

# Jennie Elliott Classroom Cohorts FAQ

Creating classroom cohorts for the next school year is a collaborative process that evolves over the school year as teachers, parents, students and the administrative team continually develop their collective understanding of the learning and social/emotional needs of the student. Through careful thought and planning, our aim is to ensure balanced classes where students feel safe, cared for and are set up for success. It is a complex process that takes several weeks and many iterations to complete. We make decisions that are educationally best for students and for the whole school community. Therefore, please understand that the final decisions rest with the school.

## **What is the overall goal of the class placement process at Jennie Elliott School?**

Creating classroom cohorts for the new school year is a careful process with the goal of ensuring classroom conditions where students will grow and thrive. This entails consideration of a range of learner abilities and values the social and emotional needs of each student.

## **Should I request a particular teacher for my child?**

We respectfully ask that parents **do not** request that their child be placed with a specific teacher. There are many factors to be considered when creating class cohorts including student learning, peer groups and social needs. Further, teaching assignments may not be finalized before the end of June. Our primary focus is to create cohorts that promote cooperative and cohesive learning communities throughout the school.

## **When will we find out our child's next year cohort?**

To avoid undue anxiety over the summer, and, given that staffing decisions may not be completed by June, we do not share class cohorts before the end of the school year. Two days prior to school starting at the end of August, your new classroom teacher(s) will contact you and welcome your child(ren) to their class.

## **If my child is having difficulty maintaining a positive relationship with another student, can I request that they are not placed together?**

If your child is having repeated difficulty with another student or peer group, it is important that you inform the teacher as soon as the problem occurs so that support with problem solving and resolution can take place. As teachers collaborate to create next year's class cohorts, these relationships are taken into consideration as necessary.

In addition, while your child may not be placed with all members of a friend group, we understand the importance of social connections for children. We will work to ensure that each student has a friendly face in their class when they begin the new school year.

## **If my child is anxious about their class or teacher for next year, how can I support them?**

We know that there can be anxiety for students about the unknown of next year's teacher and class. You can help your child by emphasizing the opportunity for new beginnings, new friendships and new experiences. Your own positivity, enthusiasm and open-minded approach will influence your child's response. Through confidence in our children's ability to manage change and parent's cooperation and trust, we can work together to ensure a positive school experience for all.