

## Parent Requests & Class Building at Monterey



Beginning in May of each year, Monterey Middle School engages in an extensive class building process for the subsequent school year. In doing so, we gather information and input from students' current teachers and we consider many factors, including: the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of each child; peer

relationships/ connections/etc.; balancing the numbers of students as well as the varying needs between classes; the number of boys and girls in a class; and providing enriched opportunities and remedial support . . . all aimed toward creating balanced classes and the best overall educational setting for our students. With so many interrelated factors to consider, class-building is a complex process. Moreover, by middle school, we believe students should be open to forming new peer relationships as well as developing their skills to work with a wide variety of peers beyond their current social circle. With that in mind, *we ask that parents only make a class placement request if you feel your child has significant learning, social-emotional, and/or other needs that warrant special consideration. If you feel that's the case, please ensure your request (and the reasons for this request) is sent directly to Principal Ken Andrews by email at [kandrews@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:kandrews@sd61.bc.ca) by April 30<sup>th</sup>.* No requests can be guaranteed, but requests received by this deadline will be considered along with the many other factors taken into consideration during our class-building process.

Late requests (after April 30<sup>th</sup>) are far less likely to be accommodated because, once we begin building our preliminary classes, trying to accommodate further requests turns the class-building process into a "Rubik's Cube" in which accommodating one request can necessitate moving several other students, which in turn requires moving several more, which may ultimately benefit one child at the expense of others.

Students will be informed of their class assignment at the start of the school-year and, except in the most extraordinary circumstances, all class assignments are final. Students/parents with particular concerns about their class placement may contact the principal about their concerns *only after trying their assigned class for the first two weeks of school.* However, please know that class changes are still very rare at this point since only a limited number of class changes, if any, are even logistically possible and, even if possible, not necessarily advisable given the impact of such changes to the balance and dynamics we've tried to create for all classes. Also, we wish to be fair to others with similar change requests, so we generally ask parents to work collaboratively with their child's teacher and others to navigate concerns within their assigned class.