



# Ray Shepherd

## Elementary School

1650-136 Street, Surrey, B.C. V4A 4E4

School District #36 (Surrey)

Ph: (604) 531-1471 \* Fax: (604) 541-8039

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May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is that time of year again where teachers and staff are beginning to think about class organization and placement. Staff work hard to provide the best learning environment possible for each student. Teachers have knowledge of the academic needs of children, keep the “big picture” in mind and therefore, can best decide where individuals should be placed. Teachers collaborate with the previous teacher to gain insight into each child’s unique learning profile. The following is a list of the criteria involved in organizing classes:

- Academic Ability/Performance
- Class and Group Dynamics
- Special Needs Consideration
- Ministry/District Policy Guidelines
- Gender
- Learning Styles
- Social Compatibility
- Behaviour/Developmental Level

From time to time, parents request specific placements. It is important to understand that for a variety of reasons, many requests cannot be accommodated. ***Please do not expect that your son/daughter will be placed with a specific teacher or with particular friends.*** I can assure you that all staff members are talented teachers. Ray Shepherd Elementary has a sound-learning environment!

We are a school with limited space, which often leads to combined classes. Many students will be in classes that have combined grades and ***there is no guarantee that if a child was in a combined class this year that he/she will be in a class with a single grade next year.*** Please understand that even in a single grade there is still a range of ability. Teachers are well qualified to teach both grades in a combined class. With the trust and support of home, we are confident that all children will be placed in classes that will allow them to have a productive and rewarding school year. Your understanding regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.

Please note that if parents wish to write a letter to the Principal, Mrs. Chau, it should be to share information about a child’s ideal learning environment in regard to social, emotional or academic needs. The selection of next year’s teacher will be made thoughtfully by staff and the process will include any information shared by parents. **Should you wish to provide the school with extra information, please send a letter to school addressed to the Principal, Mrs. Chau, by May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Thank you,

Mrs. Chau  
Principal