

June 12, 2009

Dear Parents,

Revised class lists will be posted, including students transferring into grades 1 – 5 from Warren T. Jackson and all other new students, by Wednesday, June 17, 2009. For the past several years we have offered all parents who completed the paperwork to register for kindergarten by a predetermined deadline the opportunity to submit the names of 3 teachers they would like for their child. This little incentive has been very beneficial in helping us shore up our kindergarten registration early. With relatively firm numbers in the spring, we were able to plan effectively and begin the school year with an adequate number of kindergarten homerooms; therefore preventing the trauma of setting up new classes in August. During our preliminary planning in the fall and winter of this past school year, we saw no reason to change our kindergarten registration procedures. However, as someone once said, the only constant is change. We did not anticipate, nor could we have anticipated, adding 4 new teachers to our kindergarten team.

After careful review of your input forms, we reached the conclusion that it was impossible to honor all of the teacher requests. Therefore, to be as fair as possible to everyone, kindergarten students were placed in classes randomly. Some of your children may indeed have been placed in the class of one of the teachers you requested. If this is the case, it happened completely by chance. It was simply impossible to place 168 students (the number of registration packets completed by the deadline) into 6 homerooms (the number of teachers returning to our kindergarten team and the names most often listed on the request forms). Each homeroom would have far exceeded the maximum class size of 20 allowed by the state of Georgia.

The decision to place kindergarten students into homeroom classes at random was not an easy one to make but after much thought and deliberation, we believe it was the best option. Please know that the 4 new teachers we are adding to the kindergarten team are outstanding in every respect and will be a wonderful addition to an already strong Brandon staff. Rest assured that your child will be challenged by each kindergarten teacher to reach their academic potential and I am confident that each teacher will also provide a safe and fun environment that includes all of the rich Brandon Kindergarten traditions for the beginning of your child's elementary school journey. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,
Karen Evans
Principal