



# TOLT MIDDLE SCHOOL

3740 Tolt Avenue • Carnation, WA 98014

(425) 844-4600 FAX (425) 844-4602

[tms.rsd407.org](http://tms.rsd407.org)

Amie Karkainen, Principal  
Tom Oldenburg, Assistant Principal

Carrie Diligencia, Counselor (A-K)  
Tim Suchsland, Counselor (L-Z)

*Developing an inclusive community of critical and creative thinkers who practice resiliency, show empathy, and take initiative for learning.*

---

April 25, 2019

Dear Tolt Families,

I want to share with you that we will be discontinuing our Multi-Age Program at the end of this school year. This decision was made by district and building administrators after much thought and consideration. I shared this information with our current Multi-Age students this morning. Our Multi-Age Program has had a successful run since 1995 and has provided students with excellent educational experiences. Many programs have a lifespan. Our Multi-Age Program has had fewer applications over the last several years and an increasing number of families are requesting their student leave the program.

In addition to declining interest in our Multi-Age Program, there are other reasons behind this decision. Since our state adopted the Common Core Standards, teachers have put in significant time to align their classes to cover the grade-level standards. Since our Multi-Age Program is on a three-year cycle, this is a difficult task for any teacher since they only teach specific standards every three years. Teachers want to discuss curriculum alignment with each other in content-level and grade-level meetings. Teachers in our Multi-Age Program cannot fully engage in these conversations.

Our Multi-Age Program impacts our entire master schedule as it creates constraints around when we can offer both core and elective classes. In addition, we will be able to better balance classes and provide electives at times when more students are able to take them. This will increase equity and access to all classes for our entire student population.

Families of current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders in our Multi-Age Program will receive an updated placement letter in the mail within the next week. While math placement will stay the same, students will be placed in pre-honors or regular language arts classes based on the [criteria on the TMS website](#).

Thank you to the students, families, and teachers who have invested in our Multi-Age Program over the past 24 years. Our Multi-Age Program has served its community well. We are very proud of what our students in the Multi-Age Program have accomplished.

Sincerely,

Amie Karkainen, Principal