

Tuscarora Elementary School
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“At Tuscarora, we are committed to the lifelong success of every child”

May 2019

Dear Parents,

As we approach the final weeks of school, we are about to begin the process of placing students for the 2019-2020 school year. I would like to outline the **placement process** so that you, as families, better understand what occurs in the decision-making.

The extent to which families should be involved in teacher selection is a difficult and complex issue. As a parent myself, I realize how desirable it is to have that involvement. I also realize that parents often understand the child’s special needs and qualities that goes beyond what we may be aware of at school.

There are two issues that counter this:

- 1) Students’ behaviors and needs at school are sometimes very different than in the home setting where the child gets more individualized attention. How a child behaves and reacts in a classroom setting can often be very different from what families observe at home.
- 2) Most importantly, as educators we are responsible to ensure that every child has equal opportunities and access to excellence, regardless of background, race, socio-economic standing, parental support, etc. Classroom groupings based directly on parent requests can result in unequal class size and make-up, and/or classes organized by friendship groups, neighborhoods, sports teams, etc. Children learn a critical life skill by learning that the diversity in people they will meet and work with is an enriching and exciting part of life, and that they are capable of handling and adapting to new and/or difficult situations as they arise.

Our goal is to have students matched with instructional environments in terms of their special learning needs, learning styles, and social needs. Additionally, we will be seeking classrooms that are **balanced** in academic ability, behavior, social mix, class size, and boy/girl ratio.

We are interested in hearing from any parent who has information they would like considered during the placement process.

This does not include a specific teacher request

Rather, we are interested in your feedback about strengths or needs your child may have, or key factors in the learning environment that you think are critical for your child's success in the upcoming year.

If you are interested in providing this feedback, a **Parental Placement Information Form** is available **by request** from the Tuscarora Main Office. This form can be either emailed to you or sent home with your child.

To provide feedback, fill out the form and return it to my attention at the Tuscarora Main Office by Friday, May 17th to ensure that your feedback will be considered. This form is **OPTIONAL** and is designed for those parents who feel they have additional information above and beyond what the faculty and principal already know. Filling out a form does not guarantee that your wishes will be granted; it does guarantee that your information will be read and thoughtfully considered within the context of all the information from staff, specialists, and the principal.

Class lists will not be finalized until mid/late summer. This allows for placement of students who enroll over the summer and for changes in staff and/or classroom configuration.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 359-2261. Your information, support, and trust are essential elements in helping us to achieve the best for all children at Tuscarora Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Georgia Weed

Principal