

Holliston HUB

Building a space for the adolescents of our community
to grow & gather

Proposal:

We are students at Holliston High School and members of Holliston Hub, a youth activism initiative to create a community center in our town of Holliston, MA. Our group is currently interning at Holliston Youth and Family Services, a provider of mental health resources in town. We have noticed the need for a youth community center in our town due to many reasons. There is a need for a space for middle and high school students to relax and participate in positive and creative activities rather than face peer pressure and not have a place to go after school. The community center would provide a safe and nurturing community space for adolescents in Holliston.

Survey Results:

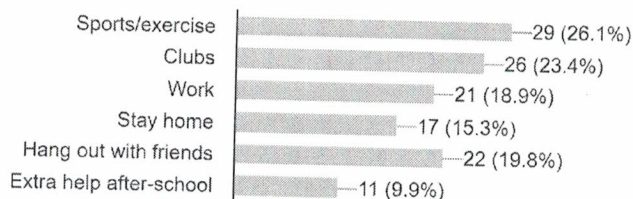
We created and administered a survey that we put on Holliston Happy (community facebook group) and sent to our family, friends, and peers. The goal of this survey was to obtain demographics about after school activities and opinions about a possible community center.

We received a total of 111 responses from the Holliston community including students (grades 6-12), parents, and other adults.

These are the current demographics of our community concerning what students participate in after school.

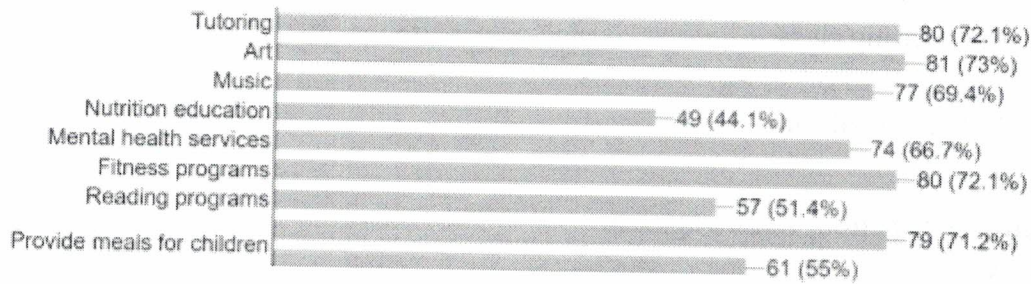
If you are a student, what activities do you do after school?

111 responses



What kind of programs would you like to see in a community center?

111 responses



We also provided a space on the survey for people to add their thoughts about a community center. Here are various responses supporting a community center:

- “I would like to see a space where teenagers are allowed to gather and hang out together without it being overly supervised or ‘planned.’”
- “Teens are in too many planned activities with adults directing them all the time. For example, coaching. Tutoring. Plays with theater directors. [It] would be nice for the kids to be able to say ‘I want to go to the community center to see my friends and hang out a little while.’”
- “A vibrant community center can have a stabilizing effect on the lives of young people. By providing safe and adequately equipped spaces for fun, and curiosity, community centers instill healthy habits in area youth.”
- “Environment that is accepting, diverse”

What do community centers look like in towns nearby?

Residents in surrounding towns have voiced their opinions by saying their town community center are very helpful when it comes to finding an activity for all ages to enjoy. These community centers nearby are used for holding activities, events, and other diverse uses. Others say that their community center is “a great place to relax and play”.

Sherborn Community Center:

- Services:
 - Friday night movies for teens
 - Meeting place for civics
 - Trivia and game nights
 - Offers different clubs (garden club, cookbook club, children singing club, pony club)
 - Cheese and Wine nights