

Combined Classes

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 (SD42) is committed to creating balanced classes that focus on a student’s individual learning strengths and the needs of the whole child.

The school district often organizes combined classes, which group together students from different grades (e.g. Grade 2 and Grade 3). Combined classes are common in British Columbia and are the most common class configuration in SD42. This means that your child will likely be in a combined grade class at some point during their elementary years.

Combined classes give educators more flexibility in the class organization process, as they consider and address factors such as *shifting enrolment, class size and composition, and school staffing*.

It is important to note that combined classes have a number of advantages. As an example, a child in a combined class is likely to have the same teacher for two or more years, which in turn helps form deeper relationship between the teacher, the student, and the family. Many studies have also concluded there are social emotional benefits for students in combined classes, including greater leadership skills, increased self-esteem, increased social responsibility, and more positive peer interactions.

That said, all classrooms – whether single-grade or combined – include students with a range of developmental levels. Teachers are skilled at student-centered learning and at teaching to each student’s ability. By using a combination of assessment strategies, teachers can effectively evaluate student learning and progress in combined grade classes, while also promoting a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students.

If you would like any further information on combined classes, please visit our website at:

<https://www.sd42.ca/combined-classes/>