

April 7, 2009

Dear Parents,

This is the time of year we begin to plan for our classroom assignments for the next school year. It is at this time that we ask parents if they have any new information that we should consider when placing your child in a classroom for the next school year. As before, we will begin this process in May, hoping to complete the first phase of this process before the end of the school year. We will be posting our *tentative* class lists the week before school starts, during our Meet the Teacher Event. Please be looking for the exact date for Meet the Teacher in our back to school letter you will receive through the mail in August. **Remember: All assignments are tentative as enrollment shifts may require adjustments in a student's placement after the school year begins.**

After June 1<sup>st</sup>, our teaching staff will be cooperatively planning for placing students in classes for the 2009-2010 school year. Classroom teachers, specialists (PE, Music, Library), learning support teachers, our psychologist, and myself are all part of this process. Our goal is to create the best community for learning for each classroom. We will be looking at creating an equitable distribution of students of varying abilities, talents, and perspectives throughout our classrooms. Each classroom, whether composed of students at all the same grade level or at two levels (split class) has a wide range of student abilities, interests and personalities. Student placement is a complex task involving the following considerations:

- Academic achievement
- Behavior and Social Skills
- Class Size
- Learning Styles

Parent input is a valued and important consideration in our school's placement decision for each student. Please fill out the attached form to ensure we receive your input. The form will be shared with the placement team as a consideration in their decision-making process. When the school makes a classroom placement decision, the child's new teacher can use the information provided by the parent to develop an effective classroom program for each child.

Please fill out the attached form and return it to school by Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to refrain from making specific teacher requests when completing this information. Thank you for providing information concerning your son/daughter in order to make our placement process successful.

Sincerely,

Tori Thomas, Principal

Brier Elementary 2009-10 Student Information Form

*(Please return to the office by April 17, 2009. Fill out one form for each child in your family.)*

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Will student be returning to Brier for the 2009-2010 school year? [ ]Yes [ ]No

What would be helpful for our staff to know regarding student placement for next year in regards to your son or daughter?

Academically: \_\_\_\_\_

Socially: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know of any other information that would be helpful in assigning your child to a class next year.

Helpful information: Combined grade classrooms, often referred to as split classes (such as 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students together in a 3/4 classroom) are a **common** occurrence throughout our school district. Some parents prefer these classes due to smaller class sizes and other unique features of the class. Sometimes, reassignment of staff occurs such that a child has the opportunity to have the same teacher in sequential years.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form and provide our staff with this information. Please know that we take a lot of time in this process and place students into the most effective classroom possible for his/her learning.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_