

Monroe County Youth Survey Report

Methodology and Purpose

The Monroe County Family Connection in conjunction with the Center for Community Studies, Inc. conducted a community assessment during 2008. The community assessment is part of developing a new Three-Year Operating Plan for submission to the Family Connection Partnership.

As part of the assessment process, a two-page paper opinion survey was administered to Monroe County middle and high school students. A web survey was available as an alternative to the paper version. 203 forms were returned for analysis. The following is a summary report of the survey results.

Distribution at Schools




Name of your school	Counts	Percents	Percents	
			0	100
William Hubbard Middle School	60	29.6%		
Banks Stephens Middle School	73	36.0%		
Mary Persons High School	66	32.5%		
Monroe County Achievement Center	0	0.0%		
Monroe Academy	2	1.0%		
Other	2	1.0%		
No Answer	0	0.0%		
Totals	203	100.0%		

Figure 1

Youth Community Needs

The youth were given a list of 14 unmet needs and asked to indicate if the need was, "Very Serious," "Somewhat Serious," "Not Very Serious," or "No opinion/Don't Know." The following are the unmet needs ranked by the youth with "1" being the Most Serious Unmet Need.

1. Health education (pregnancy prevention, HIV/AIDS prevention)
2. Health
3. Tie - Harassment (sexual and physical) prevention
3. Tie - Recreation programs (sports, games, clubs)
4. Job readiness, work experience
5. Internet safety
6. Mental health services (counseling, referrals for treatment)
7. Health management (nutrition, self-management of chronic conditions such as asthma)
8. Alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention classes or activities
9. Academic Support (enrichment, tutoring)
10. Leadership development
11. Conflict resolution or violence prevention activities (bullying)
12. Cultural programs (music, trips, art or drama performances)
13. Summer activities

Reading the Report

Written Comments

If any written comments were recorded for any section, the written comments were **transcribed as written by the respondent**. Numbering of the comments may have been added for clarity. Incorrect punctuation was not corrected. We did not add exclamation points or question marks to statements written by respondents. Misspelled words were not corrected. Incorrect grammar usage was not corrected. Profane language was not deleted. If the respondent's handwriting was illegible, three question marks (???) are in place of the illegible word or words. Individual comments are shown with a "bullet" or dot in front of each new comment.

BEST Thing

The students were given the following question, "What is the **BEST** thing about living in Monroe County for you?" They were given one line on which to write an answer. The following is a text summary of their answers. The written answers were transcribed **EXACTLY** as written by the respondents with no corrections for spelling or grammar.

Each dot or "bullet" represents one response in the "other" category. This is text Figure 2.

What is the BEST thing about living in Monroe County for you?

24.6%	the school system	3.4%	Recreation activities	1.0%	Do not live in Monroe County.
17.2%	Friends and/or Family	3.0%	i don't know	1.0%	it is fun
12.8%	Quiet/Small/In the country	2.5%	Great Community	1.0%	Nothing
10.8%	sports	1.5%	Many things to do	1.0%	Stores/Mall
9.4%	the people	1.5%	Not much crime	1.0%	the neighborhoods
6.4%	You know everybody	1.5%	Not much violence	10.3%	Other
4.9%	It is a safe community.	1.5%	parties	3.4%	No Answer
3.4%	Everything is close to Monroe	1.5%	restaurants		

- HAHHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA REALLY! hummm..... ya know it kinda bad when someone whos been liveing here for 18 years cant come up with even one thing good about this county.
- I really don't like living here.
- The job opportunities
- You have the privacy to do whatever you want to do.
- the experiences that you get from living here
- the bets thing about living in Monroe County is the experience of all the things we have done at school
- No school dress code
- i have my own property where i can ride fourwheeler ad hunt animals
- I can ride my things
- playing games snowboarding games
- my house
- The money that is saved to support your family.
- To live close to the police department.
- nature
- parades
- that i can skateboard here and theres alot of places to skate and have some of my friends live by my
- No very close niehbors.
- the teachers
- there is a bunch of good things about living here it is a great place 2 live
- law enforcement
- I like Monroe County it is a quit town

Figure 2

Worst Problems

The students were given the following question, "What is the worst problem facing youth in Monroe County?" They were given one line on which to write an answer. The following is a text summary of their answers. The written answers were transcribed **EXACTLY** as written by the respondents with no corrections for spelling or grammar.

Each dot or "bullet" represents one response in the "other" category. This is text Figure 3.

What is the WORST problem facing youth in Monroe County?

13.8%	drugs	1.5%	need more restaurants
12.8%	violence	1.5%	safety
7.4%	Nothing to do/Nowhere to hang out	1.0%	Boring
5.9%	Bullying	1.0%	kidnapping
5.4%	Gangs	1.0%	need more stores/malls
3.9%	Alcohol	1.0%	school
3.0%	Drama	1.0%	STDs
3.0%	fighting	1.0%	stealing
3.0%	nothing	1.0%	the teachers
3.0%	peer pressure	1.0%	tobacco
2.5%	gas prices	38.9%	Other
2.5%	I don't know	6.4%	No Answer
2.5%	Teen pregnancy		

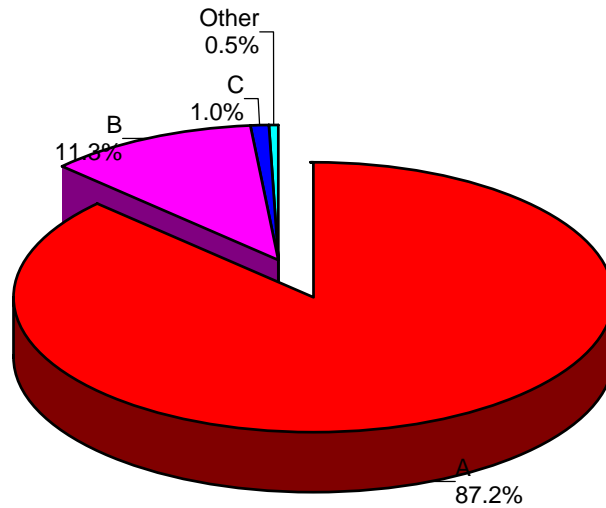
- I guess limited opportunities.
- thugs
- People you see on the streets doing wrong
- un-aphathetic adults, they lay the emotion of "i dont care" onto us when and if we try to express our problems, so we grow used to it and show the emotion in school at home & at work.
- The most problem with the youth is everyone seem to having to much of their boyfriends and girlfriends stuff, that is not very good.
- If you are not in to sports then you don't belong.
- When some thing goes wrong with your family or even your friends everybody knows before you even tell
- meeting people that don't want to do anything
- How immature some people are.
- I think that the school are not doing enough for the community or anyone else they just try and remain in the school.
- people being jeolous
- not being properly educated about preventing pregnancy/stds through safe sex.abstinence lectures are proving inneffective.
- Trying to not get arrested
- the worst problem fo youth are the tough situationd and choices we are faced with
- its alot of problem meaning behavior problem
- unawareness of what is going on around them
- academics
- Don't live in Monroe County
- peer presssure
- sex
- low self-confidence
- There are many, but some of the most serious are sexual education and heath. I also think we need more hands on activities and more classes speacalized in specific job fields
- not a large enough class selection
- Education
- what are you going to do after school in Monroe County.
- Utilities failing. water. lights...etc. also drug usage among teenagers, blatantly, in public places.
- prices in stores
- There is not any thing really but to me for other to get paddle by the priciple at Willams Hubbard.
- Not alot of kids in our county.
- bomb threats
- school fires
- Poverty
- low literacy rates
- perverted sick little minds of the little boys
- they are ulgy.
- getting high jacked
- getting robbed
- children walking by themselves
- Crime

- some of the neighborhood
- When you have a problem my teacher won't let you go see somebody to help you. It seems like she only cares for herself.
- Not many friends
- needs a better road
- I would say some teachers are ignorant to some students needs, or what he/she is going through at home.
- FEAR IN FOOTBALL
- we need a better schools
- when i dont like them and just make me sick.
- The bus drivers are always coming to early like at 6:30am when they can't start the buses until 6:45
- bad people
- When people say something that they should say thats a problem to me
- food prices
- water prices
- the discipline in the schools are really messed up
- People judging them by who they think they are.
- the worst problem is keeping my grades up. or keeping them on a/b.
- Being with barley no hispanics.
- pollution
- finding new friends that just move here.
- car stealing
- driving
- sports
- Acting more than they are and being/acting like adults.
- they take away all the fun for us.
- BEING ABLE TO PLAY OUTSIDE
- troubles with school
- my family
- cops
- I don't know
- To mutch work.
- Getting in trouble at school
- We are all whating things we can't get.
- There's no problem at all.
- the food at school
- i have found a bad thing about it
- behavior
- Having to Go to School, which isn't really that bad.
- internet predators
- The distractions
- administrators
- Riding my bike without getting hit.
- traffic
- i think thsat more people-teens- are doeing more bad things ecause they think that they can get away with it here!
- If i dont pass 7grade i would get in so much trouble.
- The school's dresscode.
- what goes on in the town
- Getting in troubel.
- you really can not do anything fun like drive and all the good stuff
- robbers
- I dont know
- You always to small or little ,&you can't do alot of fun things !

Figure 3

Academic Achievement in School

Students were asked to report the highest grade they received on their report cards during the last school year. Over 87% of respondents indicated that their highest grade was an "A" as shown in Figure 4 below.



What is the highest grade you received on your report card last school year?

Figure 4

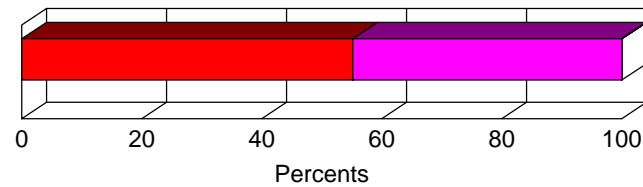
Students were then asked to report in which class they received the highest grade. The majority of respondents indicated that their highest grade earned was in English/Language Arts or Mathematics as shown in Figure 5 below.

In which subject did you receive this grade?				
	Counts	Percents	Percents	
			0	100
English/Language Arts	75	36.9%	<div style="width: 36.9%;"></div>	
Mathematics	51	25.1%	<div style="width: 25.1%;"></div>	
Science	20	9.9%	<div style="width: 9.9%;"></div>	
Social Studies	16	7.9%	<div style="width: 7.9%;"></div>	
Other	36	17.7%	<div style="width: 17.7%;"></div>	
No Answer	5	2.5%	<div style="width: 2.5%;"></div>	
Totals	203	100.0%		

Figure 5

Participation in Existing Programs

Students were asked if they participate in any programs or activities after school and/or on the weekends. Over 55% of respondents indicated that they participate in some program as shown in Figure 6 below.



Participation in programs

■ Yes

■ No

No Answer

Figure 6: Yes - 55.2% No - 44.8% No Answer - 0.0%

If the student stated they participate in a program, they were asked what type or program or activity. The following responses were transcribed **EXACTLY** as written by the respondents. Each dot or "bullet" represents one response in the "other" category. This is text Figure 7.

If you answered YES, what programs or activities? Choose all that apply.

34.5%	sports	5.4%	cheerleading	1.0%	student council
22.2%	church/religious activities	4.4%	dance	1.0%	yearbook staff
15.8%	club	4.4%	marching band	7.4%	Other
15.3%	music	2.5%	arts	44.8%	No Answer
5.4%	tutoring/homework help	1.0%	4-H		

- work
- job
- Saturday School
- blazin
- I also do drama. I plan to be in beta this year.
- BAND!!!!
- gymnastics
- i do band and i tried out for the yearbook and i am going try out for soccer
- Boy Scouts
- chour
- raping
- jumping on the trampoline.
- Karate
- i am in Oliver the play

Figure 7

Participation in Existing Programs Continued

If the student stated they DO NOT participate in a program, they were asked why. The following summary gives their responses. All written answers were transcribed **EXACTLY** as written by the respondents. Each dot or "bullet" represents one response in the "other" category. This is text Figure 8.

If you answered NO, choose all the reasons why.

- 21.7% I am not interested in any of these activities.
 - 20.2% I have responsibilities at home (for example, child care, cooking, shopping, chores.)
 - 14.3% I have too much homework to do.
 - 12.8% I don't have transportation back home if I stay after school.
 - 9.4% I don't know what activities are available.
 - 9.4% I have a job after school and/or on the weekends.
 - 6.4% There are no programs available at school or close to where I live.
 - 9.9% Other
 - 55.7% No Answer
-
- I played Baseball
 - I stay home and practice my singing, drawing, and dancing.
 - my grades
 - I did not know what most of the clubs did last year.
 - none
 - it take to long time to sign up for activies
 - I don't want to!!!
 - i dont want to!
 - i like to hang out with my friends better
 - i have to much to do at home
 - i dont have much time to
 - sports at my school that i am involved in.
 - I DONT KNOW WHEN TRACK IS BEGINNING
 - i don't have the money to get to a certain place or the activity costs to much money .
 - I like to take advantage of the time I have away from school.
 - I just don't know wether I want to, or not
 - I'm just a kid, i have better things to do like social activities, and just releasing my stress not in an activity. And i rather not get caught up in some activity that is not that important
 - i really wanted to be on the cheerleading squad but i didnt make it.
 - my mom works to late and when she gets off we both just want to go home.
 - Basketball is in the winter and vollyball is only for the high school.

Figure 8

Desired Activities

Students were asked which programs or activities they would LIKE to have at school or in their neighborhood. Text Figure 9 shows their responses. All written answers were transcribed **EXACTLY** as written by the respondents. Each dot or "bullet" represents one response in the "other" category.

Which of the following would you LIKE to have in your school or neighborhood. (Please choose all you'd like)

73.9%	movie theater	26.6%	music instruction
67.5%	place to hang around with your friends	23.6%	baseball field
63.1%	skating rink	23.6%	transportation
62.1%	bowling alley	22.7%	money management (how to buy stuff)
59.1%	arcade	22.2%	art centers
54.7%	swimming pool and instruction	22.2%	dance instruction
40.4%	cultural activities (concerts, dances, plays)	21.2%	tutoring
38.9%	basketball courts	21.2%	computer at home
36.5%	music studio for group practice	16.7%	computers at home
31.5%	football/soccer instruction	11.8%	computer instruction
30.0%	cooking classes	9.9%	sewing classes
27.6%	computer center for homework	9.9%	parenting classes
27.6%	arts & crafts workshop	16.3%	Other
27.1%	recreation center	0.5%	No Answer
27.1%	help to find a part-time job		

- a gym
- skateboard park
- A SONIC DRIVE-IN
- traphouse
- Tennis instruction.
- a dirt track
- octagon
- community activities
- all
- Skate Park!!!
- skate park
- chherleading area for practice (tumbleing)
- Six Flags
- and also a club
- white water
- more variety of restaraunts
- somewhere my friends could hang out without anyone knowing about that place!!
- more restraunts chick fil a zaxbys
- skatepark
- a place made for me
- More places to eat in Monroe County
- Food Court with healthy , GOOD food.
- dance class/ hip-hop,R&B,rap
- a small church for youth to learn about christianity & xetra he
- p for school work .
- A place just for teens to hang out
- jumping on a trampoline.
- trampolines.
- something to do with animals
- more resturants and new walmart

Figure 9

Desired Location of Programs/Activities

Students were asked where they would like programs or activities to take place. The majority was unsure. However, over 36% indicated they would like the programs to take place somewhere near their home, as shown in Figure 10 below.





Where would you LIKE these programs and activities to take place?			
	Counts	Percents	0 Percents 100
Somewhere at my school	51	25.1%	
Somewhere near my house	67	33.0%	
I am not sure	75	36.9%	
No Answer	10	4.9%	
Totals	203	100.0%	

Figure 10

Times for Programs/Activities

Students were asked when they would like programs or activities to take place. Over 34% indicated they would like the programs to take place in the afternoons after school, as shown in Figure 11 below.






When would you LIKE these programs and activities to take place?			
	Counts	Percents	0 Percents 100
In the afternoons after school	69	34.0%	
In the evenings during the week	41	20.2%	
On the weekend during the day	51	25.1%	
On the weekend in the evenings	41	20.2%	
No Answer	1	0.5%	
Totals	203	100.0%	

Figure 11

Demographics of Participants

The following four figures (12 - 15) show the grade level, ages, gender, and ethnicity of the respondents.

Grade Level of Respondents

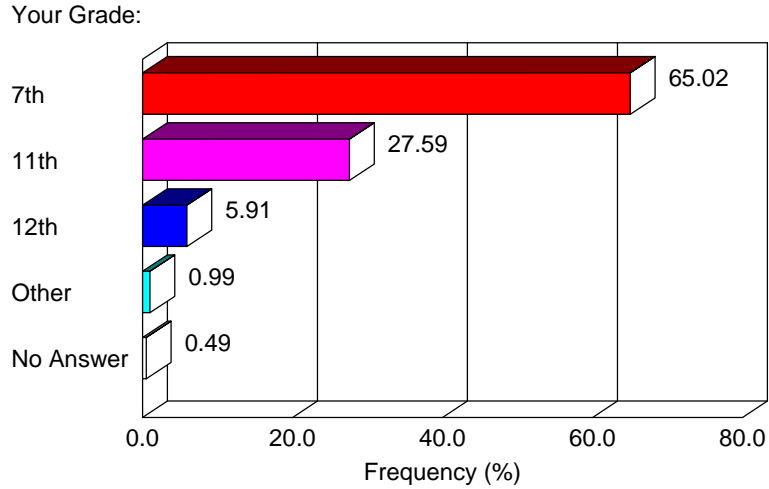


Figure 12

Age of Respondents

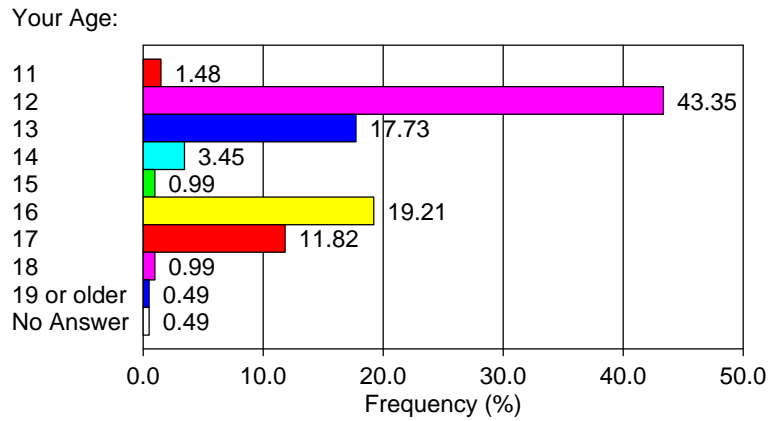
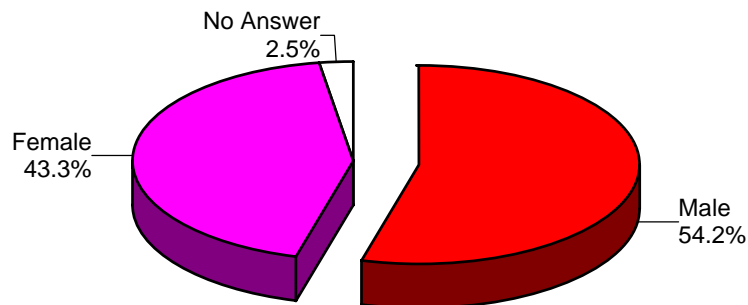


Figure 13

Gender of Respondents



Gender

Figure 14

Demographics of Participants Continued

Ethnicity of Respondents

Your Ethnicity:			
	Counts	Percents	Percents
			0 100
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	3.4%	
Asian	2	1.0%	
Black or African American	62	30.5%	
Hispanic or Latino	5	2.5%	
White or Caucasian	117	57.6%	
Other	10	4.9%	
No Answer	0	0.0%	
Totals	203	100.0%	

Figure 15

Comments by Respondents

Respondents were asked to write any comments on the back of the survey form. All written comments are transcribed EXACTLY as written by the respondents. Each dot or "bullet" represents one response. This is text Figure 16.

Are there any other issues or concerns that you have about Monroe County which were not included in this survey? If so, please tell us about your issues or concerns in the space below. Any additional comments would be welcomed.

- NO ANSWER
- We need school teachers to want to teach and not just get a paycheck. We also need automotive classes
- Well i think that the school should find some other kind of way to do the whole lunch payment. Some people they do not let get free lunch and other they do, and i do not think that is right at all.
- I just would like acting, dancing, and singing classes.
- Even though we were asked what would be nice to have in monroe county(bowling alley, movies, skating rink), we dont, and it would be nice to have a place to hang out with our friends that our parents feel comfortable with leaving us alone.
- I believe our school dress code is appropriate, however I do believe it could be a bit more lenient and understanding. I would also recommend more school related dances.
- i think that some of the administration at my school has lost sight of our traditions that are upheld. they are way too worried about tucking in shirts and wearing belts and not about what their students are learning. They have also taken away senior privaleges that have been used for many years and it makes alot of students and parents angry. i think that some staff at the school are trying to prevent things that are going to happen and refusing to figure out alternative solutions. i also think our school lunches are definately NOT nutritional. when 2 of the main side dishes are bread and potatoes, you are not including all the food groups. i refuse to eat school lunch not because it tastes bad, but because i could go to burger king and eat something as equally nutritious as a school lunch at mary persons.
- No, this survey addressed all concerns.
- I think that we should get a better lunch menu because every week we have the same food and it starts to get old so i would appreciate if you can consider changing it for the 2009-2010 school year. Thank you
sincerely sasha lipford
- The school spends all of its money on the football program, Instead of splitting the money evenly with all of the other sports.
- We are tired of the same food every day, every week, and every school year.
- i think that are to many kids that get in trouble over stupid things. the authority at the school is to strict and alot of the teacher a assholes
- We do not have enough to do here. A movie theature, bowling alley, or arcade would be awesome. It gets really boring.
- the dress code that we have and why we cant wear what we want to wear
- I think that the dress code is inforced in a wrong manner and they should reevaluate the dress code and focus less on the dress code and more on classes and lessons. I know that the rules are there for a reason but i think they should rethink the ones they inforce. rethinking example: tukiing in the shirts, tank tops under the shirt(for cover up), and belts worn with pants that fit and stay in place. Thank you.
- i realy think we need better lunches
- No

- I think that we should have more food in the lunch room
 - Can there be more than i dress to impress day or untuck short.
 - GAS
 - wel ,i dont like the perverted minds of boys!!!!>:0(
 - I hate the little perverted boys that sexually harass me and a lot of other boys and girls.
 - schools need to have more activities
 - nope
 - well children in schools should have more than one chance for having silent lunch and only one or two would be ok and teachers shouldn't be as hard on students about making them learn if they want to they are free to.
 - Some of the teachers need to be more helpfull and more caring
 - This was an extreamly good Survey.....
 - The streets are not safe for those who walk to and from school. Teenagers and adults constantly walk along the sidewalk before, after, and during school hours. I suggest that a bus route to town square for those who walk to their parent or guardian's buisness. Also, the "walkers" that walk down the hill have to cross a busy road every day. I think a crossing guard by the stopsign at hubbard middle would be a large improvement on our safety. I myself am a "walker" and have come close to being hit several times. Drivers just don't stop at the sign. Not only is this against the law, it is a safety hazard.
 - it was a great survey
 - we need to have a bigger school with apool inside for gym
 - potatoes
 - i am glad that i live in Monroe County. It is a great place to be.
 - Why do we have two middle schools?
 - early release days on fridays and tuesday and a nutritious wednesdays and sugar mondays and on thursdays our regular food menu.The class should be 60 dугrees so we can stay warm and less homework so we can have more study time on saturday and sunday.
 - we do not have enough school actives during the school day
 - we really need to have somewhere to go because we just cant sit in the house all weekend and in the summer.
 - i only have one other concern is the food i think we should have more variety. More things to choose from. that is my only other concern.
 - One of the issues to me is that there is not many good places to eat in Monroe County. We need some nicer places so we dont have to drive to Macon to get some good food. Also we need at better soccer program in Monroe County. Those are my only concerns and issues about Forsyth/Monroe County.
 - I would like to have a dirtbike track near my house
 - School shouldnt be too long, if we didn't we would be able to actually do things that we like or want to do.
 - Need safer buses.
 - To mutch work.
 - why don't we have driving classes.
 - Yes I do have some concerns aboyt Monroe County that were not included. The first concern I have is that we need to have more things for kids to do besides sports . Next we need to have more restaurants becuase i think that people sometimes get a little tired of eating at the same place everyday. And one last thing GAS PRICES NEED TO GO DOWN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! TODAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 - Have an afterschool program.
 - There's one thing i don't like about Monroe County. There needs to be at least a small mall somewhere. Thanks.
 - I think a few extra buses would be nice , to raise the money we could do car washes ,coke sales , fundraisers ect... as well as more teachers for the student body ! out of my concern it would be alot of help for when you walk into the school there are metal detectors for weapons or an inopropiate object . thanks !
 - Yes, i have a few concerns. Well it's more like a HUGE issue with me. Well see a few weeks or so ago, i "supposedly" walk on the bottom of my pants and the assistant principal told me roll them up and he kept telling me day after day, well he stopped but to me that is an issue cause i know why the treachers/staff always pick on me, its cause i'm jewish. They're VERY antisemitic! and its very disrespectful to me! and i would love it if they would stop!
 - no
 - i would really love to be in sports and other activities this year. i think it would really help with my health and it is a lot more fun than going home to sit on the couch all day.sports i would like to play would be ceerleading,softball,soccer,sudent council,and a lot more things that would be interesting.
- one more thing i thought might be fun for ours schools would be school dances and/or other activities that children would enjoy once in a while.
- yes,the P.E. i hate it because all we do is run and we can get exercise without running.they should change the way they have P.E. these days.
 - Another issue would be schools should be fully equiped with new school supplies and new text books every two years. Also each school should have stands in the cafeteria where students can choose a variety of food each day. The lunches should have nurishment and they should cover all of the food groups.
 - i think that the dress code at my school is an issue with me and me friends the first thing that i would like to say is that the princapall or any male staff member should corect the girl dress code we were told that they would not and they do!our vice princapall messed my friends pants when they came past her knees!this upset her but she didn't say anything so i just thought i should say!!! IT ALSO MAKES KIDS UPSET and try to rebel
 - Better nutritous lunches

Figure 16