



Ira W. Travell Elementary
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Dr. Margaret Leininger

Principal

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April 18, 2017

Dear Parents:

The development of class lists for the 2017-2018 school year will begin at the end of the month. In forming class lists, teachers, specialists and members of the Child Study Team go through a thoughtful process to form heterogeneous classes of equal size at all grade levels. Many hours will be devoted to considering the best possible placement for your child.

Many factors are considered, such as academic strengths and weaknesses, learning styles, behavior patterns, emotional and social growth, boy-girl ratios, opportunities for leadership and attitude. **We do not place children specifically with their closest friends.** Although we want them to have friends in their new class, we also need to give them the opportunity to practice the skills of making and keeping friends every year. As advocates for all the children we serve, our priority must be to create balanced classes – academically, behaviorally and socially – where all children can grow and flourish.

Parent requests and the targeting of children to specific teachers can result in less than ideal class groupings. Consequently, in fairness to all students and parents, **we will not accept requests for teacher placements.** Should you feel that we are *not already aware* of a particular need of your child, please write a letter of explanation and send it to the **school office by April 28, 2017.**

For the 2017-18 school year, teachers will be changing grade levels. Claire Clarke will be teaching kindergarten. Lauren Nevins, Alicen Marchioni and a new teacher will be teaching third grade. In fourth grade will be Matt Connelly, Casey Schick and Chris O’Herlihy and teaching fifth grade will be Peggy Vrachimis, Dawn Fleming and Nicole Graziano. All other grade level teams remain the same.

Students will learn of their new class assignments at “Move Up” day in June and the class assignment will also be indicated on their final report cards. Incoming kindergarteners will receive their placements by mail at the same time.

Be assured that when class placements are made, they reflect our best judgment of individual and group needs. Your child, and every child at Travell school, will receive full consideration in determining her/his class placement. Therefore, we cannot disregard this process and reconstitute classes based on parent requests.

We trust that you understand our position on this matter. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Margaret Leininger
Principal
ML:tm