SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Office of the Assistant Superintendent**

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May 30, 2018

Dear Parents,

The San Ramon Valley Unified School District is committed to keeping students at their resident schools as much as possible. To be fiscally and educationally responsible, the Board of Education has established the ideal number of students for a school depending on the size of the facility. When a school is growing or declining in enrollment, there may be an imbalance at a grade level. If there are more students in a grade level than classes determined for a school, there are two options:

1. Divert students to the nearest district school with space available if the overage is a small number at a grade level, or
2. Create a combination class, when the student numbers are large enough to warrant a class.

In forming classes, there are many factors taken into consideration. Of prime importance is creating classes that benefit all students. The school is dedicated to creating classrooms that are academically and socially balanced to provide positive, challenging, and supportive learning environments for all students. Grade-level teachers along with their principal review each student to determine the best placement for the fall. When establishing classes, including combination classes, teachers consider the students’ academic ability, social maturity and ability to work independently, as well as their relationships with peers, their special program needs, students’ prior school experiences and the balance of boys to girls in the classes.

Although combination classes are not unique to any school district, this may be new to your family. Should your child be selected for a combination class, please be aware of the following:

1. Teachers are selected for their ability to work with various age groups
2. Appropriate grade-level standards are taught to the students in both grades
3. Students are tested on school, district and state assessments for their grade level
4. Schedules are created to allow for small group instruction as frequently as possible
5. Students are provided daily opportunities to integrate with other children of their grade level
6. The teacher plans and coordinates curriculum and activities with both grade-level teams of teachers to ensure consistent expectations and pacing
7. The class is located close to the other grade level classes on the campus

All of our schools are excellent and provide students with an outstanding education. Combination classes have performed academically as well or better than other classes when compared to state and local assessments. As of this date, we are currently looking at a K/1 grade combination class. Emma Gehrman is tentatively assigned to teach that class and I feel very confident in her skills and abilities to meet the needs of all children placed in her class. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s possible placement in a combination class please talk to your child’s teacher or the school principal.

Sincerely,

Toni Taylor

Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services

Shawn Wells

Principal