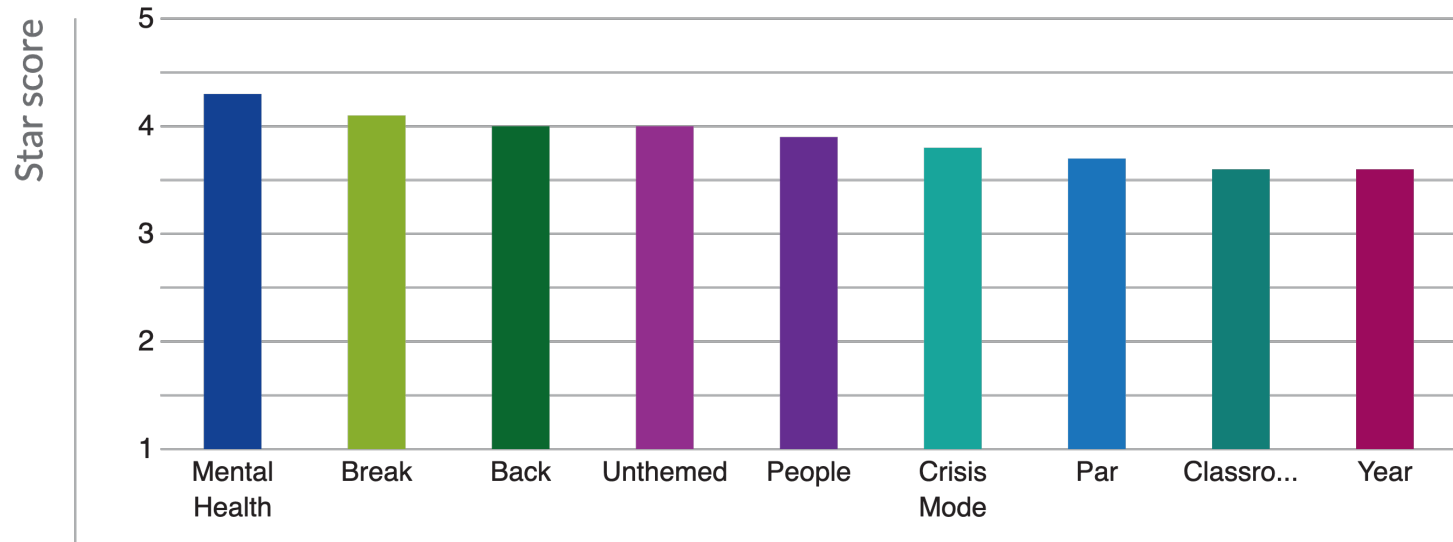
Top Themes by total thoughts





AI GENERATED THEMES

Top Themes by star score





THOUGHTS

Mental Health



Mental health of students and staff should be taking center stage right now, superseding academic initiatives. We still have a shortage of counselors. We are seeing many students and adults struggle right now. We cannot be successful learners or teachers while struggling internally. 4.2 ★★★★★ (8 👤)

Student mental health issues are on the rise and really significant. Younger students are acting out (impulse control), older students are acting in (depression, anxiety, eating disorders); both impact learning and life 4.1 ★★★★★ (6 👤)

Feeling the need for time with family and friends in a low stress environment. Mental health is more important than ever right now. We can't take care of others if we don't address our mental health needs first. 4.0 ★★★★★ (11 👤)



THOUGHTS

Break

Very happy to have a long break I need time away from any work thoughts

4.0  (14 )

Looking forward to a break.

3.9  (9 )





THOUGHTS

Back



I'm grateful for the return to in person learning My daughter is happy to be back with her teacher and classmates on campus. The routine is so helpful for her. **4.0** ★★★★★ (7 👤)

I am grateful that students have been able to be in person on campus again. Students need live interaction with their teachers and peers to develop into emotionally healthy individuals! **3.9** ★★★★★ (15 👤)

I am truly happy for our sports teams and the kids who get to experience the school spirit and full backing of the community. I wish all students could experience that level of support and appreciation from our community. **3.8** ★★★★★ (8 👤)



THOUGHTS

Unthemed



It is my observation that teachers are stressed, stretched too thin, and generally not as happy as they usually are. It is important for teachers to be able to bring their best to their students. How can we support them more?

4.0  (8 )

My son's teacher is amazing and goes way above and beyond. We are so lucky to have her.
School not shutting down Well being of my son.

4.0  (5 )

3.9  (10 )



THOUGHTS People



- Hoping people continue to stay careful with health and covid exposure, especially while traveling.** Important to have a safe return to school in January. 3.9 ★★★★★ (10 👤)
- People staying COVID-free** To prevent another surge and, widespread illness and school absences perpetuating funding loss. 3.8 ★★★★★ (14 👤)
- I am concerned about the recent rise in Covid-19 positive cases and exposures. I wish the district would be more transparent about the numbers.** Not knowing raises anxiety. Being informed allows people to feel valued and safer. 3.3 ★★★★★ (13 👤)



THOUGHTS

Crisis Mode



Teachers are still operating in Covid- crisis mode Admin seems to be operating as if Covid-teaching is the new "normal"/baseline.

3.7 ★★★★★ (14 👤)

Can we have more support from admin? Everyone is in crisis mode and admin seem unaware

3.5 ★★★★★ (6 👤)



THOUGHTS

Par



How will NUSD leaders handle the budget deficit. Concerned that the budget deficit will make high school not at par with private school options.

3.5  (6 )

The ability, willingness, and competency of our NUSD leadership to maintain education excellence across the district, provide leadership and vision. NUSD needs visionary leadership that can help navigate thru budget crisis without impacting the ability to be competitive at par w/ private schools.

3.5  (5 )



THOUGHTS Classroom



- Teachers cannot be heard through masks and over noise of air filters and open classroom doors** 3.6 ★★☆☆☆ (12 👤)
Teachers are expending more energy than necessary raising their voices in the classroom, to little effect, Amplification systems are NEEDED
- Where are the classroom tech systems?** We now have new MacBooks that are not compatible with the components in the classrooms- we are expected to use classroom budgets for needed adapters 3.5 ★★☆☆☆ (12 👤)
- Admin/DO staff should start getting in the classroom more often to alleviate the sub shortage** It's not teachers' fault that subs have historically been underpaid in NUSD, returning to classrooms helps admin understand what teacher/students needs 3.4 ★★☆☆☆ (10 👤)



THOUGHTS Year



TK plans for next year seem to still have a 2:24 ratio in mind, despite the fact that we have **MANY** openings for aides in the current year. 24 TKs in a classroom is NOT developmentally appropriate, nor wise, if it is dependent on the availability and quality of instructional assistants.

3.9 ★★★★★ (13 👤)

Thank goodness school is open full time this year Self evident

3.8 ★★★★★ (4 👤)

Is restorative justice working? I am all for restorative justice, and feel it should **ABSOLUTELY** remain on campuses for all of it's benefits. However.. This year behavior is horrendous (typical trauma response) and it feels like there is nothing that can be done. There are no consequences.

3.6 ★★★★★ (12 👤)



WRAP UP

Next Steps



Thanks for participating and sharing your thoughts.