

February 2020

Dear Oak Hill Families,

At Oak Hill Elementary, we are fully committed to the academic success, personal growth and general well-being of students. As such, we spend a great deal of time and energy ensuring that every child is placed in a classroom where he/she can thrive. This is the time of year we begin focusing upon classroom placement for the upcoming school year. The following describes the procedure we use at Oak Hill as we place students in classes for the 2020-2021 school year.

Next month, current classroom teachers, building learning specialists, the counselor, and principal will meet to discuss student needs and form classes for the upcoming school year. A great deal of thought goes into classroom assignment of students. In order to create a class where all students can learn and grow, classes need to be balanced based on several factors. It is our goal for every class in every grade to have a similar profile which means each class has approximately the same number of boys and girls, a similar spread of academic abilities and a mix of behaviors. We always consider student academic needs first, and then carefully look at the mix of student personalities. Once classes are formed, new students are placed according to the number of students in the class as well as students' needs. With over 440 students to consider at Oak Hill, the process is a lengthy one.

Parent input in this process is certainly welcome if parents would like to share information about their child that we might not already know. The teacher input form has been designed for this purpose. **Parents are reminded that a request for a specific teacher by name cannot be accepted. Forms that request a teacher by name will not be considered.** There are several reasons for this. For example, we could encounter a situation where the team feels two or more students should not be in the same class, yet their parents have requested the same teacher. Furthermore, there may be other factors which prevent requested placement including confidential factors concerning other students. Additionally, staff changes may occur, which may prevent placing your student in a specific room. As you can well imagine, receiving requests for specific teachers from the bulk of our parents would make assigning students to classes very difficult. *Parents who complete the optional input form will need to have the form completed and returned via email to me no later than March 6, 2020.* **Although current year teachers are instrumental in the process, they should not be put in the difficult position of discussing "next year's" teachers.** Our staff members know each other well on a personal basis, but may not have first-hand knowledge of the teaching style of a colleague and how it might match with current-year students. **Teachers have been instructed not to discuss teachers for the coming year with parents.**

If you wish to complete the optional parent input form for the upcoming school year, please send it to me via email at mmaresh@bluevalleyk12.org by March 6, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. I will personally respond to each email received to ensure receipt of the form by the due date. The form can be found attached below.

Our common goal is to make the school experience the best it can possibly be for every child. Blue Valley is fortunate to have excellent teachers who put children first. We all pledge to you that we will do all that we can to make your child's education enjoyable, exciting, and productive.

Sincerely,

Megan Maresh, Principal