

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This year, Monaview Elementary is providing an exciting opportunity in two of our second grade classrooms. These two classes will be Single Gender classes. One class will focus on boys and one class will focus on girls. This is a great opportunity to help our students grow emotionally, socially, and academically.

Why Single Gender classes?

We know that boys and girls learn differently in the class. In some instances, boys can dominate the classroom by shouting out answers. If a classroom is decorated with bright colors and many posters, boys will usually lose focus and interest during lessons.

By separating boys from girls in the classroom, we can focus more on strategies that will help our lessons be more effective for our students. Also, studies suggest that when boys are in Single Gender classrooms, they are more successful in school and are more likely to pursue a wide range of interests and activities.

What will an all-boys class look like?

An all-boys class will look different and be taught differently than other classes in many ways. Some of these differences may include:

- reviewing before a test by passing a ball around
- practicing spelling words with exercise
- providing a friendly competition between each other
- providing detailed and timed directions
- repeating directions at least 3 times
- allowing boys to shout out rather than raising their hands
- working with a partner rather than a small group

I have worked with a Single Gender program in the past. Several years ago, I taught an all-boys class in fourth grade. The students in this class built a strong relationship with each other and became more than just classmates, they were family. Academically, my students showed exceptional growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

It is important to note that while the boys are separated from the girls during classes, they do have chances to interact with girls throughout the day. During lunch and recess they can interact with students from the all-girls class along with the other second grade classes. Also, Ms. Smith and I plan to find ways to allow our single-gender classes to work collaboratively throughout the year.

I am looking forward to this year and getting to build a family within our classroom. I have many exciting activities planned for us. If at any time this year, you have question or concerns regarding the class or the Single-Gender program, you can call me at (864)355-4394 or email me at jrowland@greenville.k12.sc.us.

Mrs. Sharon Dowell, Principal

Mr. Parker Rowland, Classroom Teacher