



## HEMLOCK CREEK ELEMENTARY

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### CLASSROOM PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we start the third trimester, we will also begin our process of planning and grouping students for the 2016-2017 school year. In making placement decisions, we work as a team (principals and staff members) to determine appropriate classroom configurations. The ultimate goal for the classroom placement process is to create well-balanced heterogeneously grouped classrooms of students. We consider each child's individual learning style, academic ability and support services that may be needed. Additionally, class lists address the need for appropriate balance of ability levels, gender, sociability, and behavior styles. Balancing classroom grouping assures that all students get the teacher attention and energy they deserve and that best practices for teaching and learning are actualized to maximize learning outcomes for all students. As you can appreciate, it is an artful challenge, not a perfect science.

In our efforts to create a well balanced classroom for everyone's benefit, parent requests that have an educational need will be considered (but not guaranteed). We ask that you confine such comments to the following areas (child's personality, type of environment which your child excels, family issues that impact learning, exceptional strengths/special needs, health issues and past school experiences. **Parent requests for specific teachers will NOT be granted.** It may be necessary to limit the number of requests in any one classroom in order to provide a mix of students. If a parent request is honored, we will give preference in future years to parents who have not made a previous request. I realize that on occasion, there may be extenuating circumstances when a teacher preference needs to be considered. For example, if a prior relationship with a prospective teacher would make things awkward (relative, neighbor), you are certainly welcomed to share that information with me. **Please forward your letter or email me (kheld@wdpsd.com) no later than APRIL 8, 2016. This is a firm deadline date.**

There will also be some changes to our summer assessment for students in Grades 1-5.

This year each student in grades 1-5 can expect to meet with the same teacher he/she will see in the fall for this 30 to 45 minute assessment. This change will allow students to feel more comfortable when the first day of school arrives and will provide teachers with valuable insight into each student's progress. Parents can expect a postcard with an explanation of how to sign up online to arrive in the mail the week of July 25th. Families without internet connection will be given directions for signing up on the postcard. The deadline to sign up will be August 4 and student conferences will take place from Aug 8-19. The process will be similar to scheduling parent teacher conference. For students unable to attend, this will mean reduced summer planning effectiveness as well as lost class time as teachers will then need to complete the process in September. This change in the process will force us to create class rosters earlier than in the past. **Changes to class rosters will only be made in rare circumstances after July 25th.**

Kathleen Held, Principal