

GREAT SENECA CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Placement of Students in Classes at Great Seneca Creek Elementary School 2009-2010

With the ending of the current school year quickly approaching, thoughts turn to the placement of students in classes for the next school year. Your child's current teacher will bring all she or he knows about your child's individual needs and capabilities to the placement decision, as we complete a thorough articulation process for each and every student. Parental input is also valued in the decision making process and the attached form can be used to provide the school with such information. In addition, this optional input form will be passed on to your child's new teacher in the fall.

The process of composing classes for the coming year is a task that we take very seriously. It is important to ensure a productive classroom environment for your child as well as for all children. Most importantly, the Great Seneca Creek teachers want you to know that we are committed to providing classrooms in which each child will have the opportunity for learning and personal growth. In order to build balanced and heterogeneous classes for the coming year, we must blend three different components: the individual child, the class composition as a whole, and the balance among classes at each grade level. The variables included in this complex task include:

- **relationships among individual children**
- **gender, ethnicity and race**
- **a balance of students' various learning and working styles**
- **compatibility between the individual child's learning style and needs and the classroom environment**
- **heterogeneity of students' academic achievement levels**
- **the varying degrees of adult assistance needed by children for successful learning**
- **the availability of parent volunteers**

ACTION DUE: May 29, 2009

Your child's teacher knows how your child works and learns in a classroom. As parents, you know your child best as an individual. We value your insights regarding your child's learning style and social needs. *Your insight and input can be recorded below by answering the following questions found on this form.*

It should be noted that this form is *not a teacher request form*. Great Seneca Creek Elementary School values parental input and precludes specific teacher requests in our process for class placement. This optional form is a way of offering an opportunity for those of you who wish to provide parental input.

In order for the staff to consider information on this form, it would be most helpful to submit this form to your child's current teacher **no later than Friday, May 29th**. Further confidential concerns may be addressed in writing to the principal: [Gregory S Edmundson@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Gregory_S_Edmundson@mcpsmd.org)

We expect that parents will trust and respect the judgment of the staff in making placement decisions. Although many variables are involved in class placement, school staff must determine final placement. We appreciate your support in our efforts to best serve the instructional needs of your child.

Staff work together to draft initial groupings and class lists in June, but these are not finalized until late in the summer when we have the most up-to-date enrollment information. By mid-August, your child will receive a letter from the principal naming the teacher for the upcoming school year.

Thank you for your assistance in this very important process.

**OPTIONAL PARENT INPUT FOR CLASS PLACEMENT
2009-2010**

(Please Print or Type)

Student Name:	Current School:
Current Teacher:	Current Grade:

1. What are your child's learning strengths?

What are your child's learning challenges/needs?

2. How does your child best demonstrate understanding and knowledge? (for example: by writing, through oral discussion, auditory/visual, via projects, art, hands-on, etc.)
3. What is an important variable for your child when determining class placement? (for example: being with (or separate from) a close friend, a match between teaching style and learning style, etc.)

(over)

