



Woodcrest

Elementary School

April 2017



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Shark Sentinel

Dear Woodcrest Family:

It's hard to believe that we have entered the eighth month of the school year! And with spring in full-swing, students, parents and staff naturally begin to think about next year's placements. For our placement teams, this represents a tremendously complex undertaking. While the process is more of an artful challenge than a science, placement team decisions are made equitably, sensitively and with integrity. There are myriad factors that go into the process, including:

Teacher Knowledge of Students:

After working with the children all year (over 1,100 hours!), our teachers have in-depth knowledge about their academic, emotional and social progress, students' learning styles, friendships and social dynamics.

Peers: We know that students feel more confident when they have familiar faces in their class at the beginning of a new school year, so we will be intentional in terms of ensuring that kids have some continuity with their current peer group. However, change is inevitable, so as a critical life skill, we also encourage students to adapt to new situations and make new friends.

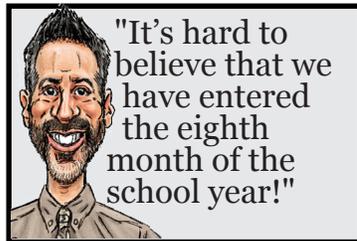
Balancing Classes: It is critically important that each class at each grade level be balanced across numerous factors, including gender,

academic strengths and needs, learning styles and behavioral dynamics—just to name a few!

Given the complexities inherent in the process of carefully placing students, per district-required protocols, we cannot accept requests for:

- specific teachers;
- placement with friends; and/or
- placement into a specific program (for general education students).

We respectfully ask that you accept the integrity of this process, trusting that your child's best interests will remain as our primary concern. However, if there is information that the current classroom teacher, guidance counselor and/or the principal would not have and should



consider when placing your child, please feel free to submit a letter outlining those details.

As referenced above, class placements are truly a team effort at Woodcrest, and given shifts in enrollment (e.g., new enrollees) class lists are not finalized until just before the summer packets are released in August. (Therefore, while in the preliminary stages, per district guidelines, the composition of these class lists cannot be shared.) In short, you can feel confident that our goal is to create the most positive, productive learning environment for each and every student at Woodcrest by creating vibrant learning communities that are heterogeneous and well balanced!

Yours in education,

Jc.
Jonathan Cohen

Coming events:



April

- 3 Family Night
↳ No Homework
- 3 PTA Plant Sale Begins
- 7 JDRF Walk - PM
- 10-14 Spring Recess
↳ SCHOOLS CLOSED
- 21 PTA Plant Sale Ends
- 19-25 5th Gr. PARCC Testing
- 25-28 Mothers' Day Gift Shop
- 27 Take Your Child to Work Day
↳ See next p.2 for details
- 28 Interim Progress Reports
↳ issued where concerns exist

May

- 1 Family Night
↳ No Homework
- 1-4 4th Gr. PARCC Testing
- 5 Volley for Support
↳ 5:30 PM @ HS East
- 5-8 PTA BOGO Book Fair
- 8 4th Gr. PARCC Testing
- 9-12 3rd Gr. PARCC Testing
- 11 Spring Plant Sale Pick-up
- 12 PTA Sweetheart Dance
- 15 3rd Gr. PARCC Testing
- 17 K-2 Talent Show
↳ 9:30-11:00
- 18 3-5 Talent Show
↳ 1:30-3:00
- 19 Field Day (RD 6/02/17)
- 25 Kindergarten Orientation
- 25 5th Gr. E-Lounge Event
- 29 Schools Closed
↳ Memorial Day

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—Excused Absence Note for Take Your Child to Work Day—

My child _____ from _____'s class

will be out on Thursday, April 27th in observance of Take Your Child to Work Day.

Please check the box that applies to your child's absence:

- S/he will be out for the whole day.
- S/he will only be out in the AM and will return in the afternoon.
- S/he will only be out in the PM; I will pick her/him up at: _____.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Attention 5th Grade Parents/Guardians...

We are in need of your pictures! Mr. Cohen is putting together a photomontage for the 5th grade closing ceremony, so he is collecting any and all photos from Kindergarten through the present. *However, to be included, the pictures must be school-related, including bus stop shots.* While electronic files are preferred, we will scan hardcopies that are labeled on the back with your child's name. Please send hardcopies to the main office and email electronic files to joncohen@chclc.org. (For electronic files, the larger the better in terms of quality, so please don't hesitate to send Mr. Cohen multiple emails with one or two attachments per.)

