

Mar Vista Class Placement Policy

Mar Vista teachers spend many hours and put a lot of professional thought and effort into placing current students into next year's classes. Our teachers consider a variety of factors as they place your child. Requests for specific teachers are not appropriate and will not be considered when student placement is made. Considerations are made for the classroom environment, separation of students or if a student has had a teacher in a prior year, etc.

Kindergarten

AM/PM Preference: When we build new classes, factors such as age, gender, special needs and preschool or TK experience are taken into account. We do our best to try and accommodate your preferences for morning or afternoon sessions, but due to the need to balance the classes, we cannot guarantee you will get your preference. Please do not schedule your children in alternative programs before we send out the notification letters in August. We will not take parent requests for teacher and/or change in placement.

Parents will receive a teacher notification letter the week prior to the start of the school year. In this letter, parents will be notified of their child's teacher and AM/PM placement. We realize parents are eager to make arrangements for childcare, however due to enrollment changes over the summer we are unable to announce class placement prior to this date. ACE provides a quality activity-based before/after school program, including half-day programs for kindergarten students. Many of our parents find this to be the ideal option for a working schedule. ACE hours are 7:00 AM to 6: 00 PM.

Grades 1 - 6

The staff considers many factors as classroom groups are created. Factors taken into consideration are: range of academic abilities; gender balance; leadership skills - academic, social, and athletic; individual learning styles; behavior, special education needs; students benefiting from being together or separated; student personality and interaction; and class size. The objective of the process is to produce the most complementary heterogeneous combination of student groups. This important task contributes significantly to the creation of a positive class environment that enables students to reach their potential. We cannot speculate at this time on staffing assignments as these may change due to a number of factors including enrollment, number of class sections needed at each grade level, and staff preferences for grade level assignments.

Combination Classrooms

Although we have not completed our preliminary forecasts for how many sections of each grade we will need, each year brings the possibility of having some combination classrooms. How many and at which grade levels has yet to be determined. Knowing that there is the possibility of combination classes, we do our very best to bring together students who will work well together and place an experienced teacher in those classrooms. We will also make every effort to avoid placing a student with the same teacher two years in a row due to a new grade level assignment.

Why are combos sometimes necessary?

Class size limits are set at strict guidelines of 24 to 1 in grades K-3. In grades 4 through 6 we can staff at up to 34 students per teacher. The economics of school funding necessitates that each class be as full as possible. If the enrollment exceeds the number of students filling up multiple classrooms at more than one grade level, it may be necessary to combine classes to create a new “full” class. It is not economically possible to support very small classes well below the 24 to 1 limit or to exceed the guidelines outlined in the PVFT Contract.

Posting of Class Lists

While we understand that parents are eager to learn who their child’s teacher will be, it is a district practice to post class lists no sooner than the day prior to school opening. This is due to fluctuations in enrollment over the summer that sometimes result in our having to make adjustments in class assignments. When placements are announced, your cooperation and support of this process provides the best possible outcome for students and staff.

The Mar Vista staff takes classroom placement of all children very seriously and wants only the best for each child.

Our goal is to provide fair and equitable treatment for all children as a means to encourage and support their learning. Please rely on our professional judgment, and trust that we will group children to provide the best possible learning environment. It has been my experience that nearly all children are able to adjust rapidly to different teachers they have over the years. This is an important skill to learn - learning to get along with and work with a variety of people. For example, when students enter 7th grade, they will have a minimum of 6 different teachers and could have as many as 12 different teachers in one year.

Thank you for your cooperation!