

Dear Brent Families,

This week we continue our *Looking Ahead* TuesNews series with the topic of class lists for the upcoming school year.

### **Purpose**

The design of class lists is an opportunity to anticipate a classroom community that matches both individual and collective strengths and needs. While class composition is just one element of a student's Brent experience, it is an opportunity to prioritize equity, balance, fit, safety and a just-right challenge for every student. We seek a sense of place and connection for each student, something that begins with class placement but truly develops as that class placement develops into a community over the course of a school year.

### **Process**

Our class list process, somewhat revised this year, is intentional, complex and nuanced. It relies on the keen understanding and expertise of our faculty members.

Each grade-level team spends an extraordinary amount of time over a multi-week period in the class development process. The teams, with input from specialists and other faculty, addresses a variety of factors including a child's social and emotional development, approach to learning, demographic categories, academic strengths and areas of growth and effective learning partners – in total, we formally analyze 15 categories. We strive to create socially, demographically and academically diverse classes at each grade level.

Once each class list is composed, our teams match the list to the *traits* of the receiving teachers. These traits were self-designated and reviewed by colleagues and school administration. We match lists to traits as opposed to names so that the qualities of a teacher guide our thinking.

### **Perspectives**

Our teachers carry a breadth of knowledge as they advocate for individual and collective needs as part of the class list process. We take parent feedback into consideration through this *optional* [Class Placement Perspectives Survey](https://goo.gl/forms/AKOfSGArjm3nw8Wz2) (<https://goo.gl/forms/AKOfSGArjm3nw8Wz2>). To ensure equity of access and voice for all families, this survey will be the sole mode of input. I will collect and review survey responses before passing on the information to grade level teams; information that directly pertains to an individual will be read and then edited for grade-level consumption. **The Optional Class Placement Perspectives Survey closes on May 30, 2018.**

### **Publishing**

At the end of the school year and over the summer, I review all class lists with current grade-level teams and incorporate newly-enrolled students. Class lists will be published for families and students on August 17, 2018.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the class list process.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell  
Principal