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**To:** [KDE KBE](#)  
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To whom it may concern.

I want to voice my opinion that I am FIRMLY AGAINST the merger of the Nelson County middle schools with Thomas Nelson and Nelson County High schools. I believe this will create many issues in doing so. Nelson County High School was considered "overcrowded" several years ago and the county NEEDED a new high school therefore Thomas Nelson was built. This split the attendance and now with the merger it will put the attendance at NCHS back to what it had been when considered "overcrowded". To me that alone makes no sense. Also in combining them you will be putting 12 year olds in common areas with 17-18 year olds. That is going to show an increase in bullying and many other issues arise once this happens. Younger students will be peer pressured into many situations that they are not emotionally prepared for. Examples are smoking, drinking, drugs, sex and bullying. So many will want to "fit in" with the older kids and will be talked into such things as mentioned before.

Also another concern I have it that this merger is to "equal the playing field" for academics and extracurricular activities and there has been no mention of how that's going to be done. If you look at the two current high schools you will see significant differences between the schools already. Extracurricular activities, classes, dress codes are all different with more advantages geared toward Thomas Nelson. Shouldn't we focus and getting both high schools "equal" before looking farther down the road at middle schools merging with the high schools?

In closing I want to ask that you look closely at what the end game is. Is it equal academics and the betterment of education in our district or is it to show that's what they (administration) want to do? They are planning on closing a school they have no plans for and won't answer ANY questions on specifics of all the "opportunities" that will be available by doing this.

Thanks for your time  
Vonda Donoho



Sent from my iPhone