



OTTAWA-CARLETON
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Multigrade Classes

The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board follows the philosophy of the Ministry of Education in recognizing the unique and special characteristics of every student. Our teachers prepare programs designed to meet individual needs in a variety of organizational structures within schools.

A multigrade class is one organizational structure combining students from two or more grade levels. Split grades are a kind of multigrade class with only two grade levels.

Multigrade groupings may be chosen:

- when numbers of students do not allow for the establishment of appropriately sized, single-grade classes
- to provide the most effective way of meeting varying student learning needs, stages of development and learning styles

All classrooms, whether single grade or multigrade, include students whose abilities and achievement place them above, at, or below their grade level. Teachers design programs and group students to meet this wide variation in needs no matter what the structure. Programs through which students learn skills, concepts, processes and attitudes appropriate to their stages of development are based on Ministry curricula.

Current research indicates that multigrade classes foster social growth and independence, practice in cooperation, respect for others and increased motivation to learn.

Older children in multigrades act as models and guides for the younger children which gives them an increased sense of self-esteem and responsibility. Younger children adjust to school and routines more quickly by observing and imitating the older children. Both groups can learn skills from each other.

Multigrade groupings encourage individualized learning through the open-ended nature of the activities chosen for the age and ability range of the children.

You can help

Your understanding and support of school programs and initiatives will benefit your child. The more you learn about school programs and the more you become involved in supporting school initiatives, the greater the benefit to your child. Your positive attitude and active involvement will create a climate of goodwill and nurture a constructive relationship between home and school.

Contact your school for more information about multigrade classes.

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