



MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #400

4160 86th AVE SE • Mercer Island, Washington 98040

www.mercerislandschools.org

Special Consideration for Student Placement 2025-2026

As we approach the final months of school, we will begin the process of placing students in classrooms for the upcoming school year. Student placement at all elementary schools is guided by the following principles:

- **Every teacher is dedicated to high academic standards and meeting the learning and social/emotional needs of each child.**
- **Every child's placement is important and deserves careful consideration.** Classroom teachers, specialists, support staff, our counselor, and the principal are all part of the placement process. Parent input is important and valued. However, classroom groupings based solely on parent requests can result in unequal class size, and/or classes organized by friendship groups, neighborhoods, sports teams, etc.
- **Students benefit from new experiences.** A life lesson for children to learn is that working with a variety of student and teacher personal styles is enriching and helps prepare them to successfully handle new and different experiences.
- **Balanced classrooms should reflect our diverse society.** We make every effort to create classes that are balanced with regards to student instructional levels, behavior, gender, learning styles, number of students, and other diversity attributes.

SPECIFIC TEACHER REQUESTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. However, we welcome any new or additional information you have about your child's learning needs. A *Special Consideration for Student Placement* form is available for this purpose on the school website and [through this link](#). Please complete your form by **May 15, 2024** so that your input can be considered during our placement process.

Placement Process Timeline for 2024

Optional Elementary Special Consideration forms OPEN (see link above)	May 1, 2025
Optional Elementary Special Consideration forms DUE (see link above)	May 15, 2025
Initial balanced class/student groupings are configured	Late May/June 2025
Adjustments are made due to new or changing enrollment	Summer 2025
Final class rosters are confirmed & teacher assignments are shared	August 22 after 4pm

Sincerely,

Joby McGowan
Island Park

Heidi Christensen
Lakeridge

Julie Newcomer
Northwood

Megan Isakson
West Mercer