



# NORTH RIDGE ELEMENTARY

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September 15, 2017

Dear North Ridge Families:

We have had a busy couple of weeks back to the 2017-18 school year. Our students had a chance to be with their classmates from last year while meeting new students who have registered at our school. They also had the opportunity to work with a variety of teachers and staff in their appropriate grade groups. We currently have 406 students enrolled at North Ridge, with 18 Divisions. We are pleased that all students have now been placed in classes for the upcoming school year.

We considered each child's placement very carefully based on the following criteria:

- Learning styles and strengths of students
- Student intellectual, social and emotional development
- Degree of independence in student work habits
- Inclusion of students with special needs/supports
- Students who do/do not work well together
- Maintaining reasonable teacher-student ratios

As much as possible, attempts are made to have balanced class sizes. A balance between girls and boys and social compatibility are also considered. With our board-approved organization, we will have combined classes at some grade levels. Combined classes are not inferior learning environments. In fact, research suggests that students in combined classes do just as well, if not better than students in straight classes. Please see the attached information on combined classes. The placement of students is determined through school-based professional decisions. The staff at North Ridge have worked carefully and collaboratively to determine where individual students should be placed. We feel that your child has been placed appropriately.

Some children are excited about being in a new class, but for others the change to a new class can be a difficult time. We appreciate your support in helping them adjust as they go through a "settling in" period for the first few days in their assigned classes. We find that students soon become comfortable in their new classrooms and with their new classmates as they learn the new class routines. If your child is finding the change difficult, let them know it is common to feel anxious in new situations, but that soon their new classroom will feel like home! With your positive attitude, you help your child learn to cope well with change – one of life's most important lessons!

We thank you for your patience with this process and your ongoing support.

Yours truly,

The Staff of North Ridge