



Spul'ukwuks Elementary School

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June 17, 2022

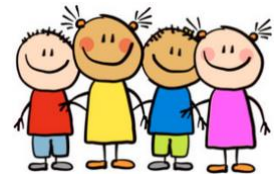
CLASS PLACEMENTS

Each year, the school makes organization plans based on the number of returning students and new registrations. Your child's classroom teacher, resource staff, educational assistants and administrators work together to place students for the upcoming school year. These plans are tentative until the end of the first week when final student numbers are known. During the first week, all staff meet to confirm teaching assignments and to review student placements.

In organizational meetings, many factors are considered when placing students. These considerations include:

- * Learning styles and strengths
- * Social/personal characteristics
- * Special needs
- * ELL levels
- * Contractual obligations
- * Work habits
- * Gender balance
- * Friendship groups
- * Age and physical maturity

As you can see, this is a complicated process, and this list is by no means exclusive, as there are many factors unique to a situation that must be taken into account.



CLASS PLACEMENT FORMS

Parents are welcome to provide information that may assist the staff in planning for next year, as you may have additional information about your child that you want us to know. **Please contact the office to obtain a form, and return it no later than Monday, July 4th.** Please note that information about how your child learns provides the most valuable information. The information you provide should **not** include a request for a specific teacher, but rather some important personal or educational information that will assist us in our decision. Teacher requests are not the basis for class placements.

All information you provide about your child(ren) at the end of the year will be shared with the teachers and taken into consideration. It should be noted that classes are created to be as balanced as possible so that the learning environment can be maximized.

Please be aware the final decision regarding placement needs to be a school-based decision.

All class placement information must be completed **using the school form and returned to the office**, either on paper or electronically (spulukwuks@sd38.bc.ca). Please do not send email requests or ask school staff to make placements on your behalf. These requests will not be considered.

UNDERSTANDING COMBINED CLASSES

We are beginning our initial planning for next year in the coming weeks and often find that the philosophy behind combined classes is unfamiliar to parents, or they have incorrect information.

Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school. For example, in a combined Gr. 4/5 class, we do our very best to ensure that for each grade, we have students who encompass a range of learning styles and abilities. We do not place all of our strongest Gr. 5 learners in a Gr. 5/6 when a Grade 4/5 classroom is also available.

Teachers are trained to provide instruction to diverse classes of students, looking at children as individuals, and providing for individual education plans, where warranted, for students who are faster or slower to develop. In this student-centered approach to teaching and learning, we recognize that not all students learn at the same rate and at the same time. Common topics explored in classrooms allow for a diverse range of students to learn at their own pace, while working toward learning outcomes specific for their grade.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Combined classes can help students form broader and more varied friendships, as older students provide role models for younger students. Sometimes the teacher/student relationship can be enhanced if the same teacher teaches a student for more than one year, leading to increased feelings of security for returning students and a smoother transition in September because the teacher already knows their learning styles and needs well. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry of Education.

You will find that over the course of your child's schooling, there are years that they will be in the lower grade of a combined class and other years when they will be in the higher grade of a combined class. These are both valuable learning experiences and will benefit your child's development academically, emotionally and socially.

UPCOMING DATES

June 21	K/1/6/7 Immunizations
June 30	Spirit Day
July 1	Canada Day (School Closed)
July 8	Sports Day (more info to come next week)