

# *Sachem Central School District*

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March 7, 2017

Dear Parents:

Each spring we begin our process of determining the placement of our youngsters into class groupings for the following school year. The procedure we use is established to assist us in formulating class groupings that are predictably in the best interest of each child and entire class grouping. This is the procedure that is used at Tamarac Elementary School:

1. The teachers on each grade level meet to discuss and determine class groupings for the following year. Since our classes are based on heterogeneous groupings (a variety of pupil abilities), areas such as academic progress, ability levels, character/leadership qualities, peer relationships and class size are considered.
2. The grade level teachers compile tentative class placement lists which they forward to the building principal.
3. I study the lists and meet with each group of grade level teachers in order to ask questions and give my input and the input shared with me from parents.
4. In some cases, the input of other personnel (reading teachers, special area teachers, social worker, psychologist, etc.) is requested to give assistance in the placement of particular children.

It is my hope that, as you review all of the above information, you will better understand why we cannot honor parental requests to have children placed with particular teachers. Since our placements are based on a thorough insight into what we believe is best for each child, the insertion of parental requests into the process could create a negative imbalance in terms of the final results.

I request that you avoid placing teachers in uncomfortable situations by making a request for a specific teacher. We hope you will understand that, if one request is honored, we would be obliged to honor all. Please be assured that the system we use is one that we believe will meet the needs of all children.

If you would like to write a letter to me about your child's strengths, the teaching characteristics that best meet your child's needs or a special circumstance that needs to be shared, please indicate this in writing to me by May 8<sup>th</sup>. If a child in your immediate family has already had a teacher and you wish for a younger child to have a different experience, please include this in your letter as well. These requests will be honored whenever possible.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

*Michael S. Saidens*