Meridian Technical Charter High School Community Survey Comments

PREPARED FOR MTCHS

AUGUST 2025

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MTCHS Community Survey — Comment Summaries by Question

This document summarizes only the written comment responses from the MTCHS Community Survey report; multiple-choice results are excluded. Source: MTCHS Community Survey Comments Report.

Q3 – Why positive perception? (46 comments)

- Small-school environment; students feel known and supported by teachers.
- Strong communication and a rigorous, tech-focused program with hands-on learning.
- Internships and industry connections that help students thrive.

Q4 – Why negative perception? (1 comment)

- Perceived lag behind industry: over-emphasis on coding/outdated certs; requests for no-code, AI, and ethics content; internship rules seen as unrealistic.

Q5 – What is MTCHS doing well? (51 comments)

- Workforce-relevant technical pathways and high expectations.
- Tight community, individualized attention, and caring teachers.
- Internship/business network that builds professionalism and confidence; strong student engagement activities.

Q6 – What could be done better? (48 comments)

- Improve internet reliability and campus capacity; modernize curriculum (AI/fintech), add advanced/AP options.
- Strengthen communication (consistent PowerSchool use, proactive notices/newsletters).
- Preserve low student–teacher ratios; expand clubs, esports, PE/fitness; clarify admissions and internship structures (incl. remote/portfolio).

Q7 – What is most special and should be preserved? (44 comments)

- Small class sizes and strong student–teacher relationships; student-centered culture.

- Technology focus with clear pathways; internships, community service, professional days.

Q8 – Greatest challenges in the next two decades (43 comments)

- Keeping pace with rapid technology change—especially AI—and guiding responsible use.
- Funding constraints, facilities/space limits, and balancing any growth with culture.
- Recruiting/retaining high-quality staff; sustaining meaningful internships.

Q9 – How to address those challenges proactively (42 comments)

- Strategic roadmaps (2/5/10-year), phased expansion, and deepened industry/college partnerships.
- Clear AI-use policies; more in-class, monitored work; involve students as tech ambassadors.
- Maintain low ratios and teacher quality; consider admissions criteria; formalize remote/portfolio internship options.

Q10 – Models to emulate/research (24 comments)

- Few specific models; mentions include MMACHS, Elevate Academy, BSU's AI integration, and entrepreneurship approaches (e.g., Y Combinator).

Q13 – Why unsupportive of increasing capacity? (18 comments)

- Fear of losing small-school culture/personalization and declining quality with larger ratios.
- Facilities and parking limits; some call for vetting/merit-based selection if growth occurs.

Q14 – Why supportive of increasing capacity? (20 comments)

- Broader access, more course variety, and improved gender balance.
- Support is contingent on added staff and space, maintaining class sizes; many prefer cautious, phased growth.

Q17 – If not chosen in the lottery, reapply? Why/why not? (22 comments)

- Reapply: strong program fit, small classes, unique technical focus, outcomes.

- Not reapply: interests outside tech (e.g., nursing), fear of joining late and feeling behind, preference for merit-based selection, perceptions of freshman-only entry/waitlist barriers.

Q18 – Skills/training to meet future workforce demands (33 comments)
- AI/ML, cybersecurity, networking/programming; robotics/engineering, bioinformatics/biotech, quantum (some mentions).
- Durable skills: communication, teamwork/leadership, customer service, writing/presentation, time management/resilience; personal finance.
- Stronger industry alignment, modern certifications/dual credit, improved internships (including remote).

Q22 – Other focus areas for growth (5 comments)
- Maintain small classes while upgrading tech; summer on-ramps for transfers.
- Greater leadership engagement; associate-degree pathways with local colleges; real-world life skills.

Q23 – Skills to add/emphasize (16 comments)
- AI across the curriculum (ethics/'agentic' use) and cybersecurity; more engineering options.
- Critical thinking, project management, and readiness for remote work; stronger communication/interpersonal confidence.

Q24 – Partnerships: Other ideas (7 comments)
- Host interns (including non-profits), sponsorships, and project-based learning; some had no applicable opportunity.

Q25 – Engagement tools: Other ideas (4 comments)
- Invite community to events; volunteer/guest-speaker pipeline; civic/business-association engagement; personalized outreach.

Q28 – If unsatisfied with facility/location, why? (2 comments)
- Insufficient space; dislike of split/shared classrooms; interest in a site enabling stronger business collaboration.

Community Survey Comments Summarized

Q29 – If satisfied with facility/location, why? (19 comments)

- Convenient, central location; compact, clean, safe, and well-maintained environment with adequate technology.
- Some still note future needs: cafeteria and additional outdoor/common space.

Q31 – Why rate the physical space as poor? (4 comments)

- Limited space for growth/modern tech; traffic-flow concerns; desire for updated, flexible learning environments.

Q33 – Why rate parking experience as poor? (5 comments)

- Pick-up congestion, limited spots/flow issues, and interactions with nearby schools that complicate arrivals/departures.

Q34 – Facility needs observed: Other (5 comments)

- More student/staff collaboration areas; on-site lunch/cafeteria; better thermal consistency; larger staff breakroom.

Q35 – Any other facility comments? (9 comments)

- Upgrade internet and plan continual tech refresh; add cafeteria/better eating spaces or staggered lunches; address pick-up congestion and hygiene; ensure event-appropriate spaces.

Q36 – Essential facilities/features: Other (3 comments)

- Add band; add sports or optional PE; one unspecified suggestion.

Q37 – Environmental/sustainability features: Other (3 comments)

- Minimize pavement; embed sustainability in updates; emphasize link between technology and environmental responsibility.