

CLASS PLACEMENT CRITERIA

During the month of June, the staff begin to make plans for next years' class placements. The Nelson staff will soon begin to organize classes for September and our teachers and support staff take considerable care in determining the placement of students into their new classes. With over 456 students to place, it is not possible to accommodate all individual requests. There are many factors that are important in this process. It is hoped that the following points will help parents/guardians understand some of the elements considered when placing students in their new classes.

- The number of teachers allocated to Nelson Elementary is determined by a formula that is established by the Human Resources Division of the Vancouver Board of Education. The number of students in the school determines the number of teachers and classes. Sometimes combination classes are an organizational necessity based on student numbers and contractual agreement while in other cases, the school makes a philosophical choice to have combination classes based on the cognitive/social/emotional needs of the students.
- The class placement process begins with classroom teacher reflection on individual student strengths, and academic and social needs. The next stage in the placement process involves grade level discussions between current teacher(s) and receiving teacher(s), the Learning Assistance Teacher, and the administration. Desirable criteria, as listed below, act as a guide for consideration and discussion and are not intended to be inclusive or exclusive of any other.
- The criteria stated are not prioritized

Workable Instructional Grouping

- Age distribution
- Ability distribution
- Work habits and study skills
- Teaching and learning styles
- Special needs

Positive Social Grouping

- Male/Female ratio
- Student maturity and self-discipline
- Student self-motivation
- Student-to-student relationships (friendships/conflicts)

Sometimes parents are able to provide the school with additional important information that might be helpful and considered in determining a student's placement. Should you wish to provide the school with extra information, please send a letter addressed to the principal, Dan Knibbs by Monday, June 11. The information in a letter should focus on *some important personal or educational information that will assist staff with placement decisions rather than being a request for placement with a specific teacher. Information such as outlining specific strengths, attitudes toward school, learning style and learning needs of your child should be included in your letter.* You may also indicate successes your child has experienced in school. **Please do not request a particular teacher for your child.**

A written request will be carefully considered as **one** of several criteria used when assigning students to classrooms. It is important to note that it may not be possible to meet a request as stated. Fundamentally, the final decision for student placement is a school-based, professional decision; however, input to help determine that decision is welcome.

Consideration will only be given to requests that are accompanied with an educational rationale. Although teachers try to ensure that all students are placed with familiar and friendly peers, naming students to place with your children is not considered an educational rationale. Please ensure that teachers are aware of any learning or emotional considerations for your child. Staff work hard to create a positive learning environment for all students. If you have questions about the planning for the 2018-2019 school year, please do not hesitate to contact the Principal. Please refer to the information posted on our website regarding the considerations that go into class placements by staff. We strive to help create the best possible learning environment for your children.

Forming balanced classes is in the best interest of ensuring optimal learning for all students. Since we are involved in a consultative process (consisting of many hours) to facilitate the placement of students, we do not anticipate making changes to class placements once they are set. Please do not approach individual teachers regarding student placements in September. Like all new relationships, it can take time for students to learn to trust and demonstrate growth with their new teacher and in their new setting. The vast majority of children adjust very quickly to their new classroom with the help of your encouragement and support.

I have a great sense of pride in our staff, students and community and we always do our best to provide a balanced and supportive program for all.

Dan Knibbs, Principal
Lord Nelson Elementary