



FERRIS FLYER

RESPECT OURSELVES, RESPECT OTHERS, RESPECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

September 8, 2016

All Ferris students will be placed into their new classrooms tomorrow! Many of our students will not finish the day in the same classroom they started in on Friday. To help avoid confusion, if your child is grades 1 to 3, please go to the **gym** to pick up your child after school tomorrow! **The grade one to three teachers will be taking their entire class to the gym at 2:50 tomorrow.**

If your child is in grade 4 to 7, please preplan a meeting place outside to connect with your child after school tomorrow.

Any child or parent who is unable to find their child will be instructed to go to the gym to be reunited.

Understanding Combined Classes

There are many factors that we consider when placing a student in a particular classroom. There are academic considerations which involve student learning styles and needs. In addition, there are the different teaching styles of each teacher. We try very hard to meld these two considerations together.

Social considerations are extremely important. We strive to have each child with at least one of their friends to ease the transition into a new year. Many hours of discussion with classroom and resource teachers and administration are involved in each class placement.

Often, the philosophy behind combined classes is misunderstood by parents. Children who are placed in the upper grade of a combined class are not placed there because they struggle in school. In a combined grade 4 and 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 grade 5 learners into a grade 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 individual educational plans where warranted for students who are slower or faster to develop.

Combined classes offer enhanced opportunities for all students to demonstrate confidence, positive self-concept, and a strong sense of belonging. Students can form broader and more varied friendships. 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 the child's learning styles and needs. Teachers in combined classes, like those in straight grades, follow the curriculum requirements defined by the Ministry in curriculum guides (Integrated Resource Packages, IRPs).



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