

March 24, 2016

Dear Stillman Parents,

It's hard to believe that our second trimester is coming to a close! In preparation for your parent teacher conferences, it will be productive for you to view the 2nd marking period rubrics which are available on the "Curriculum" tab of the district website. It is important to understand that the criteria and expectations increase for each marking period. Therefore, if your child's score remains the same, that in itself is an indication of academic growth. You will be able to access the report card through the Genesis Parent Portal on Wednesday, March 30th in the afternoon. Now is a good time to check your parent portal information and logins. We hope that by viewing the report card the day before conferences begin will allow for meaningful conversations regarding your child's progress.

The objective of parent/teacher conferences is to allow parents and teachers to meet to discuss areas of strengths and also plan for areas of academic need. However, often times, March conferences lend itself as an opportunity to discuss class placement for the following year. We as a faculty would certainly benefit from your input as we recognize that you undoubtedly possess important information about your child's learning style, temperament, and friendships. Feel free to share some of your insights about your child, which you feel may be important as we begin to think about class placements, **particularly information regarding their peers in other classes**. Information presented in writing will be helpful and accessible during placement meetings. **Teacher requests cannot be honored** however, if any of your children have already had an experience with a teacher and you would prefer a new and unique experience, please convey that to me as I will take this into strong consideration. **Please be sure to email me any information that you think will be helpful in class placements by April 29, 2016.**

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Student Placement

When classes are structured we follow a clear set of guidelines. Classes are formed into deliberate heterogeneous groups with the following in mind:

- A balanced gender ratio
- A full range of aptitudes within each class
- An even proportion of abilities and learning styles across the classes in each grade
- An equal number of pupils in each class on a grade level
- An even proportion of children with varied English language Proficiency
- Relevant school concerns that require certain students to be in a given class

Once these factors have been considered, our team begins to “build a class” of children who show promise of working well together. Quite naturally, these decisions are based upon observations made by the teachers during the course of the year. After the groupings are complete, teachers are assigned to the classes that have been formed. While we seek your input, we trust that you understand that **the final decision about class placement will reside with the school.**

Teacher Placement. Please read carefully!

Parents need to be aware of the fact that the school may choose, when the need arises, to change the grade level of teachers for any coming year. Fluctuations in enrollment, teacher transfers, and life events may lead to changes in a teacher’s grade placement. To avoid disappointment a school can never make a promise about a particular teacher for any given year.

Warmest Regards,

Gayle Lander
Principal