

Elementary School Options in Shorewood School District

Why do we have MAC (multi-age classrooms) and single grade classrooms?

The two programs give options to meet the individual needs of our students regarding the length of time students stay with their teachers and fellow classmates. Approximately 20 years ago, Atwater began a 1st through 3rd grade MAC. Within a year, Lake Bluff began a multi-age classroom. These were born out of ideas from teachers that had experience in other districts with a multi-age program. With parent, community and administrative support, these programs continued to grow. To this day, we have teachers and parents that appreciate the opportunities the two programs provide.

What are the similarities and differences between MAC and Single Grade classrooms?

- Same
 - Curriculum/EL (LB & AW)
 - Schedules (Lunch/Recess/Specials) (LB & AW)
 - Administrative Support (LB & AW)
- Differences
 - Number of students in a class/Number of teachers in the class/Double Classrooms (LB)
 - Single Grade: 20 to 25 students/1 teacher/1 classroom
 - MAC: 40 to 50 students/2 teachers/2 classrooms combined
 - Number of years with a teacher (LB & AW)
 - Single Grade Classroom: 1 year with teacher
 - MAC: 2 years with the teacher/s

What are the differences in MAC at Lake Bluff and Atwater?

-Lake Bluff MAC looks like a cohort of two grade level (1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, and 5th/6th) classes combined in the same room with two teachers. Each MAC classroom has between approximately 40 and 50 students.

-Atwater MAC looks like half a lower grade level class and half an upper grade level class (1st/2nd, and 3rd/4th) in the same classroom with 1 teacher. Each MAC classroom has approximately 20 to 25 students. More than a decade ago, Atwater parents and teachers choose not to add a MAC at 5th and 6th grades.

What are the outcomes of the two programs based on school board policies?

-This question is addressed in the Next Steps Appendix of the ELA and Math Monitoring Reports.

