

PK-12th grade education is changing in Cornell and around the world. Students have more access to different learning platforms and opportunities as we try to personalize learning as much as we can, especially for the students that are nearing the end of their formal high school training. However, we can't provide everything students may want as we have a small school district that can't generate enough interest in some things to make offering them practical.

We also do not have enough hours in the day to provide as much programming in each subject as some people would like to see. When a subject is added or increased in time or frequency, another subject will be dropped or have a decrease in time or frequency. This is amplified when enrollment is declining in Cornell like the majority of school districts across Wisconsin.

Since there is no indication that we will see population growth in the area, and for the districts sake, mainly not school-aged child population growth, we will continue to receive less funding and will have to reduce flexibility in our student schedules. We are down to single person departments in the MS/HS which is a lot to ask of teachers, but the only way to keep their positions full-time. This can be a benefit to students as the same teacher knows them personally and educationally, watching them grow from middle school through high school.

I'm frequently asked if it's better or worse to attend a small school district, and my answer is always the same, it depends on what you want out of it. All school districts have their pros and cons and I can guarantee they all have people that absolutely love them, as well as have people that complain about them. None of us can ever make everyone happy, but I do want you all to know that we try to come as close to that standard as we can.