

Information for Parents

Regarding

Multi-grade Classrooms

What effect do multi-grade classrooms have on children?

Studies conducted over the past 25-30 years have discovered no significant difference in development between students educated in multi-grade classrooms and those educated in single grade groupings. However, significant differences were found in the areas of personal and social development which favored the students in multi-grade classrooms.

Does the teacher have to teach different programs?

Teachers of all grades strive to meet the individual needs of students. In multi-grade classrooms, there is certain subject matter better taught separately and other subject matter that is better if combined. You will find that some activities will be assigned to the whole class but the student expectations may differ for the- different grades. Small group teaching is another effective method that is often used with successful results in learning and self-esteem.

Will my child get less teacher attention because he/she is in a multi-grade classroom?

Teachers encourage students to become independent learners who work in various instructional settings such as: large groups with the teacher, small groups, and independently. Teachers in multigrade classrooms tend to move consistently throughout the classroom, while delivering the lesson. Teachers encourage students to find their own solutions or consult with peers or other references. Students also learn to be patient or wait for one's turn.

Does being in a multi-grade classroom mean my child will miss some skills?

Skills are taught in many ways and tend to be repeated in different subjects across the grades. Experienced teachers ensure that the unique skills pertaining to certain grade levels are taught.

How do I work with the school to help my child feel comfortable in a multi-grade classroom?

Some children need to be reassured about this new arrangement. It may be helpful to point out some of the following: the mix of ages and abilities provides optimum opportunities for student collaboration (role models), content taught or discussed benefits older and younger students, new friendships are developed, becoming or receiving peer mentoring, learning new skills, personal and social development, and much more.

The Advantages of a Multi-grade Classroom! A great future!

While keeping in mind that standardized tests are a 'quantitative rather than a qualitative assessment', we note that CLS typically performs above the national average in all subject areas. This year's **SAT 10** scores for CLS (class average) produced the following results: Students in **Grade 4** scored over 3 ½ grade levels above the norm and placed **85th** in National Percentile Ranking. **Grade 7** also scored over 3 ½ grade levels above the norm and placed **90th** in National Percentile Ranking. All the other classes scored an average well above the National Average.

I want to thank all of the students for a job well done and especially the parents for their support of the ministry at Calvary Lutheran School.