



NorthLake Park Community School



Lee Parker
Principal

Gloria Riley
Assistant Principal

This letter is to outline the school's policy regarding teacher requests. Our policy is that parents may e-mail or write a letter describing their child's personality and learning styles but **we do not accept teacher requests** (we cannot make any exceptions).

Teachers are unique individuals with unique characteristics just like our students. The chemistry that develops between teacher and student is exciting and somewhat unpredictable. That is part of the excitement of school and part of the excitement of life – being challenged by new and unknown situations that lead us to maturity. Each of our teachers has strengths that can challenge many types of students to grow into more mature individuals. It is certainly more comfortable to start the year with a teacher familiar to you, but a different teacher may develop your child in ways that are not apparent at the beginning of the school year. **Many times parents only go by the recommendation of another parent without really knowing who else on the team might be a better match for their child.** Sometimes parents ask us to make sure their children are in the same class with their friends. Again, allowing children the opportunity to make new friends is an important part of preparing them for adulthood. This also adds to the challenging task of creating balanced classes.

Let me share the process that will be used for students' assignments:

- If you have specific concerns about your child's needs, you may send me or our Assistant Principal an e-mail or a letter explaining your child's characteristics and learning situations. **We will not accept any letters that name or imply a specific teacher.** Your child's current teacher and grade level teachers are expected to build the number of classes assigned for the upcoming year. They are to balance the classes according to the guidelines given by me. They will take into consideration students who should not be placed together. **Remember, the teachers know your children and will provide input on the children's learning styles, their needs to be challenged or other special needs.**
- The classes will be given to administration for review with further assistance from the curriculum resource teacher, SLD teacher, gifted teacher and staffing specialist. After reviewing any parent letters, we will use our best judgment in assigning a teacher to your child. If it turns out that a child does not get the teacher he/she was hoping for or is not in with a specific friend, it does not mean it will be an unsuccessful year. All of our teachers love what they do, love children, and have the same goal as you: to help these children grow academically and socially and acquire a love for learning.
- *No teacher change will be made on Meet the Teacher Day. Once again, I am asking that you trust us with the assignments. The only consideration for a teacher change later is if two to three weeks have gone by and you have conferred with the teacher about any concerns. At that time we can discuss our options but our preference is to resolve any issues and not change classes.*

We have a solid school built on establishing solid relationships. We know your students well, and ask that you trust us to build classes that will be healthy and balanced throughout the grade levels. Thank you for your understanding and support of our school.

Sincerely,

Lee Parker
Principal

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"Where Learning is Limitless"