

Currently, the 4 Kindergarten teachers each have 27 or 28 kindergartners in our classrooms. We continually give our all to provide the best possible learning environment and individualized instruction to all students.

The total number of students at Whitehall is 645. Last year we had about 113 kindergartners split amongst 5 teachers. We currently have 109 students with 4 teachers. Research and best practice continually tells us that students in smaller class sizes are more successful. Children at this age need a significant amount of attention for their individualized needs, and it is our desire to meet all of their needs.

There is an overwhelming amount of research and case studies supporting the benefits of smaller class sizes for kindergarten students. The data shows that some of the advantages to smaller class size are teachers have more of an opportunity to get to know students on a personal level and establish stronger relationships with each student.

In a smaller class setting “students that struggle with course material are more likely to receive extra help in a smaller class setting, and students that are excelling are also better served in this environment as teachers have more time to offer more demanding lessons to these pupils. Fewer pupils in class also means that teachers have more time to review work, give detailed feedback and identify where pupils need extra support which can result in higher achievement. Studies show that students participate more in smaller classes and teachers spend less time on discipline and behavior.” (Powell, Kate. *Which class size works best for students?* www.getadminstrate.com. November 15, 2015.)

A study done by Konstantopoulos, S., & Chun, V. (2009). [What Are the Long-Term Effects of Small Classes on the Achievement Gap? Evidence from the Lasting Benefits Study](#),” *American Journal of Education* 116. *A summary of the effects of smaller classes on the achievement gap through eighth grade. Effects significant in all tested subjects, and for students in smaller classes for four years, very substantial. “The results ... provided convincing evidence that all types of students (e.g., low, medium, and high achievers) benefit from being in small classes (in early grades K-3rd grade) across all achievement tests.*

Reasons given for smaller class sizes in the early grades affecting graduation rates are students are more likely to be independent thinkers, have better social skills and work habits, and more engaged in learning. Chetty, R., et. al. (2011). [How Does your Kindergarten classroom affect your earnings? Evidence from Project Star](#). *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126:4. *states Smaller classes in Kindergarten are shown to lead to greater likelihood of attending college, owning a home and a 401K as adults more than 20 years later.*

Now we would like to help you imagine what a typical day looks like for students and us.

In a typical day in kindergarten,

- A student is learning how to properly hold a pencil
- A student and/or multiple students may have a bathroom accident
- A student has an argument with another that must be resolved
- A student is learning to share and take turns
- A student is being assessed on their growth
- A student is figuring out how to line up correctly
- A student with specialized needs is receiving differentiation
- A student is receiving instruction in a small group
- A student is engaging in a center activity
- A student is listening to a book on the carpet
- Now imagine those events with 28 students and 1 teacher scaffolding.

In kindergarten,

- A teacher is walking around the room showing students how to hold their pencil while also checking off on a data sheet that they met a standard
 - A teacher is trying to show a student what to do with their wet clothes while managing 27 others on the carpet
 - A teacher is reiterating the importance of sharing and taking turns even if there aren't enough of the item for everyone in the class
 - A teacher is tying shoes while trying to watch her never-ending class line turn the corner
 - A teacher is differentiating her lesson in several ways to meet all of her students' academic needs
 - A teacher is supporting students in her "small group" of 10
 - A teacher is monitoring whether the other 18 students are completing their seatwork and centers while also actively listening to 1 student sound out a word.
 - A teacher is reading to students, teaching them a skill, while trying to ensure they each have a chance to share and display what they know.
- These teachers need smaller class sizes. They need another teacher to be a part of their team.