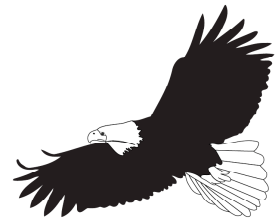


Edgemont Elementary School

2009-2010 6th Grade Class Requests Form



Dear Parents,

As we make class assignments for the upcoming year, every attempt is made to balance class size, gender ratios, individual student needs, and academic groupings.

Due to the difficulty in meeting a request for every student, we hope to limit parental requests unless there is a significant reason to be considered. It is not expected or mandatory that you make a special class request for your child.

Only if you have strong feelings and good reason for us to consider for placement would I encourage you to fill out a request form. Every attempt will be made to grant legitimate requests, but please understand it is not always possible to grant every request. A class request form will be available in the office for parents to pick up during the first full week of May (these forms are also online at www.edgemont.provo.edu under the link "class requests"). The deadline for this 2009-2010 6TH GRADE class request forms will be on Thursday, July 9, 2009 by 4:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Dennis Pratt, Principal

Some Tips to Consider about Teacher Requests

IF appropriate, provide input for next year's placement.

For a small number of children, it is absolutely imperative that they work with a specific class and teaching style. The success of the school year truly may depend on a good student-teacher "match" for them. If your child fits that description, it is very appropriate to communicate these educational needs with us before placement decisions are made. Chances are, your student's current teacher is aware of these educational needs and will already consider them in placement decisions.

Avoid requesting a specific teacher.

As tempting as it is, especially in the elementary school, we would encourage you to avoid requesting a particular teacher simply because you like "that teacher" or you have heard through the "grapevine" that this or that is the teacher everyone wants. First of all, a teacher who is wonderful for one child might not be great for your child. Secondly, a successful class is one that is balanced and one that works well as a group or with small groups.

Our teachers and I will work hard to create heterogeneous, balanced classes that will meet the needs of our students. We will consider how the needs of individual children will be met, while trying to create equal, workable groups at each grade level. It is a challenging process and one that is made more difficult if there are numerous requests for specific teachers. If all requests are honored, it's likely that the personality of a class can be overwhelming for the teacher and the other students. If that happens, it's also likely that the children will not have a successful school year—regardless of the teacher.

Avoid requesting a class with your child's friends.

Many parents realize that a new school year will begin relatively smoothly if kids have a good friend in their class. For that reason, this type of request is often abused. Having a special friend in a class when a school year begins is really only necessary for a certain type of child, and for this particular child the request is both appropriate and important. The majority of kids, however, make and change friends fairly easily—and should have the opportunity to do so.

In addition, having best friends in class together often is NOT a good thing. When there is too much socializing, students often end up being seated separately anyway. It is important for children to spend time with their good friends, but not in the classroom. A class filled with too many "best friends" is difficult to manage and is often impossible to get groups to work well together.

