



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Kindergarten Students,

One of the many strengths of our school system and town is that we offer two programs in our elementary schools. I was the principal of the Cunningham Elementary School when the French Immersion Program began over twenty years ago. I have been part of the growth of the program which has involved several different kindergarten to first grade student assignment plans. I am an advocate for both our English and French Immersion programs and I clearly understand and have been involved in all of the issues around offering two programs.

I understand and appreciate how Milton's parents/guardians value and are committed to their home schools and want their elementary grade children to attend one school. My intention in changing the first grade student assignment process this year was to include current kindergarteners who were the oldest or only child in a family with kindergarteners who had older siblings in our schools in the first tier of the lottery system. My intention was not to divide families, but to provide all children who attended our public kindergartens the same access to programs. I have heard from many parents/guardians who intend to enroll their children in the French Immersion Program either this year or in future years. The parents/guardians who have contacted me are concerned that all of their elementary grade children might not be able to attend the French Immersion Program in the same elementary school. These parents/guardians have brought up issues and concerns around having their children in two or more schools if in fact they select French Immersion.

This e-mail/letter is to inform you that the first grade student assignment process will revert back to last year's process. Preference for open seats will be as follows:

- First tier will include kindergarteners with older siblings in the school.
- Second tier will include all kindergarteners who have attended a Milton Public School kindergarten.
- Third tier will include all students new to the Milton Public Schools.

All French Immersion first grade classes will be capped at 26 students and English classes capped at 22 students. If there is an over enrollment in the French Immersion program beyond the number of seats available, a school-based lottery will be held. All existing seats in each of our French Immersion first grades must be filled before an auxiliary class is created. If an auxiliary class is needed, it will be at the Cunningham Elementary School for the 2011-12 school year. Students who are not selected to attend the French Immersion Program in their home school will be given the choice of English in their home school, French Immersion in another school, or (if necessary) French Immersion in the auxiliary class.

The First Grade Assignment PowerPoint presentation will be edited and posted on our website. Again, my goal is to be able to organize the school system in a way that responds and meets the needs of our students, teachers/staff and parents/guardians. Thank you for your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Gormley
Superintendent of Schools

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