



Lord and Savior Lutheran School uses a multigraded system in its school. For most families, multigrade classrooms are a new method, and can seem difficult to understand. Multigrade classrooms provide many benefits for our students, teachers, and families. Here are is list of benefits:

- Affective growth-needs are better met when placed in this environment.
- Better attitude toward school.
- Better self-concept, feelings of success, perceptions of parent approval.
- Benefit of lengthened teacher-child relationships.
- Children of any age feel comfortable giving help in areas in which they have expertise to children of any age in the classroom.
- Children of one age do not dominate the teacher's attention.
- Younger children in multiage groups strive to attain the academic levels they see the older children actually achieving.
- Benefit to slow learners.
- One large family growing together.
- Far more subject matter to capture the imagination and interest of children.
- Children have the benefit of hearing again what was taught to them in previous grades (incidental learning)
- Positive effects on social behavior:
 1. Increased ability and security.
 2. Increased socialization skills.
 3. Mutual aid given to one another.
 4. Leadership skills.
 5. Role modeling
 6. Cross-age verbal and non-verbal interactions.
 7. Cross-age tutoring.



- In the area of achievement:

1. Usually the thought is that achievement will decline BUT...
2. The lower grade level in a multigraded classroom achieves above its grade level in academics.
3. There is benefit to children with special needs.
4. Children listen and absorb knowledge which they may never hear in a single grade classroom.
5. Children listen and absorb knowledge that interests them and prepares them for what lies ahead.
6. Children have the benefit of hearing again what had been previously taught to them in previous grades.

Whaley, 1992.