

**THE RIDGE SCHOOL**  
**RIDGEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
325 WEST RIDGEWOOD AVENUE  
RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07450  
201-670-2740

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May 3, 2016

Dear Parents,

Placement of your child for the next school year is a thoughtful process whereby many variables are taken into consideration. It is our intent to have heterogeneous classes of equal size at all grade levels. To this end, we take into consideration the following factors:

- academic strengths/weaknesses (to avoid imbalance)
- behavior patterns (self-discipline, work habits)
- emotional and social growth (maturity)
- necessary separations between students
- boy/girl ratios
- opportunities for leadership
- attitude (motivation and enthusiasm)

Please be assured that many hours will be spent regarding your child's placement in a balanced class. **You do not need to write a letter.** In fact, it has been my experience that parent letters often have the potential to prevent us from creating balanced classes when we are asked to consider social, academic, and teacher personality factors. **Parents are not allowed to request a specific teacher.** If that were the case, in fairness to all, we would have to open up the process for all parents to request a particular teacher.

Friendship requests cannot be granted unless your child is having a significant social issue. Trying to match friends together makes the task of creating balanced classes for learning very difficult. All children will see their friends before and after school and at lunchtime.

Another important consideration is that we have wonderful teachers at Ridge School, all of whom can provide your child with an excellent educational experience.

Given all this information, if there are particular factors we don't already know about your child regarding class placement, you may send me a note or e-mail **no later than Friday, May 20**. Also, please know that your comments will be shared with your child's new teacher.

When class placement decisions are made, they reflect our best judgment on individual and group needs. Therefore, we cannot disregard this process and reconstitute classes based on parent requests once Step-Up Day occurs on the last day of school. We trust you understand our position on this matter. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jean Schoenlank  
Principal

JS/pmq