How do I help my child succeed?

Taking an active role in your child’s education can help encourage growth and development. The more you know about your child’s education, the more you will be able to help your child learn and succeed.

• Be supportive of your child’s academic and social endeavours
• Talk with your child about his/her studies and help your child with homework
• Communicate with your child’s teacher and connect with your child’s school
• Attend interviews
• Become involved in your school community

For more information about combined grade classes, please contact the school principal or the supervisor of teaching and learning at 403-500-2475.
What is a Combined Grade Classroom?

Combined grade classes bring together children from two consecutive grades into one classroom setting. Schools may create a combined class based on balancing:

- class sizes
- learning abilities
- social development needs

 Teachers develop and adjust programs according to the individual learning needs of each child in the classroom. Combined classes have many of the traits, traditions and organization of single-grade classes.

How are combined grade classrooms assembled?

School administration and teachers give careful thought and consideration to the placement of all students in the school. Classroom organization may be based on:

- Social skill development
- Cooperative and independent skills
- Friendships
- Gender balance
- Leadership skills
- Self-motivation
- Learning styles
- Academic needs and strengths

How would a combined grade class affect my child?

Teachers focus on a complete education which promotes intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual development. A combined grade classroom creates an environment that supports the needs of all students. The benefits of a combined grade class are:

- Developing independence and responsibility
- Increased motivation to learn
- Fostering social and academic growth
- Encouraging respect for others
- Building leadership and decision-making skills

How would the teacher instruct more than one grade at a time?

Just as in a single-grade class, teachers in a combined grade class use a wide variety of teaching strategies and differentiate their lessons to meet the key curriculum outcomes. These may include:

- A common topic studied as a large group followed by a grade specific activity
- Alternating teacher guided activities and independent grade activities
- Project based learning activities

Combined grade classes offer a creative learning community where dedicated staff guide and encourage academic excellence. Teachers foster a respect for individual learning styles and recognize that all students have unique learning needs and support each student by developing tailored learning strategies.

How would my child be assessed in a combined grade classroom?

Each grade level completes Alberta Education prescribed curriculum. The teacher may use a variety of assessment tools to help your child learn the curriculum and to ensure each child’s learning needs are met.