June 12, 2019

Dear Parents,

Recently, I received our teacher and specialist allocation of assignments from the district office. As in years past, District Directors are tasked with assigning specialists and teachers according to a budget model, and in alignment with the teacher contract. My job is to work within the FTE given to Grant without compromising what defines us as a unique and productive school. Our projected student enrollment is slightly lower next year, and therefore we must absorb a slight reduction in specialist and teaching assignments. Our Mission reads:

“At Grant CEA, we strive to develop high academic achievement and positive social skills which lay a foundation for future success. The ARTS are integrated into all core subject areas, providing opportunities for self-expression, collaboration and interdisciplinary learning.”

I want to assure parents and students that this mission will not be compromised, and that the excellence in academics and the expressive arts will continue within the allocated staffing model for 2019-20.

With the specialists (Music, KE, and Library), each classroom allocation gets two days a week of KE and music, and one day a week of library. This is the allocation Grant and ALL elementary schools in Tacoma have been given. In addition, Grant receives additional teaching staff in Visual Arts and Dance/Theater, and these programs will continue their level of excellence next year.

Our teaching staff has also changed due to lower numbers, and our classroom sections and teaching assignments have been adjusted to reflect these changes. We will be offering three sections of 3rd grade next year to absorb the three classrooms coming from the current 2nd grade. We will also be eliminating the 3/4 split next year, as the numbers indicate that we will be able to accommodate 4th grade students in two classrooms. All other grades will have two classrooms per grade-level. Again, we will not be compromising the quality of instruction or the mission of our school in these adjustments. Highly Capable instructional strategies will continue to be active in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. Arts integration will continue to be a trademark practice in all grades and in all core academic areas.
It has been a practice at Grant CEA to notify you of your child’s next teacher assignment at the end of the current school year. This practice will continue this year. Current teachers will indicate the next teacher assignment in the comment section of the final 2018-19 report card. I have confidence that the placement of all children at Grant will support their continued growth.

I wanted to be as transparent as possible about the changes and adjustments we have needed to make at Grant for next year so that you are informed. Moreover, I wanted to ask for your trust and confidence in my (our) commitment to continuing all that makes Grant Center for the Expressive Arts a great school. We can’t wait to welcome you back for another great year in September.

Sincerely,

Vince P. Blauser, Principal
Grant Center for the Expressive Arts