

Class Placements for 2017/2018

The goal of classroom organization is to build a community of learners in every classroom, based on the best interests of the students. To ensure that both single grade and combined classes (i.e., classes consisting of students from more than one grade) are balanced in as many different ways as possible, staff take into consideration various factors; putting the academic and social needs of each student as a priority. Every class is a “combined” class in that all of them have students with a range of abilities. Combined grades are a reality in Ontario and here at Jack Donohue PS. Some of the criteria addressed in organizing classes include: academic profiles, peer relationships, student strengths and needs, ratio of male to female students, number of students in each grade and social and emotional profiles.

The development of classes is a thoughtful process. If you feel you have a very special need that should be considered, or if there is additional information you can provide to best place your child, please contact the Principal, in writing, by Friday, March 31st. All requests will be reviewed and considered. However, please note that not all requests can be accommodated.

The OCDSB follows the philosophy of the Ministry of Education in recognizing the unique and special characteristics of every student. See the ministry’s resource document, *Combined Grades: Strategies to reach a Range of Learners from Kindergarten to Grade 6 (2007)* for more information. Our programs are designed to address individual student needs. Combined grades offer many positive experiences for children, and are created when the number of students does not allow for the establishment of appropriately sized, single-grade classes, or when the learning needs, stages of development and/or learning styles of students are more effectively met. Each student works towards the achievement of their grade specific curriculum expectations. When there are common concepts or skills, students will work together. Assessment, evaluation and reporting are grade specific.

Current research indicates that multi-grade classes foster social growth and independence, practice in cooperation, respect for others, and increased motivation to learn. Older children act as models and guides for the younger children which gives the older children an increased sense of self-esteem and responsibility. Younger children adjust to school and routines more quickly by observing and imitating the older children. Both groups can learn from each other. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Cindy Alce

Principal