

IMPORTANT LETTER ABOUT PLACEMENT FOR INCOMING GRADE 5 STUDENTS

August 29, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth-Grade Students,

This is to inform you about a very exciting change to the way students will be taught in fifth grade for the 2018-19 school year. Rancho Rosal Elementary School team teaches all subject areas in Grade 5. There will be two teaching teams. This translates into the following:

Team Partners	Team Partners
Mrs. Caldwell - Language Arts & Social Studies Mr. McLaren - Math & Science	Mrs. Vannelli - Language Arts & Social Studies Ms. Catalano - Math & Science

**Each teacher will teach Writing Skills to their homeroom class*

Each student will have their homeroom in which they check in during the morning and begin with writing instruction. They will stay in their homeroom and receive instruction in either English/ Language Arts or Math. After recess, they will travel as a class to the other team partner's room and receive instruction in the other subject. This rotation will happen on a daily basis. After lunch on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, students will alternate classes for Social Studies and Science. Other activities such as PE, Library, MakerSpace, and Dramatic Arts will continue to occur and will be worked into the schedule by the fifth grade team.

According to current research, this approach to instruction allows teachers to teach in areas of specialization while students move from one classroom to another for instruction. There are many advantages to teaming. Students benefit because they can build rapport with, and are exposed to the instructional wisdom of more than one teacher. Teaming at the elementary level aligns with middle school organization, better preparing students for transition to full departmentalization in sixth grade. Each teacher is in tune with best practices for their subject area and can provide a variety of instructional strategies to ensure that learning is engaging. Research shows team teaching strongly benefits both students and teachers.

The decision to team teach in grade 5 was made with very careful consideration, including the most important factor – positive contribution to your child's education. The improvement of the learning process for elementary school children is an important goal at Rancho Rosal. We continually strive to optimize the delivery of curriculum and instruction. We will be sure to monitor the effectiveness of this model throughout the year to ensure success for all students.

Back to School Night is scheduled on Monday, September 17, and we will be discussing our vision for the year in greater detail, as well as answering any questions you may have about this exciting change in your student's classrooms.

We are looking forward to a great year!

The 5th Grade Teaching Team