

**MASON-RICE SCHOOL**  
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Dear Parents,

This spring, the Mason-Rice School staff will expend considerable energy placing children into classrooms for the coming school year. It is both the Newton School system's policy and the Mason-Rice philosophy to create heterogeneous classes to enhance the educational possibilities for all children.

Our primary goal is to create classes that are balanced in terms of gender, academic strengths, social maturity, and supportive peer groups which are likely to promote healthy and productive learning environments. We ask for your cooperation in the following ways:

1. Please help your child to understand that class placement decisions are the responsibility of their teachers and the principal. Your child's present teacher has a year's worth of current, rich information and insight concerning how he/she works best in school. That information, combined with data from specialists, provides the basis for class placement.
2. Teachers have been asked to limit any conversations with parents about placement for the coming year. These conversations place inappropriate and undue expectations on teachers, and impact negatively on the fairness of the placement procedure.
3. Some parents may believe it necessary to put in writing specific concerns regarding their child's placement. These letters are due in the office by May 6, 2011. We ask that any written input be limited to what you genuinely consider to be special or unusual circumstances. For example:

a. It is acceptable to request that a child not be placed with a teacher with whom an older sibling had been placed. We will honor this request.

b. Although you may not request placement with particular friends, it is acceptable to request that a child not be placed with a certain child if an extremely unique situation exists that is not known to present school personnel. This situation may include problems in the neighborhood, in religious school or on the sports fields. Parents should be reminded, however, that school often provides the best environment for children to work out these differences. We will consider this request.

**c. Under no circumstances should you request a particular teacher.**

Our process for placement is meant to create a system of placement that is truly fair to all children, and is consistent with our stated philosophy. Should you have any concerns you feel a need to put in writing, please limit your input to the form provided on the second page of this letter.

We are anticipating that we will have 19 classrooms at Mason-Rice next year. One of our fifth grade classes will be co-taught with a full-time regular education teacher and a full-time special education teacher. This model has been explained to the parents of our incoming fifth grade students.

As of today, our teacher assignments for next year are as follows:

Kindergarten – Stephanie Juriansz/Kim Turgeon; Michelle London; Sarah Pratt

Grade 1 –Adele Flynn; Christina Martinez; Donna Thayer

Grade 2 – Angela Ceglia; Melissa Ramgren; Lisa Reggiannini

Grade 3 – Mi-Mi Chen; Lisa Kelleher; Denise Morrall

Grade 4 – Katelyn Malin; Liz Page; Rachel Slitt; Arthur Williams

Grade 5 – Mike Costello; Pek-Hu Liu/ Kim Citrin (co-taught classroom); Mickey Zibello

