

## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD?

You can assist your child in adjusting to a new placement by giving your full support and reassurance. Positive messages, open communication with the teacher, and a keen interest in your child's education will positively impact his/her success.



### Getting Involved

Attend school meetings!

Meet your child's teacher!

Attend Parent/ Teacher Interviews!

Ask about your child's day!

Be informed!

'Parents/guardians are their child's first and most important teacher. When parents become actively involved in their child's education, the whole family benefits in many, many



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YORK CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL  
BOARD



## Combined Grades

### SHARED VISION

We are a Catholic Learning Community of collaborative partners called to serve one another by being committed to and accountable for quality learning by all, with Jesus as our inspiration.

We hope that the answers to these frequently asked questions give you a better understanding of combined grades and your child's placement.

## WHY DO WE HAVE COMBINED GRADE CLASSES?

Few, if any, schools in Ontario today are without combined grades. The organization of classes is directly related to the total number of students in the school and the distribution of students across the grades. Combined grade classes enable us to maintain class size at optimum teachable levels.

## HOW ARE CHILDREN CHOSEN FOR COMBINED GRADES CLASSES?

Teachers and principals carefully construct combined-grade classes. Factors considered include learning styles, social skills, academic needs and other factors. The goal is to establish the best possible group dynamics for the students in each grade within the class.

## WHAT EFFECT DOES BEING IN A COMBINED GRADES CLASS HAVE ON CHILDREN'S LEARNING?

Over the last thirty years there have been a number of studies conducted to assess the effects of multi-aged class groupings or combined classes.

Most studies found no significant differences in development between students educated in combined-grades and those educated in single-grade groupings. Where significant differences were found, the *differences favoured the students in combined grades and generally in the areas of personal and social development.*

Research suggests students in combined grades make equal or better gains in basic skills in mathematics and language arts when compared to an equivalent group of students in single grades."

Combined grades can also foster increased independent work skills among our children.

## HOW WILL THE TEACHER TEACH BOTH GRADES?

Teachers of students in a combined grades classroom ensure that the Provincial Curriculum is covered at each grade level. You will see your child working from grade-appropriate textbooks and learning materials.

As well, teachers are provided with provincially developed combined-grade units, to assist them with their program planning. When the teacher provides a lesson to students in one grade, students in the other grade will be working on assigned tasks and follow up activities from a previous lesson. This also happens in straight grades when teachers work with students of different ability groups.

