

Frequently asked questions – 4/5 Multiage Classes at Pratt Community School

What is a multiage classroom?

- A heterogeneous learning community in which the developmental range is wider than that in a single-grade classroom
- Students are intentionally combined in order to maximize academic and social benefits.

How many multiage classrooms are at Pratt?

- Three. Each of them includes students in both 4th and 5th grade

What is a typical day look like in a multiage classroom at Pratt?

The 4/5 school day schedule has been designed to have the fewest number of student transitions. Students will start each day with their homeroom teacher where they will have breakfast and take attendance. They will then go to Focus Time for 30 minutes for small group instruction with the support of our Associate Educators before they go to their math teacher. Their math class will be determined by their grade or their enrollment in Telescope Math. For the remainder of the day they will be with their homeroom class. This will include science and social studies, recess and lunch, literacy, and specialists.

How does the teacher instruct in a multiage classroom?

- Teachers may use whole group, small group, paired, or one-on-one instruction depending on the purpose and structure of the lesson.
- If one student progresses quickly, they simply move to work with another group. If another needs more review, they join a group that is practicing that skill.
- Instruction is differentiated according to student readiness, interests, and learning preferences.

What curriculum is followed?

- The 4th and 5th grade reading, writing, and math curriculums will be taught in smaller groups by grade level in most cases.
- The grade 5 social studies/science curriculums were taught in 2017-2018 and the grade 4 curriculum will be taught in 2018-2019.
- Students will attend physical education, art and enrichment specialists as a multiage class

How will students be assigned to the multiage classrooms?

- A diverse group of students will be selected from both grade levels to be assigned to each homeroom teacher
- Unique program needs (Students with an Individual Education Plan, Identified Advanced Learner, students receiving English Learner instruction, etc.) will be considered and students will be clustered when appropriate
- Social/emotional needs of students will also be considered.

Will the 5th graders have the same teacher they had in 4th grade?

- Not necessarily. After our first year of multiage we determined that the number of transitions throughout the day can be reduced by more carefully assigning students to their homeroom teacher

Will students be with their homeroom teacher and class all day?

- No. Students may go to another teacher and be with other students for mathematics instruction. They will be with their homeroom teacher for breakfast, recess, lunch specialists and all other academic subjects.

What will the class size look like?

- In the 2017-18 school year our class sizes were approximately 28 students. We have been funded for that same class size for the 2017-18 school year.

What school activities are open to 4th graders and 5th graders?

- 5th graders are welcome to apply to be a school safety patrol.
- 5th graders go to Audubon Environmental Center for an overnight experience. The cost is approximately \$120.
- All other class field trips are for both 4th and 5th graders.
- 4th and 5th graders can participate in Pratt Achievers classes. (Pratt Achievers is the after-school program. Information about classes will be sent home in the fall.)

Where can I find more information about the Pratt multiage classes?

At the Pratt website: http://pratt.mpls.k12.mn.us/4th_5th_grade

