



# WOODSTOCK

## Elementary School

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April 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the time of the year where we begin to make preparations for the 2021-22 school year, including creating next year's class lists. I would like to take this opportunity to explain our process of putting together class lists. Our most daunting task will be to create balanced classes that are fair, equitable, and compatible and optimize student learning. Your child's current classroom teacher will be asked to work with their grade level colleagues to put together suggested class lists for the 2021-22 classroom. I will ask them to:

- Divide the students in a fair and equitable way i.e., giving each classroom a balance of learning abilities, equal boy to girl ratio, etc.
- Put students together that need to be together.
- Separate students that shouldn't be together.
- Try to put students with a teacher that they believe would be the best fit.

There are many reasons why I ask parents to refrain from requesting a specific teacher for their child. 1) When parents make specific teacher requests it is difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish the kind of balanced classroom that I have described. I sincerely hope that you will trust your current teacher to put together classes with the best interest of your child at heart. It is our desire to place your child in a classroom environment that is a good fit for success. Please do not circumvent this process by making your requests directly to your current teacher. It compromises the integrity of this process while putting the teacher in a very difficult situation. 2) **ALL** of our teachers are wonderful and I am confident that your child will have a positive experience with any of them. 3) From time to time it becomes necessary to move teachers to other grade assignments. You may be requesting a teacher who will not even be teaching on that grade level.

It is impossible to honor classroom requests based on friends. Every grade level is collaborative and children will spend much time together in common grade level activities, lunch, and recess. Your child will have many opportunities to socialize with his/her friends during non-instructional time while dedicating class time to the learning process.

If you feel there are extenuating circumstances that need to be considered for your child, please complete a *Student Learning Environment Survey* form (these can be found in the front office). The deadline to receive ALL surveys is **Friday, April 30th**. Class lists for the 2021-22 school year will be posted in August. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this process. Have a wonderful day!

Brenda Byrnes  
Principal, Woodstock Elementary School