

Advantages of Multiage

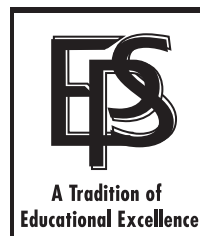
- Family setting
- Community of learners
- Curriculum based on the child's abilities
- Various groupings - pairs, individual, small group etc.
- Children learn on a continuum
- Professional team work
- Authentic assessment
- Meaningful, engaged learning that is often self directed
- Teachers encourage students to apply skills and strategies, and to help each other learn.
- Multiage classroom is more similar to the real world

Research shows that achievement test scores of multiage students are equivalent to or greater than that of students in graded programs.

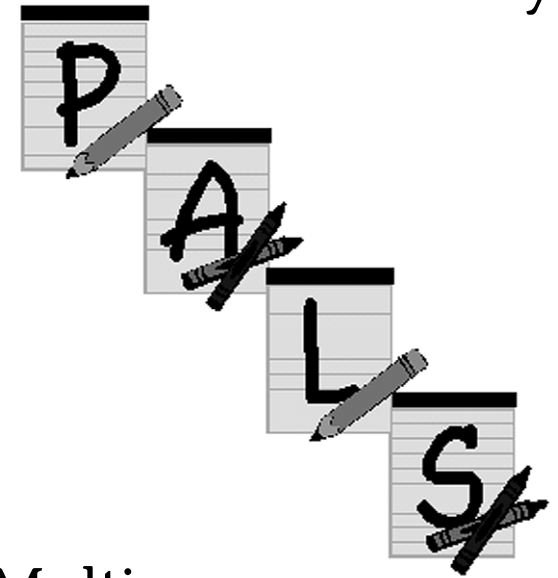
When teacher and students are together for two years in a row, they reap both academic and emotional bonuses. Parents have the opportunity to establish strong relationships with the child's teachers.

In general students develop leadership skills, nurturing behavior and a greater sense of community. Students are also more accepting of individual differences.

Multiage education emphasizes building upon strengths, which builds self-esteem. It also focuses on the whole child not just his/her academic skills.



Edwardsburg Primary



Multiage (K-1) Program

Partners in Alternative
Learning Styles

The Pals Club

of Edwardsburg Primary is a continuous progress, multiage classroom of 5 to 7 year olds. (Traditional grades K-1)

It is team taught by three teachers. The students stay with the team of teachers for two years.

Each child is encouraged to do his/her "Personal Best" and to progress at his/her own rate without the regards to grade-level barriers.

The classroom is a caring community that fosters an atmosphere of kindness, cooperation, responsibility, and feeling of "family".

Having No Grade Status Or Labels...
The organization of the multiage classroom de-emphasizes grade level barriers. Multiage teachers view students as learners in a two-year program that is continuous progress. Children are viewed developmentally. For example, some younger children calculate math better than some older children. Some older children may read better than some of the younger children. Younger children ask questions that cause older children to look at the problem in new ways and some older children explain a solution to younger children in a remarkable fashion. School is the only place where we segregate by age.

Continuous Progress

The nature of the multiage classroom provides a wide spectrum of learning activities. Students are monitored for continued improvement and achievement.

Noncompetitive Assessment

Assessment in the multiage classroom includes the five areas: social, emotional, physical, cognitive and aesthetic. Record keeping includes checklists, narratives, and observations to assess progress. No letter grades are given. The assessment is based on the child's continuous progress, not a comparison between children.

Multiage Cohorts

A multiage classroom contains children of different ages and wide ranges of abilities working together in a cooperative setting. This creates a community of learners in the classroom. There is a sense of "family" established and encouraged by everyone. Children feel free to take risks since they feel safe with the group.

Non-permanent Instructional Groups

Groupings occur in the multiage classroom for specific purposes. The groupings are extremely flexible and based on tasks, objectives, and material available. A variety of groupings may be: interest groups, problem solving groups, skill groups, skill reinforcement groups, and cooperative groups.

Teachers Work In Teams

Teaching teams pool knowledge needed to ease the different grade levels that exist. When teachers collaborate sharing experiences and ideas the result is a richer curriculum. Teachers capitalize on their strengths and share teaching responsibilities.