

## **Happy Valley Elementary School**

### ***Student Placement Policy – 2020***

Our goal at Happy Valley Elementary is to provide optimal learning experiences for every child. The process of student placement is a complex task which we undertake thoughtfully. The unique needs of all learners are carefully considered as we address a variety of factors. Staff expertise and educational experience with class configuration are the drivers for this work. Our staff do an exceptional job of planning for student success at all grade levels and we appreciate your trust and support as we undertake this process.

#### ***Process for Student Placements:***

The School District allocates staffing based on *projections* for student enrolment and we anticipate some changes in the fall. Staff moves, teaching assignments and grade configurations change annually. At Happy Valley, we are significantly over our enrolment capacity at several grade levels. Many in-catchment children are being accommodated at other District schools. Classes can not be changed once placements are determined.

Configuration of classes must adhere to provincial class size legislation as well as District policy and contractual obligations. Please note:

- Class configurations often include “combined” classes of two grades. This is standard practice and is educationally sound. All students work on provincially prescribed curriculum and teachers differentiate instruction for all students.
- There may be circumstances where it is advantageous for a child to have the same teacher two years in a row.
- While we appreciate that specific friendships are important to children, we also acknowledge that getting to know others and learning to work together is a crucial aspect of learning and social development.

#### ***Considerations for Student Placement:***

Once tentative classes are organized, we begin to allocate students to proposed classes. Staff discussions concerning student placements will happen during a number of meetings with teachers, support staff and administration. We carefully consider the following criteria:

- Numbers of students permitted in each class (Collective Agreement / District Policy)
- Academic needs and learning styles
- Social and behavioural needs
- Gender balance
- Previous class placements
- Provision of support staff working with students with Ministry Designations

In exceptional circumstances, parents may have additional information to share about their child. While parental input is considered, *we cannot guarantee parent requests will*

*be met. **Please note: Requests for specific teachers can not be considered or discussed.** Thank you for not putting staff in an ethically compromising position by discussing your preferences for your child's classroom placement.*

*If you have additional information to share about your child, please contact Mrs. Sjerven by **Friday, June 12th.** Thank you.*