

Class Organization FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I remember sitting around the dinner table as a child in August and wondering who my teacher was going to be for the upcoming year. While my parents presented a calm and reassuring front I am sure they wondered too as the success of my school year was sure to impact the success of their year! I'm not sure how classes were organized in those days but I am confident about the way they are organized now. Below are some commonly asked questions about class organization. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions.

How are children placed in classrooms?

Classroom teachers, learning support teachers, education assistants and the school principal put a great deal of thought into organizing classes that will provide nurturing, productive learning environments. A number of criteria are considered, such as: academic and social skills, mindset, behaviour patterns, friendships, and leadership qualities. With the whole child in mind, children are grouped into classes. We strive for balanced and manageable classes at every age level.



Combined/multi-age classes – will my child learn grade appropriate skills and content?

All classes, whether single grade or multi-grade, include children with a wide range of skills, knowledge, interests, learning styles, and personalities. Their needs and abilities and the curriculum standards for their grade determine the program for the year. Teachers are experts at determining each child's place on the learning journey and moving them forward with personalized programming and within an inclusive classroom context. Please feel free to talk to your child's teacher about grade appropriate curriculum or visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>.

My child is a grade 3 student in a grade 2/3 class. Does this mean my child is in a “lower” group?

The most common misconception that persists about combined classes is that a child's placement in the lower grade of a combined class indicates superior academic abilities while a placement in the upper grade suggests weaker ability. This is not the case. Teachers use their expert knowledge of grade level curriculum and their understanding of each child's strengths and stretch areas to ensure all learners move forward along a continuum of learning. This is the art and science of teaching.