



ARCHITECTURE  
INTERIOR DESIGN  
HISTORIC RESTORATION  
EDUCATIONAL PLANNING

# **Eshleman Elementary Community Survey Results**

prepared for

the

## **Penn Manor School District**



by

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# Community Survey

1. What future changes in the educational program would you support that could create the need for a lesser or greater amount of space within your child's elementary building?
  - Technology - 5
    - I would support more emphasis on computer use that may require an addition for a larger library.
    - With more computers in the future of education, more room will be needed to allow easier access to them — either in individual classrooms or a separate computer room.
    - Computer library facility
    - Computer labs would require more space.
    - A computer center would be great.
  - The Arts and Music - 4
    - Separate art and music rooms would require more space.
    - If there began to be more emphasis on arts and music, which I would support, this could create the need for more space.
    - Incorporating more of the Arts in our children's education. An auditorium with a stage that is functional instead of having to be used for storage would encourage dramatic expression. Scenery made by the children in Art Class could be stored backstage. Space for musical and orchestra rehearsals could eliminate the need for scheduling conflicts.
  - Less students per classroom (additional classrooms) would require more space. - 3
    - Add more classrooms and teachers to lower the teacher-student ratio. Some classes are too large.
  - Adding a gym - 3
    - An enlargement of intramural sports which I would support, could also create the need for more space.
    - Eshleman certainly needs a gymnasium. Our children play "trash can basketball."
  - Cafeteria - 2
    - Increase the size of cafeteria for multi-use/purpose where the student body, faculty, parents could gather for programs more comfortably.
    - It would help to keep lunch periods even five minutes longer — now they have to "hurry" and eat because of gym classes, music lessons, etc.
  - Need for specific rooms (not closets or storage rooms) for music lessons, meetings, counseling, etc.
  - Just about anything right now would be a consideration.
  - I would support all-day kindergarten. I know it would take more space, but in this day and age it is needed.
  - None. We already need more space. I would object to boundary changes if our students were sent elsewhere. I would feel comfortable with adding one additional classroom per grade.
  - A larger "teacher work area" would be helpful.
  - A bigger, more inviting school office would be a great improvement. A few parents are a crowd.
  - Teaching our children organization skills requires space for them to practice. Cubbies in rooms, places for their lunch boxes, places for hats and boots for example.

2. What are the positive characteristics of your child's elementary school which should be maintained in the design of building renovations?
- Layout - 5
    - All the corridors meet in a central area. There is a certain intimacy to the building in that everyone can meet or pass by everyone else sometime during the day. The layout also ensures that nothing (and no one) is too far removed from the rest of the building. The children never have to go too far when attending an event outside their classroom.
    - single level building - 2
    - Office, nurse, copy/credenza are close together at the entrance of the building.
    - The cross design facilitates fire evacuation readily.
    - I like the hallways branching out, so that each classroom has windows.
    - The separation of the K-3 from the 4-6 is an excellent characteristic of Eshleman.
  - Atmosphere - 2
    - It is small and intimate. I would not want it to become huge.
    - Eshleman currently has two classrooms per grade and I would not want to see that rise above three. Eshleman is a family-oriented school.
  - Multi-purpose Room
    - I like the idea of multi-purpose rooms, e.g., cafeteria/auditorium/gym.
  - I like the computers being in the rooms instead of a "computer lab" kind of setup.
  - Playground
    - The school yard and play equipment are very important to the children and should be kept even if they have to be moved.
  - At this point the negative outweighs the positive because the building is in dire need of renovations.
  - Keep as many shade trees as possible.
  - I liked the old breezeway that existed before the kindergarten room was built. It allowed the children to go outside when it was raining.
  - The most positive thing about Eshleman is that it is in Millersville, in our community.
  - I am satisfied with classroom size. I think each room should still have a sink and water fountain inside.
  - Mike Ressler is a great guy. He should have more room for his equipment.
  - The library is also great, but could use more room for new material/books.
3. What are the concerns related to the condition of your child's elementary school which should be addressed in the planning of building renovations?
- Air conditioning/Better ventilation - 8
    - I have always wondered how the children endured the warm and stifling air in the classrooms. This seems to be a problem, not only when the weather is warm, but also during the winter when the heat is on.
    - We need a more adaptable and adequately functioning heating, cooling and ventilation system.
    - The building as it stands now has very little fresh air moving through the rooms and hallways. Children are becoming very sick in winter months. It's a breeding ground for bacteria and germs.
    - The school is way too hot!!
    - needs ceiling fans or AC
    - Install air conditioning throughout the school.
    - Heating system needs to be controllable from each room.

- New Gym - 4
    - Eshleman School needs a gymnasium with basketball hoops, ropes, and equipment for games. The gym should have its own space, not shared with the cafeteria and multipurpose room.
  - Storage space - 3
    - for teachers
  - Parking - 3
    - Parking, bus drop-off, car drop-off situation is dangerous.
    - Parking should be addressed in the planning of the renovations. It's absolutely horrible.
    - Parking lot restructuring
  - Larger Auditorium - 2
    - School recitals and the first PTO meeting of the year result in standing-room-only in the present auditorium. Perhaps the present auditorium could be enlarged into a more up-to-date gym/auditorium/cafeteria.
    - An auditorium would be a nice addition.
  - Teachers need a larger area for using the copier and similar shared equipment. - 2
    - The present area also partially hides the entrance to a boys' bathroom.
    - Should be centrally located near the office.
  - Entrances/Security - 2
    - Bigger entrances to avoid children crowding together — perhaps a separate bus entrance.
    - larger outside entrance patio
    - better security — doors that lock
  - A place where parent volunteers can work one-on-one with students.
    - I like the multi-purpose rooms, but working at a table in the storeroom was distracting for the children.
  - The large window in the all-purpose room should be removed for safety reasons.
  - Office
    - large office space
  - The use of non-hazardous building/construction materials
  - A shed of sorts or exterior building for the housing of equipment to maintain the property.
  - Need for separate gym and cafeteria
  - Need for one additional classroom per grade
  - Larger library
  - Allow space in classrooms for the computer setups.
  - Bigger classrooms
  - Bigger cafeteria so the kids don't have to rush through their meal.
  - Overloading of electrical outlets is a concern.
  - Window treatments that work.
  - Computers and activities
- 
- Complete redecoration and magnetic chalkboards
  - Computer lab
  - Add more receptacles to each classroom to accommodate future technical uses.
  - There should be more restrooms.

4. If you could change ONE feature in your child's elementary school to make it a better educational environment for students and staff, what would that one change be?
- Separate gym or separate cafeteria - 9
    - Instead of having one "all-purpose room" serving three separate uses, (cafeteria, gym, and auditorium) another area should be built to house one of the three.
    - Separate the all-purpose room. There should be a separate room for each of the cafeteria, gym and auditorium. There are too many scheduling conflicts with all that in one room.
    - Build a respectable gym.
    - Build a Gym with risers. This could be used in such a variety of ways — presentations for the student body; community meetings; concert and plays by students; recess for rainy days; intramurals; free up the cafeteria so two events can take place at once.
    - It could be used for indoor recess
  - Smaller classroom size (lower the student:teacher ratio) - 3
    - add more teachers and classrooms
    - more classrooms per grade
  - Provide a better/larger place for multipurpose gathering
  - Library
    - I would like to see a larger library with room for more and updated books, a story area, carpeting and many more computers and computer-related equipment.
  - Separate art/music rooms
  - Increase classroom space
  - Remodel/redecorate
5. Other information you might wish to share:
- I really don't want to see a "lost wing" added on to the building. When I was growing up it seemed like every school had some classroom area that was far removed from the rest of the school and the students that attended those classrooms were considered somehow different from the rest of the student body for that school year.
  - The school needs a new traffic pattern to help fight the congestion of buses, walkers and parent pick-ups. Separate entrances would help. Also, surging children crowding into the front doors and hallway make it difficult for the smaller children. A larger entrance and front hallway could help. A larger patio or waiting area outside the doors would also be beneficial.
  - Since our school property gets so much varied use, there appears to be the need for an additional parking area.
  - Parking is a major concern as it stands right now. Sidewalks leading from the school to the main road are not wide enough for the amount of kids that use them.
  - Often, parent helpers meet with children in the hallway for conferences or tutoring. Perhaps there is some way to allow spaces for this in hallways — alcoves near the room. Maybe cubicles at the end of short hallways.
  - My daughter suggests a school store, where she can buy school supplies.
  - Eshleman students are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to athletics like basketball. The lack of a decent phys. ed. facility does hurt our students. If we had a full-sized gym it could be used by school soccer coaches, etc. for off season activities. The

commitment to Penn Manor athletics should begin at the elementary level. I'm tired of Eshleman being left by the wayside.

However, if my choice is between a gym and better classroom facilities, I choose overall school improvements and added classroom space and classrooms. We may have some manageable class sizes now, but that has a bad habit of changing. With all the building going on in the Hambright area, we may even need another school. The teachers at Eshleman have done a fabulous job covering up, making do, and making the best of a bad situation. The school's condition is fairly sound (to my knowledge) with the exception of the electrical system, heating, and window treatments. But the school is extremely dingy and old. We need to improve all that. When my children participate in activities at other elementary schools they cannot believe the difference. Let's work together to make things more equitable. (I've had a child at Eshleman every year for 12 years).

- While our teachers do a wonderful job, the conditions are terribly crowded. Ex: the counselor is in a closet, as is reading recovery and speech teacher. While our PTO supplies the library with books and other items, a media center that is more up-to-date is a necessity.
- Somehow revamp the parking lot area and add more parking spaces. Traffic has always been a problem, although it is handled with the best system for the school.
- Eshleman is a small school which is a nice environment for families, but some of the classes are too large (24 - 27 students) for one teacher.